The Sun.

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Brave Massachusetts Republicans.

The straightforwardness, the courage and the mighty intellectual power that shine so brilliantly in the present Republican party of Massachusetts are dazzling in this resolution adopted by its State convention Saturday:

"The Republican party of Massachusetts has always favored an income tax. It has been committed for many years to legislation based on the principle that the burden of taxation should be distributed so as to bear most heavily upon those best able to sustain it. For more than fifty years an income tax has been collected in this State for local uses. A Republican Congress has submitted a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the various State Legislatures to determine whether or not the right to levy an income tax, now denied by the Federal Constitution, shall be given to the United States Government. The question, therefore, presented to the people of this State is not the question of the imposition of an income tax, but rather of its disposition, or else it is the question of a double income tax. It is a question whether such a tax shall be collected for local uses or for national uses, or else it is a question whether one such tax shall be collected for local uses and another for national uses. We believe that this question is one that should be decided by the Legislature, not as a political issue, but as a practical question after full examination and having due regard to the relative needs and the sources of revenue of the national and local governments."

Always favored an income tax! Don't think that the Democrats love it more than we. We believe that taxation should bear most heavily upon those best able to sustain it; don't think that the Democrats can howl against plutocracy any louder than we can. Why, doesn't our quenchless zeal for protective taxes show where our heart lies?

Shall the State income tax continue or shall the Federal Government have the right of taxing incomes? That is a question for the Legislature, not, as might have been supposed, for the Highway Commission or the Selectmen of Brookline; and it should be decided not as a "political" but as a "practical" question.

Brave Republicans of Massachusetts! Not for worlds would they commit the impropriety of letting anybody know whether they are for or against the constitutional amendment to authorize an income tax. They are as valorous as a highly protected sheep.

An Honest Confession.

President TAFT is perfectly frank about the corporation tax, which he borrowed of the Bryanites without letting himself be troubled by their tenderness about its constitutionality. He said at Portland Saturday:

"This corporation tax is a step and a long step toward Federal investigation and supervision—I had almost said control—of all corporations.

"This Administration * * * has taken a long step toward the proper control of the corporations in the passage of the corporation tax law."

A new tax, not for purposes of taxation but of control. Everybody knows that this is what the corporation tax is. We wish that President HADLEY would invite President TAFT to deliver at New Haven a series of lectures on the "Proper Use of the Taxing Power." They might be instructive; they could not help being amusing, a happiness usually denied to the dismal science.

The Cause of It All.

There is one detail in this interesting little attack of nightmare of the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS which may serve to reassure his less nervous neighbors. We refer to the fact that whatever the actual circumstances of his great conspiracy were, the net result was to save the people of this State from at least one more unintelligent and iniquitous piece of fool legislation. We refer to the inquisitorial bill directed at discouraging first voters which was defeated in the State Senate last year.

From time to time we have endeavored to point out the folly and the stupidity of the annual output of bills further complicating the already complex system of balloting. Of the purpose of the legislation there never has been the slightest misunderstanding. Under the pretext of purifying the ballot the Republican organization in this city has steadily sought to disfranchise by indirection that large element of illiterate voters which is an admitted source of Democratic majorities in this town. To browbeat, hamper, terrify this element, to drive it from the polls if possible, is the aim of Mr. PARSONS as it has been of ODELL and his lieutenants in times past.

The proof of this purpose lies in the extreme care taken by the drafters of election laws to make them applicable to New York city alone. Is it to be believed that conditions of ballot are better in Albany, Buffalo or Rochester than in New York? Not in the least, but the element dangerous, because Democratic, in New York city is harmless, even a bulwark of civic righteousness in these Republican controlled regions. Thus year after year laws are piled up directed at disfranchisement quite as brazenly as those which bear such interesting names as "the grandfather clause" in the South, and each carries the admirably exclusive preface "in cities having over 1,000,000 inhabitants."

As to the value of an educational qualification for voting, that is a question which might be argued, but the Constitution of this State rules against it. Thus by indirection and in a shamelessly limited field an educational test is sought by legislative enactment which shall operate only against Democrats. The bill which Mr. PARSONS now charges was defeated by a national conspiracy was only one of the long series of measures of this type which have come from him. Hitherto with some reluctance but with ultimate compliance the up-State Republicans have passed these measures. But this last production of the Hon. HERBERT'S was too much even for them.

Against laws actually protecting the purity of the ballot no one can protest and no decent citizen desires to make complaint. But against the carefully localized legislation which compels the New York city voter to submit to a "third degree" before registration and an actual inquisitorial torture before voting the protest should be general. "Applying the Bertillon system to the voter," so the Hon. OWEN CASSIDY has accurately described the latest Parsons bill, and its defeat was an obvious victory for common sense and common decency alike. What Mr. PARSONS and his enlightened associates are actually after is a state of law in which it would be as difficult for a Democrat to vote in Manhattan as for a negro in certain Southern States. The necessity of a moral cry to veil such an immoral proceeding is evident.

However absurd, however puerile and childish Mr. PARSONS'S conspiracy appeared when he first promulgated his amazing revelation, it achieves its real value in the files of contemporary foolishness when it is appreciated that it was directed against a bad bill which deserved defeat and would undoubtedly have achieved this fitting end even if half a continent had not been furrowed with the underground wires of this hideous conspiracy.

The Cleansing of the Hudson.

After the Hudson the Delaware is the most beautiful river in the northeastern States. But the water of neither stream is potable, nor fit to bathe in, unless one is indifferent to the risk of typhoid fever. We do not speak, of course, of the upper reaches where no cities are found upon the banks of these rivers. To the eye they are still wonderfully picturesque, the Water Gap of the Delaware standing comparison with the Highlands about West Point. But the waters themselves are filled with pollution; they have literally been poisoned and befouled by the use which the towns and cities have made of them. The fisheries in both the Hudson and Delaware have been ruined by the contamination permitted. A scavenger like the carp may thrive, but there are few American fish left for sport or food; shad are still taken in the lower Hudson and in larger numbers in the Delaware, but the Hudson shad has lost its fine flavor and the industry on the Delaware is rapidly dwindling.

During the Hudson-Fulton celebration in this city Mr. JOHN BIGELOW bitterly lamented that nothing had been done by the promoters toward removing the reproach that the Hudson was little better than an open sewer. THE SUN commenting upon Mr. BIGELOW'S complaint said that it hoped that he might live to see the stream as pure and fair as it was in his boyhood. It does not seem so visionary a notion when one considers that the movement to purify the Delaware, at the instance of the New Jersey Board of Health, promises success. For some time there has been a suit against the city of Phillipsburg to compel it to put in a sewage disposal plant. Phillipsburg pleaded that there was no equity in the State's demand when Easton, across the river in Pennsylvania, could not be reached by New Jersey process and would certainly go on polluting the Delaware in spite of the restraint of Phillipsburg. But the plea is no longer valid, for through the good offices of Mr. F. HERBERT SNOW, chief engineer of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Easton has signed an agreement to cease from polluting the Delaware. Mr. SNOW has written to Mr. HENRY M. HERBERT, chief of the division of sewerage of the New Jersey board:

"The city of Easton has submitted plans for a complete and entirely new system of sanitary sewers for all sections of the city and the pumping of the sewage to a sewage disposal plant to be located along the banks of the river about a mile below the town. These plans have been approved officially, although details for final construction have not been made. The permit stipulates that no sewers shall be built or no additions to the existing sewer system shall be made until the city shall prepare detail plans of the sewage disposal works and until the same shall have been approved and a permit issued therefor, which permit, among other things, will stipulate that the disposal works shall be constructed and ready for operation by the time that any sanitary sewers constructed in the interim shall be ready for use."

The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Dr. SAMUEL G. DIXON, began a campaign some time ago to persuade the people of the State that it would be to their interests to cleanse their rivers and establish sewage disposal plants in every riparian town and city. It may seem rather late in the day to incur the cost, but the advantages would be so obvious—the restoration of the streams to their former purity, the opportunity to stock them with fish and revive a great industry, and the unlimited use of them for health and pleasure—that the bonded indebtedness obligatory would soon be borne without complaint. As regards the cleansing of the Hudson, New Jersey, in proportion to her responsibility, would gladly cooperate with New York, being committed to the policy of river restoration. In the Hudson Valley public opinion would quickly respond to the plea for the general welfare, and there would be no difficulty in showing that when the river was made more attractive by inhibiting its pollution, whatever the source, more country houses would be built along its banks, and its use for pleasure and recreation would be so much increased that every village, town and city in the valley would be a beneficiary. In the end the construction of sewage disposal plants would prove a very profitable investment. It is by no means an "iridescent dream." Indeed, we should not be surprised if in a period of less than twenty years it will be considered something like an ignominy for a city to permit the pollution of the river that flows before its doors.

Governor Willson's Advice.

Those gentle flowers of Kentucky chivalry, the night riders, are at their work again and a citizen who persists in earning his living in a way not approved by them receives a thrashing he is not likely to forget. Some of the victims have had the hardihood to believe that they were entitled to pursue their own designs without interference from without and have had the temerity to write to the Governor to ask him what they should do to avert ruin and to maintain their independence.

Governor WILLSON'S advice has been for these cranks and troublesome ones to defend themselves, to form liberty leagues and to arm their friends and dependents for the protection of their rights. It seems as if executive proclamation were unnecessary to stir a self-respecting man to such action, but Kentucky has been in the hands of night riders for years. What is the explanation of this?

Is it not to be found in the supineness and inaction of the authorities who have failed utterly and shamefully to give to decent, law abiding citizens the protection guaranteed to them in their State Constitution and for the support of which they pay taxes? Is not the advice of Governor WILLSON an open confession that the State of which he is the chief executive officer is unwilling or unable to perform its most elementary functions? Governor WILLSON says:

"Why should not self respecting free Kentuckians form a liberty or freedom pool a thousand times more serious and earnest than any pool for money profit, and why should they not fight for their liberties when the law is behind them and the State Government is with them?"

But why, it may fairly be asked, should the law not be in front of the "self-respecting, free Kentuckians" instead of "behind them"? If the State Government is seriously "with them" why should it be necessary for them to arm themselves?

The Governor invites anarchy. Why does he not do his duty? Is it that he alone in Kentucky upholds law and order? Is the citizenship of the State by an overwhelming majority opposed to the maintenance of justice? If these are not the facts how can the situation now existing be explained?

Terms of Peace in Morocco.

Interesting questions of international significance are raised by the insistent recurrence in European despatches of the report that the Spanish intend to demand a substantial extension of territory as well as a large indemnity as the price of peace in the present Moroccan campaign. The idea that the Spanish will insist upon an increase of territory about Melilla is not disturbing. That Spain must now hold the whole Melilla peninsula, from Cape Tres Forcas to Mount Gurugu, seems inevitable if the safety of the town of Melilla itself is to be assured. The possible extension of sovereignty on the shores of the Mar Chica and the development of this inland lake into a second Bizerta of commercial rather than naval importance may be equally unproductive of foreign complications.

In general the Spanish will probably be permitted to proceed undisturbed so long as their demands do not extend for more than ten miles about the city of Melilla, since it will be recognized that this is only an effort to protect a present possession. The view that the Spanish will seek to extend their territory eastward to the mouth of the Muluya or southward across the summits of the Maritime Atlas, however, is one that instantly leads to international difficulties. While the frontier of French Algeria does not quite touch the Muluya, ending at a point perhaps ten miles farther eastward, yet the whole valley of the Muluya is regarded by the French as their sphere of interest. French outposts in this region, moreover, have reported that the sound of the firing in the Spanish skirmishes was heard by them, so that the relative nearness of the two spheres of interest is patent.

Apparently the Spanish have recognized the impossibility of great extension eastward, for the later despatches declare that the real extension is to take place about Tetuan, much further to the westward. The city of Tetuan is about twenty miles south of Ceuta, the Spanish colony which faces Gibraltar and bears the same relation to the peninsula which culminates about Tangier that Melilla does to the promontory on which it is situated. Thus any large extension of Spanish territory westward from Tetuan would touch the Atlantic and completely cut off Tangier from the hinterland of Morocco. In effect, it would establish as a Spanish sphere all that northwestern corner of Africa which faces the Straits of Gibraltar and would include Tangier within the Spanish territory.

There is nothing new about this Spanish design. Spain occupied Tetuan in the campaign of 1860. General O'DONNELL, who led the victorious Spanish army, took the title of Duke of Tetuan. At this time Spain advanced the same proposition. But the British Government interfered, insisting upon the integrity of Morocco, and the Spanish ultimately retired to Ceuta. Of itself Tetuan is not a glittering prize. It is not even a seaport, as are Ceuta and Melilla, but is situated about five miles from the sea on the banks of a shallow stream, and has as a port only an open roadstead. Despite some local commercial importance, it seems to be destined to remain an inland town and in no sense to rival Tangier, the real port of this portion of Africa, with a harbor that is susceptible of great future development.

The importance of Tetuan lies in the fact that occupied by a European nation it would mean the entering wedge between Tangier and Morocco. That it would signify the recognition of Spanish claims to the whole Tangier peninsula by France and England if the occupation were permitted is obvious. But is such consent likely? It seems hardly possible. To England it would mean that the fortress of Gibraltar, already materially weakened by the increasing range of modern artillery, would be still further imperilled. Spanish forts at Tarifa on the north and from Cape Spartel to Ceuta on the south of the strait might easily make the passage of the strait by a British fleet in time of war dangerous if not impossible. As for the French, that they should be willing at this time to see the alienation of Tangier is equally doubtful. To acquire all Morocco is still the determined policy of the colonial element in the nation, and the importance of Tangier is not to be exaggerated.

That the Spanish will be permitted to extend their holdings in Morocco to any notable extent may then be doubted. Melilla, and even Ceuta, may gain outlying territory commensurate with the increase of the range of modern fire arms. Morocco, moreover, in some fashion will be made to pay the costs of the war. Probably through the medium of a loan made in Paris and based upon the Moroccan customs receipts. Every possible effort will be made to gratify Spanish spirit and avoid injuring Spanish pride. But the extension of Spain's territory on any large or valuable portion of Morocco is hardly to be looked for at this time. Neither Spain's ability to push a claim nor the French readiness to renounce national aspirations can be reckoned on to this extent.

A hundred years from October 4, 1909, New York will probably celebrate the first ascent of the Hudson in an aeroplane, and the name of the daring navigator, we may suppose, will be linked with the name of the captain of the Half Moon. The Hudson-Fulton-Wright celebration will doubtless be a stupendous thing, and no man can calculate the number of millions of people who will be entertained by the municipality of 2009.

FOREIGN NOTES.

Comment on Various Happenings and Conditions Abroad.

Mr. Peary's tale of his polar achievement has set a French philosopher meditating upon the universal adoption in modern times of the "notion of the record." "Progress does not count nowadays," this writer remarks, "till the 'best previous' has been vanquished; Peary's diaries illustrate this with concise and striking force: 'such and such a latitude, so and so's record beaten.'" Our philosopher sees in the exact numerical measurement of physical prowess which the "record" implies an entirely new stimulus to man's will and ambition, and he asserts that humanity is progressing much faster than formerly under this keener spur. "Competition, rivalry, as understood by the ancients, has now been perfected, and the introduction of that precise little thing a figure has carried mankind up to heights which otherwise could scarcely have been attained." He goes on to hope, as a French Academician should, that the "record" may soon extend its beneficent influence to the spheres of literature and art, though how that is to be done he does not disclose.

At the international congress of journalists in London the chief practical measure proposed was that the "inviolable secrecy" recognized by courts of law in the case of priests and physicians should hereafter have its privilege extended so as to include the fourth estate. To an American mind, which associates the function of the press with publicity rather than with secrecy, this may seem a queer proposal. However, if "inviolable secrecy" had been a legal right of the American press a few months ago a certain Federal prosecution of our fourth estate in connection with Panamese matters would have been impracticable.

On the whole, to ourselves, this international congress would seem to be at fault. The business of the press is, first of all, publicity, and to give it privileged rights of secrecy would more probably result in a clipping than in an extension of its powers.

A very interesting manifestation took place last month when a deputation of the Czechs of Bohemia visited the capital of the extinct kingdom of Poland, Warsaw. There they were received by the Poles as by an independent Power, and the speeches which celebrated the occasion alluded frankly to "vast combinations" looming on the horizon of European politics. It was indeed the first occasion in a hundred years of the Poles being permitted to speak as a self-possessed people, and for this reason the ceremonies have attracted wide notice. We have been duly impressed with the idea of "dying nations," and the theme has often been set forth that nations like individuals pass irrevocably through a set round of seasons, spring, summer and fall, from which there is no return; but the truth of this theme is becoming doubtful. The latest born individual is in himself eternally young, and after all nations are made up of individuals. "Finis Poloniæ" may yet prove, so far as Poland is the heart of the Slavonic peoples, to have been but the empty flourish of a weak kneed rhetorician. Undeniably the pretensions of the Slavs to an independent racial expression are brighter today than they have been for half a century at least, if only because of the increasing tension between the Teutonic and the Slavonic elements upon the world's stage.

An English writer in the October *North American Review* discourses on the "Social Hegemony of England." Much that he says is, of course, true enough; the "cut" of English tailors in Savile Row is doubtless accepted very generally on all the shores of the seven or more seas. To-day London is beyond doubt the fashionable centre of the ascertained universe, as the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, no mean authority on such a point, declared a year or two ago in a certain novelistic attempt of his. Where the *North American* essayist may seem to be a little at fault is in not sufficiently discriminating between the male and the eternally feminine designs—what unprejudiced woman after all would seek Regent street in preference to the Rue de la Paix for her gowns?—and in not giving due recognition to the puissant support and assistance proposed to the Thames Embankment by the elongated purses of the English speaking New World. London may fairly boast of a social leadership of contemporary veneered civilization, but the fact that Europe meets most conveniently on Pall Mall and Piccadilly with the Midas touch of our Hesperides has after all some little influence upon the "returns" of the Carlton and Savoy. For the rest, the *North American* essayist seems somewhat blind to the universal and by no means peculiarly British insistence upon the advantages in modern conditions of artificial forms of physical exercise for those "in populous city pent." What else, after all, could explain the present general supremacy of the tame benefits of lawn tennis and golf?

Significant is the recent proposal of the French Minister of Commerce to establish for French youth on the analogy of the "Ecole de Rome" and the "Ecole d'Athènes" an "Ecole de New York." The young men of France are not, according to Minister Millerand's scheme, to be sent to us for anything very graceful or æsthetic; stern utilitarianism and hard cash are the inspiring motives, to tell the truth, of his transatlantic dream. Still, it is something of a compliment that he hopes to see the material future of France benefited by a year long sojourn among us of the picked scholars of France's venerable institution, the 'Ecole des Ponts et des Chaussées."

Valuable Space.

Mrs. Knicker—Why didn't you have the flat repapered?

Mrs. Bocker—It would have made the rooms so much smaller.

MR. TAFT'S EXPOSITION OF THE CHICAGO PLATFORM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* President Taft is faithfully and vigorously utilizing the $25,000 appropriation by Congress for his travelling expenses. He expounds the Chicago platform section by section, text by text, as decreed by his party. The Bryan Democrats, who illustrated their ideas of public economy by voting therefor, have their *quid pro quo* in the vindication of a large part of the Denver platform, which runs on all fours with that of Chicago, antedating Denver by three weeks. The Bryan Democrats used those weeks in discovering what they fancied was a "twilight zone" between the nationalism of their leader and the federalism of Jefferson, the socialism of Roosevelt and the Democratic individualism of an earlier and better day. Those Bryanites, led by such fancies, plunged into Cimmerian darkness.

Beginning at Boston, the President dwelt on the monetary commission section of the Chicago platform for which Congress had made provision, and shrewdly retired behind the skirts of Senator Aldrich, its competent chief. In Chicago he displayed the merits of a postal savings bank system. In Winona he vindicated Congressional execution of the tariff plank, its maximum and minimum rates, against "insurgent" Republicans of the middle West. Travelling on he took up the court procedure plank, expounded what injunctions ought to be and censured judicial prolixity and delay. At the next railway station he explained what was uttered at Chicago concerning trusts, the Sherman law, railway rates, the interstate commission traffic agreements, *et quibusdam aliis*. A few miles further on came the natural resources and waterways of the platform, Ballinger and Pinchot. At Denver the President, inspired perhaps by the local Democratic microbes of the previous year, played taxation off his own bat. Silence had reigned at Chicago in regard to income taxes and death taxes, but President Taft had told Congress, as did his immediate predecessor, that death taxes are good things, at least good to diminish "swollen wealth." Congress had, however, excluded them from the new tariff law, and so President Taft told the several States to go ahead and suppress Bryan's "predatory wealth" and Roosevelt's "malefactors."

Chicago had been, on June 18, 1908, dumb concerning unapportioned income taxes, but Denver had denounced them on July 10 of that year, and the President gave "a leg up" to Bryan's income tax amendment of the Constitution and so reimbursed Democrats in Congress for their timely aid in the $25,000 railway appropriation. Then northward went the President. The Chicago platform had been silent over Alaska, but the President nevertheless soundly rapped Bryan over the ears for demanding for Alaska a Territorial form of government and insisted that she must be a colony ruled from Washington. Afterward the Chicago plank regarding a merchant marine had its innings and subsidies a good uplift. The platform "adhered" to encouragement, but kept clear of a subsidy, while Mr. Taft did not. President Grant, in whose Cabinet was Mr. Taft's father, had favored upbuilding our merchant marine by admitting foreign built and domestic owned vessels under our flag, but the junior Mr. Taft could not advise that method and especially since the recent tariff tax on American owned pleasure yachts constructed abroad.

For Spokane was reserved the Taft exposition of the first plank of the Chicago platform, entitled "Republicanism under Roosevelt." He began by saying that Roosevelt loved the West "far more than he did his native East." "Nobody," he added, "could have a higher or more profound admiration and gratitude toward my predecessor" than he had. He affirmed in these words:

I am doing the best I can to carry out the Roosevelt policies as I understood them, and I had during four years at least a somewhat favorable opportunity to learn what they were. When the grand total account is made up in reference to this Administration it will have come as near as in human events we can count to carrying out its promises to clinch as far as possible the Roosevelt policies.

The whole country, East and West, and all the politicians, Republicans and Democrats, nationalists and State rights advocates, Socialists and individualists, the malefactors and the benefactors of great wealth, may now know what to expect. Industrial prosperity has a new load to carry.

Let us hope that friends of President Taft will warn him in time of that which his immediate predecessor in office accomplished in the autumn of 1907.

ALBANY, October 4. D.

Tartarin's Library.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* All hail to Tartarin! At last you have struck his altitude, and with that sense of his vaporing bulk you appreciate truly the "pigseye" (?) books he loves to invite his loafing soul with—good for you and your happy readers.

But how did Tartarin omit that classic by C. Hart Merriam on the Geomyidæ?—on the virtues of the Saccomyidæ and the sins of the children of Thomomys? Who better than Tartarin could enjoy the "dynamic energy" which this observant scientist, the modest Merriam, found hidden in the incisors of those pouched rats?

You say: "Tartarin needs no other chronicles than his memory." Can you truly say so, when your columns a short time ago fairly bulged with his denunciations of those writers on nature who have "creative memories"—those "nature fakers" like W. J. Long, Ernest Seton Thompson and "my friend Roberts"?

Let us be just to Tartarin and to his neophytes: but how did he omit that study on the "dynamic energy" of those teeth? Who shows teeth to better advantage than Tartarin?

ALLAN ALANDALE.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, October 3.

The Flag on the Hall of Records.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I would say to "Schoolboy" that Mr. Gass, whose official title is spelled "Register," not "Registrar," should no more be held responsible for the bogus American flag on the Hall of Records than the Corporation Counsel, or any other official who occupies offices in the building. I suppose we should look to the Borough President, as he has charge of all city and county buildings in his own borough.

There are other flags around town with forty-eight stars each. Perhaps the makers thought it would be enterprising to anticipate the admission of Arizona and New Mexico.

Bully for the Frenchman, anyhow!

NEW YORK, October 4. READER.

A Curiosity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have discovered a rare curiosity. The specimen was in charge of a car on a downtown train in the subway and was announcing the name of each station in a clear, round, full voice, so that every passenger in the car could hear and understand him. I am exulting! J. D. SMITH.

NEW YORK, October 2.

To Meditation Free Again.

I likes me Broadway stroll at night
When only fr'en's give greetin's;
I hates to see Long Acre bright
Give up to-for'n meetin's!
I likes me office buildin' tall—
I runs an elevator—
Without no extra jam at all
To jar me quiet natur'.
I'm glad dey's went, dat rubb'rin' crowd,
Back to de wild and woolly.
I hates deir rush, deir noises loud—
N'Yawk again is bully!

EDWARD W. TOWNSEND.

OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—In his address at Seattle President Taft declared:

It behooves us Americans interested in pushing trade into every quarter of the globe to take steps to repair a condition that exists in respect to our merchant marine that is humiliating to our national pride and most burdensome to us in competition with other nations in obtaining international trade.

He defined his position in the matter very clearly by saying that it seemed to him that "there is no subject to which Congress can better devote its attention in the coming session than the passage of a bill which shall encourage our merchant marine in such a way as to establish American lines directly between New York and Eastern ports and South American ports and between our Pacific coast ports and the Orient and the Philippines."

A striking argument in support of Mr. Taft's position in this matter is at hand in the form of a recent report made by Consul-General Anderson of Rio Janeiro:

As a result of more or less aid from the Governments concerned, within the past three years there has been developed between the east coast of South America and the several countries of Europe, notably Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy, a service of fast modern ships, the least of them of fourteen knots speed, which has come to be a prominent factor in the foreign commerce of that coast with the rest of the world. The number of such ships entering and clearing from the port of Rio Janeiro from and to Europe has doubled in the last three years.

There are now passenger, freight and mail connections between Europe and Rio Janeiro about sixteen times a month, the trip being made in twelve to fifteen days. Between New York and Rio Janeiro there are about two such connections a month, the run being made on an average of about eighteen and a half days. In other words, transportation facilities between the United States and the east coast of South America, with its already large and rapidly increasing demand for imported products, are slow and inadequate, while despatch to and from Europe is made on an average of four times a week by vessels of speed. Mr. Anderson says that "the present lack of adequate modern steamship accommodations between the United States and eastern South America is not due to a lack of trade. The total tonnage of actual freight going from Brazil to the United States on an average from year to year comes very close to that going from Brazil to all Europe." This cannot be said of shipments from the ports of the River Plate because of the wheat shipped from Argentina to Europe, but the merchandise we receive from those ports is measurable in tens of thousands of tons.

The special difficulty of the traffic lies in the fact that the tonnage of our exports falls far short of that of our imports. Backed by a fair measure of commercial energy on the part of American exporters, an improvement in transportation facilities between the United States and the east coast of South America would unquestionably lead to a better balance of import and export tonnage. The import trade of the four nations in that region last year was as follows:

	Total Imports.	*From U. S.*
Argentina	$272,972,736	$35,597,004
Brazil	177,450,000	*16,973,977
Uruguay	34,618,801	*3,134,694
Paraguay	3,929,724	*55,229

*United States export figures.

Only about 12 per cent. of this importation of nearly $500,000,000 worth of merchandise goes from this country. If American producers and merchants want a larger share, a share which is to be had by proper activity, they must follow the example of their now successful competitors. They must demand from the Congress the passage of the ocean mail service bill, the importance of which Mr. Taft emphasized in his Seattle speech.

THE RESCUE OF JAMES F. JOY.

Detroit Says the Old Gentleman Resented Gen. Dickinson's Familiarity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Should you succeed in embalming in authorized biographies of Secretary Dickinson the interesting anecdote of his heroic rescue of the late James F. Joy of Detroit from a watery grave, to which you referred in an editorial article in THE SUN of September 30, you should endeavor to have the story told as it is current in this city, the scene of its occurence.

Mr. Joy, although in the eighties, was as sturdy a man as you could see in a day's walk, as proud of his physical prowess as John L. Sullivan, and he haughtily resented any familiarity. When he was bravely breasting the waves of the Detroit River on the occasion in question and felt Mr. Dickinson's powerful hand yanking him toward the dock he turned upon the latter with sublime indignation and cried:

"How dare you, sir? Who are you, sir? I do not know you, sir!"

They had been introduced that afternoon on the boat, but Joy was apt to forget and ignore even the largest sort of people. Did he not make the nominating speech on a certain famous occasion and mention the candidate as "James B. Blaine"?

DETROIT, October 1. HISTORY.

Early Coffee Drinkers.

From the London Chronicle.

There is a quaint reference to coffee—which the Commissioners of Customs tell us is a declining drink in this country—in Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy." "The Turks," writes Burton "have a drink called coffee (for they used no wine), so named of a berry as black as soot and as bitter (like that black drink which was in use among the Lacedæmonians, and perhaps the same), which they sip still off, and sup as warm as they can suffer; they spend much time in those coffee houses, which are somewhat like our ale houses or taverns, and there they sit chatting and drinking to drive away the time and to be merry together, because they find by experience that kind of drink so used helpeth digestion and procureth alacrity."

The introduction of coffee into this country dates from the period of the Protectorate. According to a Restoration pamphleteer "Coffee and Commonweath came in together." The first coffee house in London was established in 1652 by Pasqua Rosee, the Armenian servant of a City merchant. Others were quick to follow. Naturally the publicans and owners of licensed houses viewed these innovations with alarm. Mr. Hackwood in his recently published book on "The Inns, Ales and Drinking Customs of Old England" recalls the case of one James Farre, who was accused of "making and selling of a drink called coffee, whereby in makinge the same he annoyed his neighbours by evil smells, and for keepinge of fire for the most part night and day, whereby his chimney and chamber hath been set on fire, to the great danger and affrightment of his neighbours."

The Withered Staff of Æsculapius.

From the New York Medical Journal.

Æsculapius was always represented with a staff, a symbol of the support needed by the sick; around it was entwined the ancient symbol of eternity, the serpent. Throughout succeeding ages physicians carried a stick, which during the Middle Ages was usually surmounted by a small metal box containing aromatic herbs which the doctor sniffed as he contemplated his patient to counteract infection and the universal stench of the sickroom then prevalent. Later on the stick shrunk into a cane, and during the regency had above the handle an eyeglass, a survey of the invalid through which must have conferred an ineffable look of wisdom and profundity. In early Victorian days a climax of bad taste was reached in the use of carved ivory or bone skulls as cane handles, an example of the ethical advertising of the period. Finally the doctor's cane has followed his black coat and high hat into oblivion, and more and more must the practitioner rely upon his brains for prestige.

A Good Figure.

She talks of a good figure,
And being a woman of taste,
S is, of course, the figure,
For it's most pulled in at the waist!

L. T. J.

A PARK CYNIC.

Random Pessimism of a Sunday Bench Philosopher.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Next to philosophizing to another person it is most amusing to have some one else philosophize to you. I had this pleasure to-day. A stranger sitting beside me on a bench in one of the city's parks opened the conversation like a weather forecaster. I agreed with him about the elements, and as it turned out later we were both of course wrong. Confidence increased until he confessed that he had seen a great deal of the world and had a decent bowing acquaintance with its friends the flesh and the devil. Then we got very conversational. Perceiving that he delighted in cynical criticism, I let him prattle on. Said he, watching the persons passing by:

"I love to dissect people metaphorically. Now look at that man. You can see by the way in which he purses up his mouth and wears his mustaches, by the smallness of his eyes and the stumpiness of his nose that when he gets a notion into his head it never comes out again, but abides there till another eats it up. And then there is a gentleman whose nose is as sharp as a toothpick and whose face is like a basin of whey, while his white cravat resembles the curds. I am certain he is always grumbling and will remain a child to the end of his days, whereas his companion, I should imagine, is like all the works of Providence. You would have to see him twenty times before you got to know him for the first time."

I didn't quite understand how my acquaintance arrived at this conclusion, but taking stock of the individual he pointed out I felt inclined to say "If you can suggest any course likely to result in my seeing him for the last time I shall be most grateful."

After a pause my philosopher continued: "You've often heard of 'songs without words,' and maybe 'songs without music,' but in the next passerby you can plainly see 'walks without legs.' He is distinctly a vaudevillian, and supplies an entertainment especially adapted to audiences without sense. Naturally he is greeted by overwhelming houses."

He suddenly switched off to the other sex: "There is what you call a woman of fashion. She will buy everything she doesn't want and pay for nothing she can get, smile on everybody but her husband, be happy everywhere but at home, neglect her children, fondle her lap dog and go to church every time she wears a new dress." This if original was a pretty sweeping accusation, but he had no pity. 'La femme qui dine, aime' might be applied to the lady now passing, though I should in her case invert the words, "La femme qui aime, dine." She is thinking to herself: 'All human things are hollow. I am a human thing, therefore I am hollow. It is contemptible to be hollow, therefore I'll stuff myself as full as I am able.' Wonderful, isn't it, how much some women eat!"

He raised his hat as another lady passed. "I know her slightly. She is a singer. Unfortunately she lacks a voice and is not beautiful. You will notice she has a thick veil which conceals her features. She seems to say: 'I am determined to attract the notice of those men who stare so rudely; but, while I pique their curiosity I decline to satisfy it.' Presently will come a gust of wind and blow that veil aside, and though it is a sacred canon that no woman can be pronounced ugly you must confess that her face as nearly as possible approaches those confines which separate beauty from its antithesis. You can imagine her singing with perfect truth that couplet from 'La Sonnambula':

'I looked and loved, and loved and looked, and looked and loved again.
But looked and loved, and loved and looked, and looked and loved in vain.'

"She is moreover always in a hurry and seemingly busy, but she accomplishes nothing." He hesitated and then went on with a final burst: "The women's hats are really pretty this fall, but observe that picture; an entire pheasant's breast with its radiant feathers in perfect condition sweeps around her hat. Was she born on October 1, and is she celebrating her natal month by a shot silk dress and a beautiful phasianidic trophy, or with a keen eye to economy did the flesh of the bird support the waste of her system at dinner and the skin afterward do duty as we see it? At all events it suggests an accompaniment of sauce, which is not found wanting."

At this point I excused myself. I felt somewhat depressed, and as an artist of any kind must have enthusiasm I went to dinner. PAUL PRY.

NEW YORK, October 3.

ECHOES OF THE CELEBRATION.

New York Big Enough to Have Three Parades Simultaneously.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The great parades of the Hudson-Fulton celebration were witnessed by unprecedentedly large throngs of citizens and visitors. New York's celebrations will henceforth be viewed by continually increasing crowds of sightseers as the city's population and that of its suburbs grows larger. This therefore seems a good time to suggest a new plan for these parades.

Thousands of people were unable to see the processions on Fifth avenue, and other thousands saw them only with great discomfort, not to say peril to life and limb. The side streets were blocked with the disappointed ones, who wandered vainly from street to street hoping to find a less crowded quarter. Serious accidents on the congested thoroughfare were prevented only by happy chance and efficient police management. The plan I suggest is this: Instead of one parade on Fifth avenue, have three simultaneous parades. One might be on First avenue, another on Fifth avenue and the third on Tenth avenue. The crowds would by this plan automatically distribute themselves, the work of the police would be easy and everybody would be comfortable. New York city is great and rich enough to find material for these three simultaneous parades. There would be a spirit of emulation as to which section of the city should make the finest showing in these parades. Local interest in the marching societies and regiments would help to supply what the late celebration lacked to a degree, enthusiasm on the part of the onlookers.

New York city has outgrown the Fifth avenue parade. Let us hereafter at our great celebrations have parades equally good on both the East and West sides and avoid the dangerous congestion in the central avenue. HENRY HOYT MOORE.

BROOKLYN, October 4.

A Regret That a Model of the Monitor Was Not Shown.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It has occurred to many survivors of our civil war period, particularly those who saw the "Yankee cheesebox" after her battle with the Confederate ram Merrimac, that there was a great oversight on the part of the Hudson-Fulton management in not having a floating representation or at least a faithful land float model of the "Little Monitor," particularly her revolving gun turret, the design and success of which revolutionized the naval architecture of the world. It was really the first practical and effective combination of steam and iron ship naval construction, and it accomplished immeasurably more than any other single physical form in the defence of the Union.

I recall that March day when the first battle between iron ships was in progress in Hampton Roads and the hush of anxiety that waited upon the wires for results. There was nothing represented on sea or land last week that could possibly be more impressive by com