The Sun.

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Mr. McCooey.

It is predicted that JOHN H. MCCOOEY will be selected as leader of the Kings county Democrats to-morrow in the place left vacant by the death of Senator MCCARREN. Of Mr. MCCOOEY'S qualifications for this highly important post the public knows little. There is some encouragement in his announcement that he is opposed to merging the Kings county organization with Tammany Hall. He has said positively that he will not help the now crippled Tiger to cross the bridge.

For the Democratic party of the State nothing could be more important at the present time than the preservation of Kings county's independence of Tammany. The signs indicate that any Democratic State ticket nominated next fall that does not bear the Tammany Hall mark will be successful at the polls from top to bottom, even if Governor HUGHES again forces his own renomination. The Republican "leadership" invites defeat as much as it deserves it.

Mr. MCCARREN'S title may easily be assumed by Mr. MCCOOEY, but a real political leader is not made by edict. His plain declaration that his authority will be used to protect the public against the consolidation of Democratic power in New York and Kings counties under Tammany is in his favor; may he have power to make good his intentions!

Germany's Place as a Naval Power.

Every year on November 1 the Office of Naval Intelligence at Washington makes a computation of the number and displacement of warships built and building by the great Powers, the term including Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France, Japan, Russia, Italy and Austria. No warship of less than 1,000 tons is counted, and no torpedo craft of less than fifty tons; nor are ships more than twenty years old included unless they have been reconstructed and rearmed since 1900; ships authorized but not begun are also omitted from the table.

In 1908 Great Britain led the list of navies with 1,871,176 tons, France was second with 801,188, the United States was third with 770,468, and Germany fourth with 693,599 tons. On Monday the Office of Naval Intelligence gave out the computation for November 1, 1909, and this was the order of the first division of Great Powers, the others, even Japan, being left far behind: Great Britain, ships in service and under construction, 2,005,873 tons; Germany, 802,692; United States, 785,687; France, 766,906. Thus Germany, which was fourth on the list a year ago, has moved up to second place, France has dropped to fourth from second, and the United States has not changed its position. On November 1, 1908, the United States had an advantage over Germany of 76,869 tons, and this year Germany passes the United States and leads by 17,005 tons. At the present time the superiority is only one of figures, for the United States battleship fleet in commission is incomparably more powerful than the German line of battle. Germany has no such combination of fighting ships as those that displayed the American flag in the North River during the recent Hudson-Fulton celebration. Germany's sea power as a formidable unit is of the future rather than of the present. But the future—and one does not have to look far ahead—will behold Germany with a much greater advantage in tonnage over the United States than the table compiled at Washington shows to-day, and in Dreadnoughts or super-Dreadnoughts Germany will have an absolute superiority.

The American building programme is determined by laws enacted each year. For instance, in January, 1909, Congress authorized the construction of two super-Dreadnoughts of 26,000 tons, which will be known as the Arkansas and Wyoming; not until 1912 will they be in commission to reenforce our other real Dreadnoughts, the Delaware, North Dakota, Florida and Utah. Germany looks far ahead in shaping her naval policy. It is under a law enacted in 1907 that her sea power is expanding so rapidly that Great Britain has taken alarm and decided to lay down additional great battleships and armored cruisers to take their place in her line of battle. The German law of 1907 provided that three battleships and one armored cruiser should be laid down each year from 1908 to 1911, each year from 1912 to 1917 one battleship and one armored cruiser, also each year from 1908 to 1917 two protected cruisers and twelve destroyers. The battleships are all to be of greater displacement than the original Dreadnought, and most of the armored cruisers are to equal or excel the fleet British battleship cruisers of the Invincible class. Carrying out her building programme with secrecy and great rapidity, Germany now has the battleships Nassau, Westfalen, Rhineland and Posen, of 18,500 tons each, in the water; and the battleships Oldenburg, Beowulf, Siegfried, Frithjof, Hildebrand and Heimdale of 21,000 tons are building. (Contracts for the last two ships, it is said, were given out recently.) Of armored cruisers the Von Der Tann of 19,000 tons and G and H of 22,000 tons are under construction. Thus Germany will in the course of about three years have strengthened her navy by thirteen super-Dreadnoughts (including armored cruisers), while the United States will have but six such ships in her line of battle, since no additional ship can be begun in American yards until some time in 1910.

The Office of Naval Intelligence has promoted Germany to second place in tonnage among the great Powers. Whatever disparity there may now be in actual sea power in favor of the United States, in three years, or even less, Germany will have a superiority in what may be called the Dreadnought line of battle, which most specialists regard as indispensable to a modern navy, though it may possess many ships of the pre-Dreadnought class.

Of Good Fellows and the Need of a Double.

No nation and no community, so far as we know, fulfils in its government or its political and social life the great French triad, once so desired and applauded, of Liberty, Fraternity, Equality. Some countries follow one, some another of these sublime names; perhaps an equal devotion to all of them is not possible. In the United States Liberty is fading into a name. Benevolent but arbitrary interfering Legislatures and Congresses fetter the moral or physical activity of the citizen more and more. Doubtless we shall live to see men hanged for smoking cigarettes. Already, we believe, the luggage of strangers in Alabama is searched for forbidden liquors.

The demand for books on heraldry and genealogy, the universal American passion for titles and societies of "descendants" and so on, the female rage for aristocratic foreign marriages—these things among others may be thought to denote no strong surviving sense of equality. Besides, the rich have for eight years and more been banned and damned and proscribed. It is the official doctrine that they are desperately wicked and specially to be punished. There is no pretence that they are to be treated like the "producing classes," or like those favorite sons of privilege and immunity the members of labor unions. Inequality and plenty of it is the American motto.

Fraternity is left. Left specifically in the form of "good fellowship." To be a "good fellow" is the general desire. To succeed in it is to cover a multitude of sins. Obscure and detested trades, such as those of the financier, the railroad president, the great and greatly protected manufacturer, may neglect this virtue, but politicians can't afford to neglect it. Often it is the only one they have or need. A politician may be a thief, a defaulter, a scoundrel, a humbug, a fool, but if he is a "good fellow," if he slaps TOM, DICK and HARRY on the back, laughs like a chorus of Brobdingnagians, shakes ostentatiously every grimy hand that he can get hold of—the root of popularity is in him and he shall go far. Nothing in our impeccable friend Governor HUGHES, so singular in so many and admirable ways, is more singular than that he holds for a second term a great post and is a commanding "national figure," and yet is not a "good fellow," is devoid of affected bonhomie and no natural handshaker. It is not to be thought of that he can go further without the one American imperative quality.

Happy the politician who like Mr. TAFT is naturally expansive, communicative, supremely sociable, equal to all the demands of a people brimming with enthusiasm and full of innocent delight to meet famous personages. The old repelling seclusive sanctity and aloofness has long gone from the Presidency. WASHINGTON, with his outriders and clattering splendid coach of state; WASHINGTON, who would bow to the American citizen, but never dull his palm with entertainment of him—what chance would he have in our fraternal times? An accursed snob as well as plutocrat, he never could get a job in these days.

Well, travels with busy handshaking and miles of speechmaking and miscellaneous eating and drinking are now part of the regular routine of the President, who rests himself by getting tired. What local happinesses, what meetings of the beauty and the chivalry and the committee, what boundless "seas of faces" and words, Mr. TAFT has now survived. The census of his miles and speeches has been taken. The interim is over. The Government will resume business. The President's pleasure being finished, duty can be pursued again. The long vacation of the Cabinet is done too. Now to work!

We should be the last to spoil honest sport or to suggest that the Government cannot shut up shop for three months or so every year. If some vexations result, so much the worse for the vexed. To the instinct of good fellowship much greater sacrifices should cheerfully be made. For the sake of future Presidents, however, few of whom are likely to be as strong or ambitious, Pullmanly speaking, as Mr. TAFT, we beg to renew the proposal borrowed and adapted from the late Dr. E. E. HALE, that the President should have a Double—perhaps a Board of Doubles—to take either the play or the work off his hands. Of course the circulation of a good fellow among adoring millions of good fellows is the important thing. Anybody can do the work. Hereafter we hope there will be somebody, several bodies, to do it, while the President is engaged in his more congenial task.

No Tariff War With Canada.

The Toronto *Globe* finds ground for hope and satisfaction in a despatch from Washington by which it is informed "in a tone of certainty" that there will be no tariff war between Canada and the United States. As the law leaves the matter almost entirely to the discretion of the President, who has not yet declared his intentions, and as the President leaves much to the new tariff board, which is at present somewhat up in the air on that particular issue, the assurance of our neighbor is probably a little premature.

The *Globe* is informed that "the Tariff Commission will report that Canada does not discriminate against the United States and that consequently the 25 per cent. additional provided for in the new tariff bill will not be imposed." The fact is that Canada does in a long list of articles discriminate against the United States and in favor of the United Kingdom and various British colonies. A special advantage to various products of the mother country is the prominent feature of the Canadian tariff. The question is not whether Canada discriminates against us, but whether that special form of discrimination shall or shall not be regarded as "undue." To the President is left the decision of the exact meaning and significance of that mysterious little word which now stands as the key to the markets of the United States. It was brought into use in this connection by some of the ablest minds in Washington after careful consideration, and presumably with full realization of the consequences of its interpretation by the President.

The omission of the word "unduly" from section 2 of the Payne bill would have compelled the application of the maximum rate on merchandise from several important countries in the event of failure to obtain from them terms as favorable as any given by them to our competitors. Whenever in competition one nation is given a tariff rate which is denied to another nation there is discrimination, a distinction between the products of two countries with preference shown and advantage given to one in the rivalry for trade. Article 17 and schedule D of the Canadian tariff act are facts incontrovertibly establishing discrimination. The absence of the word "unduly" from section 2 of the Payne bill would have resulted in the automatic increase of charges on imports from Canada. The inclusion of that word leads the way to an avoidance of a tariff conflict.

Whether the President's interpretation of "unduly" is etymologically defensible or purely absurd, it is to be hoped that so far at least as our trade relations with Canada are concerned he will be able to see only one meaning for it, and that the broadest.

The Elder's Adventures.

When the North Carolina Legislature passed the Moore county fence law eight or nine months ago Elder JEHU PELEG CALDWELL of Charlotte and Carthage burst into this incomparable song:

"No more will jingle in grassy dell
The lonesome, discordant old cow bell—
The old brass bell that used to tell
Where Brindle was when evening fell.
Passing, passing, no more grassing:
Fasting, fasting, no more masting:
The old Scrub Cow and the Razorback Sow
Are put to rout. They are down and out."

Perhaps the loveliest ribbon on the Tarheel Muse. We have not heard much about the old Scrub Cow, but the Razorback is resisting to the death. Elder CALDWELL relates thus modestly a narrow escape:

"Myself and a colored man and a fine dog which I paid five dollars for started into the 'ketch' with vigor. After catching a good size shoat the dog was tied to a tree to hold him away while we fastened the legs of the shoat. The attraction of the squealing shoat drew forth from the dense swamp a monster wild razorback which from appearances weighed about 250 pounds.

"At the sight of the men and dog this rough forester dashed at them with lightning speed and vicious fierceness, whereupon the men leaped upon trees from which the bark came down in showers as they climbed with great strides toward the tops. As the men thus escaped the hog turned to the dog left fastened to the tree and in a moment's time with one or two swipes with his long tusks laid the dog wide open in death. Next the hog turned upon the shoat, which, lying near by bound in ropes, was struggling for liberty. After killing the shoat in the midst of his rage this monarch of the forest stood around for twenty minutes waiting the return of the men, but as they wisely kept quiet in their safe retreat the hog trotted off into the swamps.

"Mr. ROOSEVELT in all his African narrow escapes never had any closer call."

We should say not. We trembled for the Elder as he shinned up a tree and escaped the monster forester. He was scarcely in more danger when the horned snakes encircled the ramparts of Charlotte and blew a summons to surrender. But the Elder turns his suffering to a joke and nobly compliments the canicidal Razorback:

"The Moore county razorback still roams the piney woods. Like Homeric warriors, he fights and flees by turns, but what his valor may lack in steadfastness it makes up in great moments such as those just described. The Legislature of North Carolina undertook to disfranchise him, but he laughs at the Legislature of North Carolina. What are either fence laws or lawful fences when they deny his birthright? May he be among the last of all ferae naturae to undergo bondage or extinction."

Lasting, lasting, always masting, three cheers for the Razorback Sow!

Unexplored Constantinople.

The report that the catalogue of the manuscripts in the Sultan's library in the Old Seraglio at Constantinople is nearly completed has started the imagination of European scholars. The compiler is a Turkish scholar and has directed his attention chiefly to works in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, but enough of the modern scientific spirit has touched the educated class in the Orient to make it possible that he has made note of Greek, Byzantine and Latin manuscripts as well. It will be remarkable if some important remnant of the literary treasures looted five centuries ago does not come to light, for Constantinople has been cut off from the Giaours, except superficially, since the capture.

Whatever the Sultan's collection may hold, strong hopes are built on the prospect that the reformed Government may continue in power and may be more open to the requests of scientific men of Christian nations. All Ottoman rulers have not been as ruthless as Caliph OMAR, who used the great library of Alexandria to heat the public baths; some portion of the booty of Byzantium must be stored away in mosques, in private houses or underground vaults, that in spite of time and weather and accidents of every sort may give back to the world some lost treasure, early copies of the Gospels, Greek poets or historians, perhaps even Latin writers, whose names only survive now. The dirt heaps of Egypt have shown what may be recovered by patient search.

The possibilities of great discoveries in art treasures are greater and surer, should the new Ottoman Government yield to the demands of Europe. What has already been found with the slightest of superficial investigation is an earnest of what still lies buried there. It is more difficult to pursue archæological excavation in a great city than in the country and in deserted towns, but what has been done in Rome is an example of what may be done in Constantinople should the new Turkey admit the scholars of Europe.

Whether Stamboul is destined to remain in Turkish hands or to fall into any of the eager hands that are stretched to seize it, the search for what Byzantium left must come sooner or later. If the Sultan's advisers are unwilling to act of their own accord, they might listen to the expressed wishes of his friends, the Kaiser and the Czar of All the Russias. The generation that has had revealed to it the "Politics" of ARISTOTLE and the "Hermes" of PRAXITELES may well expect some further spoil snatched from Time, perhaps a tragedy of SOPHOCLES, or the lost books of LIVY, or a new Venus of Milo. Something of the sort will surely be found when Stamboul is thrown open.

The eminent explorer SVEN HEDIN has received a title. It looks as though Dr. COOK might get one too.

Dr. WALLACE is now accounted the finest Shakespearian scholar of the age.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Where?

The force was repulsed and scattered. Its commander * * * and 100 men, half of whom were officers, were killed.—*The war in Nicaragua.*

What could be expected of men who, however valiant, are so damnably underofficered?

The tariff on belting having been increased 35 per cent. by the Payne law, a Scotch concern, unable to cope with the new rate, has decided to build a factory at Passaic, N. J., and earn some of the profits of American high protection. The theory is that competition is the life of trade, but if this kind of competition were to become general in American industry our manufacturers would demand a more scientific tariff law than Congress has been in the habit of putting on the statute book.

We have a team of seniors this year who next Saturday will have their last chance to beat Yale, and they are going to do it.—*Big* BILL EDWARDS *of Princeton.*

The same old Princeton do or die spirit! But as Yale also has it, the Orange and Black must play better football to win.

WASHINGTON "LOOTERS."

A Muckraker's Misinformation About Real Estate Development.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A muckraker fills ten or fifteen pages of a cheap magazine with nonsense about the few capitalists who have helped to make Washington what it is and promises to be. These men have opened suburbs and beautified large territories, and Congress has extended streets and erected bridges and opened parks to follow the vanguard of popular exploitation. It may not be generally known in "muckraking circles," but in Washington the Federal Government has entire charge of public improvements. If Massachusetts or Connecticut avenue is to be extended Congress must ordain it and pay for it. The question, therefore, is not whether Brown or Jones or Robinson has profited by such and such a public expenditure, but whether the outlay was justified on public grounds.

Of course shrewd men have foreseen the march of development and played upon the chances. As far back as 1885 Grover Cleveland gave the first impetus to northwest expansion. He was not a speculator—far from it. He courted suburban quiet, and he bought a farm in a neglected but obviously desirable quarter so that he might have a summer refuge from the madding crowd. The junkets and the seaside capitals came later. He bought the Green farm of forty acres on the Tennallytown road for a few thousand dollars. Then followed William C. Whitney, who wanted a luxurious country resort and who purchased in the same neighborhood because it was clearly the most elevated and desirable location.

Now the whole vicinage is built up with comfortable homes, and trolley lines and well kept avenues intersect it. People by the thousand have invested there because their attention was called to these terraced heights, and upon inquiry and observation they found them advantageous. As population multiplied and the needs that they created became apparent, Congress extended the streets and avenues and built the necessary bridges. Gas, electric service, sewerage, &c., have followed, and this has given rise to the magazine outburst on "The Looters of Washington," or stuff to that effect!

About a hundred years ago there was a real estate conspiracy in the direction of Capitol Hill. It failed. The "conspiracy" in favor of the northwest succeeded because in that direction lay the mounting eminences, the wholesome and inviting crests and the natural tendency of an enlightened population. Improvement by Congress did not lead the way. It simply followed, but out of this situation a frugal muckraker has contrived his indictment and a hustling magazine has enhanced its merchandise. Not a word about the notoriously noxious slums—Louse Alley, Willow Tree Alley, and so on—haunts of disease and degradation maintained by the local rich in defiance of protest and indignant investigation. The spoilers are those who have opened Cleveland Park and Chevy Chase and other airy, sanitary places. The skinflint owners of the sodden purlieus go unscathed.

This is a condition into which the comparatively harmless bounty seekers of Washington do not intrude. They are noisy and entertaining—perhaps futile—but this "looting" of Washington is worthy of a serious objurgation.

A PROPERTY OWNER.
WASHINGTON, D. C., November 9.

Ethics in Government.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If a doubt exists as to the ethical benefit of men's suffrage, a graver doubt exists as to the sincerity of governments based on ethical principles which fail to grant justice to women, for taxation without representation is an injustice.

Very likely King John feared for the ethics of the barons who forced from him the Magna Charta. The ethics of Washington and his army were for a time under great suspicion, while Lincoln and his Cabinet violated every ethical code of the prosperous slaveholder.

Even ethically there is no doubt of the benefit of men's suffrage. While things are not what they ought to be they are far better than they were, and the opportunity for individual development is responsible for the improvement.

NEW YORK, November 9. S. MCP.

WHEN THE NEGUS DIES.

King Menelik of Abyssinia has been brought to the point of death or even killed by European rumor so often in the last ten months that the most recent announcements of his serious illness and approaching demise excite only languid interest. There is reason to think, however, that the present news is more worthy of credence than some of the former reports.

This time the story is that the famous Negus is stricken with apoplexy, and thus a new malady is added to the formidable list from which he is said to have suffered. In January of this year the stories were that he was affected with arterio-sclerosis, and despatches published in Paris represented that his heart had almost ceased to beat. In April the story was that he was the victim of an attack of angina pectoris. In August sensational despatches, said to have emanated from Addis-Abeba, alleged that he was suffering from poison administered by the Queen, by a court cabal, by the French, by the Germans, by the Italians, or by any of the dozen or so jarring agencies which are waiting for his death to make a grab for supremacy in the Queen of Sheba's old realm. Out of the whole confusion of rumors only one or two things seem fairly certain, for very little definite news travels out of Abyssinia: that the King's health is hopelessly broken, and that a fierce internal struggle, complicated with foreign ambitions, is certain to follow his death.

The poisoning story was one of the strangest that have ever come even out of Abyssinia. As narrated in an influential Continental paper at the time, it told of an explosive sensation created at Addis-Abeba by the accusation launched by a German adventurer against Queen Taitou. The German adventurer was not named, but undoubtedly Dr. Zintgraff, who was sent to Abyssinia to become if possible political adviser to the Negus, was the man referred to. As the story went, he suddenly found his influence on the decline. He had brought into the country tagging after him a gentleman who is described as a German schoolmaster, no doubt Dr. Philip Pinno, for some time a tutor to Count Solms, at Klitschdorf—who was consumed with an ambition to become bear leader to the chosen heir of Menelik. He was also accompanied by a physician who was to take complete charge of the Negus's health and through whom it was calculated paramount influence over the declining monarch might be secured. It all went very nicely for a month or two until the interest of the semi-barbarian in the German contingent waned. Then the head adventurer was graded down to the modest post of counsellor to the chief Judge; the young prince was kept entirely sequestered from his would-be instructor, and, worst of all, the German physician discovered that no attention was being paid to his prescriptions and that French doctors were again in the confidence of the court.

It was at this conjuncture that the accusation of poison was sprung. At first it was directed simply against Queen Taitou and certain chiefs of her particular faction. A council of the Ministers and chiefs of Abyssinia was called. The German physician went before them and preferred a series of charges on a sliding scale, varying from direct poisoning to mere interference with his course of treatment. The Prime Minister demanded that the charges be put in writing. The physician weakened, but the next day, the council having adjourned, the attack was renewed against the Empress in express terms. The assertion was then made that chemical analyses had disclosed the administration of arsenic to Menelik, and it was gravely proposed that the French male nurses (infirmiers) should be flogged in order to induce them to make a confession of the crime.

From this it was only a step to accusing the French doctors. The palace was filled with panic, every one regarded every one else with suspicion, and grave discussions were held among the Ministers and higher chiefs regarding the fate of the Queen. The arrest of her pseudo accomplices, the Ministers of Finance and of the Palace, and of the entire French medical staff, was debated.

As an attempt to carry out these ideas would probably have led to open internecine war, the chiefs never mustered the courage to carry them out. A new chemical analysis was ordered as a dilatory measure, and then it was suddenly discovered that the German physician himself had been administering arsenic to Menelik—with the best possible motives, of course—a little while previously, and if any traces of the poison were found they would doubtless be attributable to this source.

Recently the Negus got a little better, and on September 30 of this year we find Queen Taitou on record as making a gift of 400 francs ($80) to the French Sisters and granting a subvention of 100,000 francs ($20,000) to the Roman Catholic churches in Abyssinia, in fulfilment of a vow which she had made during the sickness of Menelik and in gratitude to Providence for his recovery. At the same time it is recorded that these liberalities of the Empress by no means represented her real sentiments toward their beneficiaries. She has no more use, it is said, for the French than for the Germans.

Taitou is set down by Europeans of all nationalities as the head of the anti-foreign element in Abyssinia. Menelik himself has for years been highly impressed with European civilization and has shown every sign of desire to introduce it as rapidly as possible into his country; but there is in Abyssinia, as elsewhere, a conservative party which clings to the traditions of the past and which would exclude the new and the strange even with fire and sword. Taitou is regarded as the leading spirit in this element, and while French, German and Italian diplomats and adventurers intrigue and plot for supremacy in the Abyssinian capital, and while they dicker among themselves for the establishment of spheres of influence in the country, Taitou and her party remain sullenly hostile to all alike, and it is believed they nurse the hope that they will be able to sweep all European influences together into the Red Sea as soon as the staying hand of Menelik is cold in death.

Besides the struggle between native and foreign elements there is a prospect that a wild fight for mastery among the native elements themselves will supervene upon the present ruler's death. Almost every chief in Abyssinia lays claim to some of the blood of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. There is not one of them who does not conceive that he is qualified by heredity for the throne of the Negus. Some time last spring, it is reported, an actual pitched battle was fought in the neighborhood of Ankober between the forces of Ras Wolle, the brother of Taitou and the head of her faction, and those of Ras Michael, chief of the Wollo-Gallos and father of the heir whom Menelik has chosen to succeed him. Menelik is well aware of the seething struggle which is going on around his bed of sickness, and he is vigorously desirous of assuring peace after his death with the succession settled in his own line and with the perpetuation of his policy of progress. He therefore chose about a year ago a successor whose heirship, at least to his personal rights and hereditaments, is indefeasible.

Menelik and Taitou have had no son. Their eldest daughter, Schogasch, now dead, became the wife of Ras Michael of Wollo, and to them was born in 1896 one son, Lidj Jeassu, the only male descendant of Menelik now extant. This boy of 12 was chosen as heir to the Abyssinian throne last year. On May 29 of this year, at 13 years of age, Lidj Jeassu was married with great solemnity to the Princess Romanie, a child of 7 years, granddaughter of the former King Johannes and niece of Queen Taitou. Thus were united in the young couple several conflicting claims, and the Negus succeeded in securing as a result of the marriage the indorsement of his settlement of the succession by a large number of the chiefs and by assembled bands of soldiers numbering 20,000 men.

Once again, on October 31 just past, when Menelik was believed to be at the point of death, the Patriarch of Abyssinia, Abuna Matthaeos, solemnly anointed Lidj Jeassu as heir apparent in presence of all the Ministers and chiefs. Ras Tessama, who holds the title of Viceroy, was then confirmed in the appointment of guardian and regent until the boy prince attains his majority.

The game of the foreign diplomats is largely to obtain ascendency through identifying themselves with the party of the child prince. Each hopes to get so near to him as to have become his indispensable adviser by the time he reaches full age. On the other hand it is feared that Queen Taitou, as head of the anti-foreign party, may upon the death of her husband take up the cause of a second daughter of theirs, still living, Ouzero Ouidita, born in 1876, who married first Ras Area Sallassia, the head of the rival family claiming the throne as successors to King Johannes. Ras Area died, however, in 1888, and Ouidita then married Ras Gougsa, Governor of Beghemeder. She and her husband, it is expected, will make an attempt to grab the throne, if there seems to be the slightest prospect of success, as soon as her father dies.

Menelik is only 65 years old, and he has a superabundance of up to date medical advice. He might perhaps live for many years to come if he could make up his mind to practise the simple life; but, although capable of the greatest self-denial, both in military campaigning and in following out the dictates of his religion—as for instance in the strict observance of the all day Lenten and Advent fasts—he is still a man of barbarian appetites and indulgences at ordinary times. In the course of the great feasts which he gives to his chiefs at frequent intervals it is said that he eats and drinks with a whole souled enthusiasm that undoes all the work accomplished by his doctors in weeks, and develops conditions which keep them busy until the next gormandizing is due.

The recent discussions in the European papers regarding the Abyssinian situation have brought to light an extraordinary anecdote regarding the parentage of Menelik. It is nothing less than that he is the grandson of the French poet Alphonse de Lamartine and his English wife, Miss Birch. It will be remembered that when the Lamartines made their visit to the Orient in 1832 their little daughter, Julia, died at Beirut at about the age of 8 years. The poet, when he returned to France to take his seat in the French Parliament, brought her body home with him for interment.

The new story is that the child did not really die, but was carried off by Bedouins who sold her into Abyssinia. There, it is said, she became the concubine of Menelik's father and the mother of the Negus himself on August 14, 1844. The coffin, as the story goes, which Lamartine took with him to France was weighted with stones.

The story is pretty; unfortunately there is, most likely, not a word of truth in it. Not only is it inconceivable that Lamartine should have practised any mystification in regard to such a matter; but, in addition, careful inquiry among those who ought to know reveals the absence of any corroborating tradition among the family connection or their friends.

November Stars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The suns and constellations of November sparkle once again on our ken. As constant as the hour hand, more distant than man's comprehension, these suns and constellations scintillate upon us. Vega, blue beautiful queen of summer, is now deposed, and Capella, rising in splendor out of the east, will soon be crowned queen of the wintry skies. Vega (in Lyra) and Altair (in Aquila) are descending, followed by the symmetrical Great Cross (in Cygnus) and the Great Square (in Pegasus). The constellations of Andromeda and Perseus lie to the northeastward of the Great Square, and further to the eastward we ken brilliant Capella and ruddy Aldebaran with the famous feathery group of the Pleiades.

Below Capella and Aldebaran lurk Orion (Betelgeux and Rigel), Procyon (in Canis Minor) and Sirius (in Canis Major). Capella, Aldebaran, Betelgeux and the others constitute what is known as the Glorious Galaxy.

We stand upon the threshold of the most splendid and spectacular exhibition of the suns and constellations of the heavens. It is well worth our while to ramble beneath the starlit skies of the November evenings, to study and admire the sidereal developments of the next few weeks.

CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.
BOSTON, Mass., November 8.

The Test of Good Faith.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* How can any individual or society or committee definitely settle the polar controversy by the examination of the records and instruments of a man who claims to have reached the pole?

If they know what records are necessary to establish what they deem to be proof, why could not anybody possessing such knowledge prepare records that would tally with such requirements?

NEW YORK, November 9. OSCAR H. LEAR.

A Culinary Dream.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It's true, though strange: This recipe actually came in a dream and may be styled: "Ramaquin à la rêve fantastique." It is an omelet with crushed stale bread crumbs, covered with grated cheese, then browned in oven. Parsley, minced veal or chicken and bacon may be included in the omelet. The result is indeed a dream! C. H.

NEW YORK, November 9.

Accommodating.

Jim Jenks would never take a job,
His was a loftier mission;
But in the *Bee* we read how he
"Accepted a position."

When Uncle Zekiel's grocery store
Called for a clerk's addition
For Christmas rush, Jim, full of push,
"Accepted the position."

The village pound required a man
To put it in condition;
Jim filled the breach, and in a speech
"Accepted the position."

When Sadie Swoppem, thrice divorced,
A fourth time felt ambition
To try her luck, Jim, primed with pluck,
"Accepted the position."

So when his earthly course is run,
And glory (of perdition)
Is offered him, we'll hear that Jim
"Accepted the position."

F. MOXON.

THE CRIMINAL TRUST.

The Sugar Thieves and the Statute of Limitations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to your editorial article in Sunday's SUN entitled "The Cancer of the Republican Administration," let me call your attention to the fact that no criminal prosecution was commenced against the sugar trust directors until after the confession made by them of a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law in the suit brought by the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, and not then until an aroused and indignant public opinion compelled the prosecution. It is reported from Washington that an appeal is to be taken from Judge Holt's opinion sustaining the contention that the prosecution is barred by the statute of limitations. Should no prosecution be commenced against these persons for cheating the United States Government out of its duties by means of false weights of imported sugar through the tampering with the official scales until this appeal is decided, such prosecution may also be barred by the intervention of the statute of limitations.

NEW YORK, November 8. A LAWYER.

The Mystery of Long and Profitable Immunity.

From the New York World.

Through sworn testimony taken in court, in legislative and Congressional investigations and in other proceedings the sugar trust is shown to have been guilty of:

1. Bribing political committees of both parties.
2. Seeking to influence United States Senators by stock tips and other financial transactions.
3. Accepting rebates in violation of the interstate commerce law.
4. Stealing from the United States Government through weighing frauds.
5. Conspiring to ruin independent sugar refiners.
6. Violating persistently the Sherman anti-trust law.
7. Using short weight scales.
8. Blacklisting grocers who handled independent sugar.
9. Importing cheap contract labor.
10. Violating factory and health laws.

No high official was ever criminally prosecuted or convicted for any of these offences. The only indictments ever found against any of them were returned recently by a Grand Jury after the trust had confessed in open court that it had violated the Sherman law.

The relations of the trust to Government have long been intimate and intricate. Its activities in Congress have rightly been described as a scandal. The reasons for its long and profitable immunity have never been explained. What better work for the purification of government and commerce could a Congressional committee perform than to clear up this extraordinary mystery?

The Trust and the Parsons Machine.

From the New York Press.

It may seem necessary to trust powers to continue the Parsons machine on its present basis, and if it does seem necessary to them they can so continue it, perhaps; but for the Republican party of New York this sugar trust politics is suicide.

Characterization.

From the Philadelphia North American.

To the best of our knowledge, information and belief, modern economics have developed just one industrial combination that has been enabled to wallow arrogantly in the fatness of its stolen riches by combining the activities of the petty larcenist, the grand larcenist, the pickpocket, the blackmailer, the porch climber, the burglar, the safeblower, the sneak thief, the white slave trader in men's souls, the corrupter of clerks and capitalists, and—whenever need be—the murderer, provided always that murders like one well remembered in Philadelphia can be done cowardly and in darkness so that a clause of the convenient statute of limitations may be used later before a complaisant Judge to acquit the country's arch crook of punishable criminality.

We called that thief a thief when all we knew about it was its rottenness as displayed in Philadelphia by its corrupt agreement with trunk line railroads to cripple this port; its dishonest crushing of a splendid industry; its wrecking a trusted, solvent and stable financial institution, and its treacherous driving of well meaning men to bankruptcy and suicide.

No Longer.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The Administration at Washington cannot longer afford to shoulder the sugar trust iniquity.

SENOR BOLANOS'S ATTITUDE.

He Has Not Characterized the Activities of Senor Espinoza or Others.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of to-day there is published a communication entitled "Señor Espinoza's Business," in which it is asserted that I have stated that Señor Espinoza is in this country on political affairs and that he is a traitor. I have never made either of those statements.

During all of the conflict now going on in Nicaragua I have been exceedingly careful to give no interviews and to give out no news excepting in a written form. My official capacity has rendered this course necessary, and I shall continue it in the future.

Please give to this statement as wide publicity as you gave to the statement of "A Frenchman."

PIO BOLANOS, Consul of Nicaragua.
NEW YORK, November 9.

Juggernaut.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The best evidence of the stability of football in popular esteem is the fact that if after weeks of suffering the labors of the most skilled surgeons can avail to keep an injured player alive the game is absolved from blame. Cadet Wilson and the Cazenovia Seminary student are still alive—the one with a broken neck and the other with a broken back—and all is well with football. In the one case "there has been no lessening of the paralysis," and in the other "the operation did not entirely relieve the paralysis," but both boys are confidently expected to pull through.

"Where there is laceration of the cord the restoration is never immediate." The good surgeons do not say whether it is ever complete.

Broken bones are hardly noted, lacerated spinal cords are lightly dismissed, deaths are soon forgotten. Juggernaut rolls grandly on.

NEW YORK, November 9. T. N. E.

The Model's Saying.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Firth, the Royal Academician, was using as a model in London an Albany street orange girl. She had too tame an expression of countenance to satisfy the artist and he tried to enliven her face by talking to her. On one occasion he asked her if she was not often annoyed by soldiers and the like who passed her on the street. She answered, "I am bothered sometimes, but mainly by swells. Gentlemen is worse blackguards than blackguards is." THOMAS H. CLARK.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 8.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Robert Louis Stevenson in his essay on a gentleman says should the art of being a gentleman be lost it could be found again in any of Thackeray's books.

Surely Colonel Newcome was a gentleman, just as his nephew, Barnes Newcome, was not. Stevenson is good authority. C. C. T.

FULTON, N. Y., November 8.

Not the Dumb Ox.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May Wolf Ox, custom tailor to ladies and gentlemen, of Westfield, N. J., come in?

LECTOR VERBMENS.
NEW YORK, November 9.

In the Bed of the Cherith.

Elijah had just been fed by the ravens.

"Plain food and no speeches," he ejaculated thankfully.

Herewith he wotted of certain moderns who would envy him.

The Arabian Climber.

Mahomet commanded the mountain to come to him.

"Be sure to bring your proofs," he cautioned.

Fearing dispute, he decided to go himself instead.