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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will send us the original and a copy, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Sugar in Politics.

Resolutions for an investigation of the sugar trust may be expected to rain in Congress this week. It is impossible, we suppose, to resist the demand for an investigation, inconvenient as it might prove if carried out unsparringly, without inflicting on the commission, into every corner of that monstrous crookedness, the double language of the resolutions which they adopted will be properly severe. When virtue can no longer be postulated, when it becomes imperative to examine it, the rock-bottom sternness, so far as words go, of virtue at Washington is always edifying. The inquiry is to be "unsparring," "unsparring," and so on. Will it be so? Will it, for instance, seek all the information obtainable as to the relations of the American Sugar Refining Company with politics, its influence and effect upon politics, its "pull" with the last Administration or other Administrations, the causes of its immunity and protection, its part in the local and national machine? In the long story of its various corruption this complexity of politicians is more dangerous, more sinister, more fruitful in evil public consequences than any other office suspected or proved against it.

The politician's one commandment is, Do not hurt the party; but if any bowels of compassion are shown in the inquiry into the American Sugar Refining Company to any politician; if there is any way walking over delicate ground or whitewash for persons whom it is awkward to paint black, the scandal will be even worse than it is, if possible, and the political results may be unpleasant.

Retrenchment.

It is quite evident that the leaders in both houses of the Congress are bent upon retrenchment and economy. The field in which these proposed economies could be practiced is defined plainly enough. The army, the navy, the administrative machinery and the familiar affairs all needed opportunity. It is impossible that the appropriations for the military service will be seriously reduced. There seems to be neither room nor occasion for such a course. But the guardians of public expenditure are beginning to regard with a very cynical eye the vast horde of so-called scientists in Government employ, the repetitions and duplications of more or less important work, the existence of bureaus and divisions which in the end come to the same thing, the riotous rolling in connection with "public buildings" in Squidunk, and the splendid harmony of the outpouring of public money for such notorious watercourses as Duck Dam and Brushy Bayou. Of course the country will be greatly disturbed by any interference with the Department of Agriculture just when it has prepared a new pamphlet on peachblow and is about to get a double number look on the new tick and the boll weevil. Similarly, though in less degree, national solidarity will reach out to "public buildings" in the Ozarks or Deaf Smith county, the black remains. Leaders in Congress have made up their minds that there must be retrenchment somewhere, and no observant person need have a doubt as to the point of outlet.

Messrs. HALE and TAYLOR, backed by the President himself, will not have to hesitate very long. The opportunities for reform are exactly as numerous and impressive as the agencies of waste and profligacy; but will this zeal last till the end of the session?

Better Outlook for Southern Navy Yards.

We venture to call the attention of our friends in the Mississippi Valley, New Orleans in particular, to the following paragraph in Secretary MEYER's report just made public:

"At the beginning of your administration the Department suspended an order, signed by my predecessor with the approval of the President, closing certain of the Southern navy yards. While the closing of the yards was in the direction of immediate economy, it appeared that it required legislative action to accomplish, and was, moreover, a matter requiring further consideration. It is certain that the number of manufacturing and repair establishments must be, for economical reasons, kept at a minimum, but the Government can advantageously give up sites in which large expenditures have been made until after the opening of the Panama Canal, when it can be definitely demonstrated which are likely to be of the greatest value."

It will be seen, therefore, that the New Orleans Navy Yard is not to be utterly extinguished. At least the Department will wait for the completion of the Panama Canal, an event which the valley is already preparing to celebrate, and meanwhile the navy yard across the river will not be totally dismantled and abandoned. Naturally the Navy Department will in the interval make such use of it as the best interests of the

vice seem to require. Secretary MEYER cannot actually turn the matter over to the Progressive Union and generally keep it in commission until the formal opening of the Panama Canal discloses, through the medium of the vast commercial flotillas that will then begin to thunder at our gates, the points at which protection and facility are most needed.

Pending that consummation New Orleans can afford to devote its energies to some other object. To wait upon the Panama Canal cannot be distasteful, since the whole valley at last accounts was afire with enthusiasm over an exposition in its honor; and meanwhile, since we seem to be in no immediate peril of invasion except perhaps by Nicaragua or some other harried Spanish American State or States, we can safely leave things to the forts in the lower river. The valley newspapers can therefore rest from denunciation of Yankee prejudice and jealousy, there being no present prospect of the extinction of the New Orleans or any other Southern navy yard, and leave it to the Navy Department and the Panama Canal to decide upon the importance and fix the measure of the utility of the various stations.

We recommend the consideration, for all immediate purposes of excitement, of the Pickwickian Theory of Tittlebats. Upon this topic really earnest newspapers can discourse at length without the slightest fear of embarrassment, and it has the manifest advantage of being an open question.

Mr. Culberson's Resignation.

Senator CULBERSON must look on the ill health which offers a convenient excuse for his retirement from the Democratic leadership of the Senate as an affliction not without its redeeming aspects. Under present circumstances the chairmanship of the caucus is not an office of high desirability. The Democratic party is an aggregation unattractive to leaders destitute of ambition to utilize it for Chautauque advertising purposes. If there were one principle of Government or one economic theory on which the Democrats in either house of the Congress or in the country at large were substantially united, the task of leadership would offer some reward for the hard work it involves. But the party is so completely split into antagonistic factions that the support of any cause by one of them insures the prompt and enthusiastic opposition of the others. Nor is this the most discouraging feature of the situation, for whenever it appears that the pressure of public opinion may impose something approaching unity of action on the Democrats, Colonel BRYAN is always quick to make trouble, for which he has an unlimited capacity.

The selection of Senator MONEY of Mississippi to succeed Senator CULBERSON is predicted in Washington. The explanation of this curious choice is that Senator MONEY's term expires in 1911 and his associates want to honor him. If the office were of any real consequence this subordination of party and public needs to personal vanity would unquestionably provoke serious criticism. But the matter is looked on generally as of no real importance, and the selection of Mr. MONEY, unqualified as he is in many ways, will not be considered as any unkind words.

Andree Legends.

The latest story relating to the fate of Professor S. A. ANDREE and the two companions of his balloon expedition to the north pole in 1897, KNUT FRAENKEL and NILS STREINDBERG, comes from Saakatchewan, and the authority for it is Bishop PASCAL of Pitme Albert. He heard it from Father TURQUOTILLE, who had it from some nomadic Eskimos in the wild country six days journey to the north of Reindeer Lake, which is very far from the Arctic Circle, being about 250 miles due southwest from Fort Churchill on the western shore of Hudson Bay. According to these Eskimos a "white house" (balloon) descended from the sky (in the vague north), and it contained white men in a starving condition, who did not survive, or are not now living. However, relics of a "white house" still existed, and a local tribe used the ropes taken from it. These legends of the Andree tragedy will doubtless persist so long as the memory of it remains. In 1899 from Krasnovarsk, Siberia, came a report that a tribe of Tunguses, inhabiting the Taimur Peninsula, had found near "Pit River" in the government of Yenesai, a cabin made of cloth and cordage belonging to a balloon, and lying near this habitation lay the bodies of three men. "It is believed," said the chief of police of the district, "that the bodies are those of ANDREE and his companions." A miner brought from the Mackenzie territory in the great Northwestern Territory in 1903 a story almost word for word like that of Father TURQUOTILLE. A piece of silk torn from a balloon was exhibited. From Labrador only last year emanated a circumstantial report that a mile inland from Cape Mufgford a cross with the name of ANDREE cut into it had been found. The finder was one Captain CHALKER, a half breed Eskimo. The cross marked a grave, and a box containing a body and some papers was unearthed. The spot was wild and lonely, a waste that not even the Eskimos cared to penetrate. From Stockholm occasionally came an intimation that the Minister of Foreign Affairs would investigate these stories originating in two continents and thousands of miles from Dane's Island in Spitzbergen, where the Eagle, as ANDREE'S balloon was called, ascended at 2:30 P. M. on July 11, 1897, and at a speed of twenty-two miles an hour was swept into the unknown before a southwest wind. "One! Two! Three!" shouted ANDREE in a steady voice, and at "Three!" the cable was cut, and "Lofve, ANDREE!" ("Good luck, ANDREE!") shouted Count ERHENS-WARD from the ground. That was the last seen of the daring explorer and his loyal companions.

When we remember that the venture was the talk of wild tribes as well as of civilized people for months before the dramatic departure, and that circulars had been scattered all over northern Canada and in the Arctic Circle by the good offices of the Hudson's Bay Com-

pany, and that Siberia was also sown with notices to the inhabitants by the Russian Government (for obvious reasons), it is not surprising that Andree legends spring up in the wildernesses from time to time and are credulously received. The survival of the ice voyagers after the success of their sortie depended upon the good will and resources of the tribes in the Arctic Circle, and the wish is ever father to the thought when a new rumor is spread on its way. ANDREE carried with him a number of little anchor buoys to report progress, and one of them was picked up by the Norwegian cutter Martha Larsaak on the north coast of King Charles Land. It bore no message, however. Professor ANDREE disappeared from the sight of man forever when the wind whirled the Eagle away on its wings. The nature of the fate of her crew can only be conjectured. Up to this time the wide Arctic waste has been silent, and it may never speak.

An Attack on the Schools at Athens.

The petticoated warriors of the "Military League," who are bullying the Ministry, the Parliament and the civil authorities at Athens, have begun a new campaign. They have prepared a list of citizens who are obnoxious to them, and have informed the Government that if these persons are not removed and punished at once as directed the Military League is ready to spill blood in attaining its laudable ends.

Among the Athenians too eminent to please the Military League is Dr. KAVYADIAS, who has been Ephor or Director of Antiquities for a quarter of a century and during that period has won the esteem and earned the gratitude of all scholars who have visited Greece, and especially those whose business it was to explore and excavate. He is charged with embezzlement and peculation, one specification being that he pocketed 80,000 drachmas obtained by the sale of catalogues. He has asked for an investigation. Accusations of taking money must never be taken too seriously in political campaigns, particularly in Hellas, where whether it is a venial fault or a crime has always depended on the party point of view. If Dr. KAVYADIAS obtains the judicial inquiry he calls for, the facts in the case will be known. It is a matter that the Greeks must settle among themselves.

A further accusation, however, has stirred up a hornet's nest about the gallant Military League. Dr. KAVYADIAS is charged with having favored the foreign schools at Athens and foreign archaeologists, and with diverting to them funds that should have gone to the Greek Archaeological Society; with having assisted foreigners instead of Greek scholars. This charge has brought the archaeologists of the Military League into conflict with that Greater Hellas that includes the whole intellectual world, whose eyes are turned to the glory that was Greece and pass over these last weak successors of CLEON and his kin. The implication that they had been aided by Greek money or unduly favored has been resented at once; the directors of the American, British, French and German schools united in a protest which has drawn an apology from the Greek Government but none from the offenders. The insult is as unprovoked and unjust as it is petty.

For a generation past the leading nations of the earth, in their love of the Hellas that was and of Hellenic studies, have spent, liberally and unselfishly, money and the labors of their scholars in bringing to light again the treasures hidden in the soil of Greece. At Olympia, at Delphi, at Epidaurus, in Athens itself, at Sparta, for instance, they have patiently excavated and won back precious relics of antiquity, the recovery of which has profited the world and not the nations or individuals who did the work. The greater part of the treasure trove has been left where it was found or placed in museums in Greece. Though they have been encouraged and helped by the royal family and by many reputable Greeks, they have had to contend with local jealousies of all kinds and have had plenty of experience of Hellenic methods of dealing with interfering officials. The results have been obtained by the expenditure of American, English, French and German money; Greece was too poor to help with coin. They have been won by the combined efforts of scholars of all nationalities, including the few Hellenes in whom their ancient culture survived.

From the point of view of the Military League even it must seem poor policy to insult gratuitously the people whose presence has attracted travellers to Athens, enabling the city to put on a semblance of Paris and thereby providing the army officers with the joys that make life worth living to them.

Nietzsche Discovered.

We note with much interest that the London Times has at last discovered NIETZSCHE. "Until a few years ago he was hopelessly obscure," remarks the Thunder with a certain complacency. This is news to those who recall ten years of furious uncritical quarrelling from 1890 to 1900. Even in benighted New York the name and doctrines of NIETZSCHE were discussed in the middle '80s. TAINE dismissed him early, as did GEORG BRANDES; but even the critical cachet of these thinkers did not save NIETZSCHE his story road to Damascus. It will be news, however, to his readers in all parts of the globe to learn that "the lost his reason before he found a publisher." If the writer in the Times takes the trouble to look up the life of FRIEDRICH by his accomplished sister, ELIZABETH FORSTER NIETZSCHE, he may be surprised to find that many of the new collected works had seen the light of publication before the mental eclipse of the brilliant philosopher at Turin in 1889. For example, "The Birth of Tragedy" (1872), "Wagner in Bayreuth" (1876); from 1877 and 1882: "Human, All Too Human," "The Dawn of Day," "The Gay Science," "Unusable Reflections." In 1883 "Zarathustra," followed by "The Other Side of Good and Evil"; (1886) "The

Genealogy of Morals," and later "The Wagner Case" (pamphlet, 1888). A fair list for a man supposed—by the Times—to have been quite mad.

But London is usually last in the procession of critical valuations. With pride it heard the complete "Ring" at Covent Garden in 1903, nearly two decades after New York; and as for ISBEN, while Mr. WALKLEY, the Times dramatic writer, speaks patronizingly of him as *vieux jeu*, the Norwegian dramatist has never been completely played in London outside of the sporadic performances of private dramatic associations. In a word, London discovers great men in a leisure manner—all except Mr. SHAW. That Irish wit assured his public he was a real dramatist, and London still believes him!

They have been holding a somewhat posthumous celebration in Germany over the anniversary of the establishment of a celebrated publishing house. It was 260 years ago that an industrious young Saxen who had learned the bookseller's trade, JOHANN GEORG COYLA, following the orthodox method of marrying his employer's widow, was enabled to put his name on the books published from the university book store at Tubingen; and for over two hundred years the COYLA, from father to son, continued the business.

A hundred years later one greater than the rest moved the business to Stuttgart. He had the good fortune or the enterprise to secure for his house the books of nearly all the authors of his time, who were to become classics, notably SCHILLER and GOETHE, so that the imprint "J. G. Coetsche Buchhandlung in Stuttgart" became a mark of good literature wherever German was read. He also founded one of the greatest and best known newspapers, issued first at Stuttgart, then at Ulm, till in the earlier years of the nineteenth century it became established at Augsburg and for two generations was known as the *Augsburger Allgemeine Zeitung*.

The COYLA were made Barons, but they kept their book publishing till the last of the name died in 1888. The business and the *Allgemeine Zeitung* were then transferred to Munich, and though the firm name is preserved it is followed now by the word *Nachfolger*, "successors." It would be difficult to estimate the record of good books it has published.

We hear from London that a chair of Good Taste is to be founded at the University of Whitechapel and that the author of "Lachryme Musarum"—and who can blame the ladies for their tears?—will be the first incumbent. May we say that nothing with which this gracious poet and critic has blessed us has much more endeared him than his remarks about Mr. SWINBURNE? In reality there was no such person. THORPES WATTS-DUNTON wrote and suggested what not wholly mediocre is to be found in SWINBURNE'S works. This is worth mentioning because some curious souls have asserted that SWINBURNE never wrote anything of value after WATTS-DUNTON became his janitor.

MANTUA, Dec. 4.—Frenzied Moros and Saranos (Moros) have been seen in the vicinity of the bay near Lieutenant FLAHER'S near Mount Malindang, Mindanao Island, last Sunday.—*Yest-Itay*.

The pacification of the islands proceeds apace.

It is most unfortunate that the British Government's ruling against unofficial stamps on Christmas letters and packages was not announced last summer. Previous to its promulgation many thousands of pieces of mail matter bearing Red Cross societies' stamps and emblems, the constant reminder of the war, were sent out in the form of Christmas letters. It is likely that great annoyance will be caused on this account. Such a regulation, affecting so large a number of persons, should be made in ample season to become known generally.

The State Department makes public this morning an interesting programme for the appointment of competent and accomplished Secretaries of Legations. At present the trouble seems to be to find a sure rule for getting the fittest men for Ambassadors and Ministers.

LEE AND SECESSION.

Did Views Previously Expressed by Him Justify His Course?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The vigorous and entertaining letter of Mr. John S. Wise upon General Robert E. Lee in the SUN of November 22 has reminded me that on page 58 "Memoirs of Robert E. Lee" by the late General Lee's nephew, General Lee's army, can be found the following extract from a letter written by General Lee:

"Secession is nothing but revolution. The framers of our Constitution never intended that the people should secede from the Union, and surrounded it with so many guards and securities it was intended to be broken by every member of the Confederacy at will. It is the duty of every citizen to stand by the preamble, and for the establishment of a Government, not a compact, which can only be dissolved by revolution or the consent of all the people to a convention assembled. It is to talk of secession. Anarchy would have been established, and not a Government, by Washington. The Union is a compact, and the only basis of the Revolution. (Colonel Lee to his son, January 25, 1861.)"

The United States flag which it appears by page 94 that Colonel Robert E. Lee of the United States army sent in his resignation on the fourth of May, and by page 95 that he accepted the position of Commander in Chief of the forces of Virginia on April 22. It is a matter of general historical knowledge that three days before this resignation Lee had written to the President, in which he said: "I have no objection to joining the Confederacy, if it is to be a Government, and not a Government, by Washington. The Union is a compact, and the only basis of the Revolution. (Colonel Lee to his son, January 25, 1861.)"

On page 93 of Long's history I find an extract from the book of the late General Lee, which says that "two days after the above resignation Lee wrote to the President, in which he said: 'I have no objection to joining the Confederacy, if it is to be a Government, and not a Government, by Washington. The Union is a compact, and the only basis of the Revolution. (Colonel Lee to his son, January 25, 1861.)'"

LITTLE CITIES.

Bruges the Beautiful.

On the way up from Brussels to Bruges it is well to alight at Ghent for a few hours. There are attractions enough to keep one for several days, but as our objective was St. Bavo (St. Bavo or Sint Baafs) we did not stay more than the allotted time. And an adventurous time it was. The Ostend express landed its passengers at the St. Pierre station and then meant the loss of half an hour. The Cathedral is reached by the tramway, and there we found that the office of Tiersce was about to be sung no one would be allowed in the ambulatory until its completion. It was pouring live Belgian rain without; already the choristers in surplices were filing into the choir. Not a moment to be spared! The verger was a practical man. He hustled us into a side chapel, locked the heavy doors and left us in company with the great picture of the brothers Hubert and Jan Van Eyck. The monk knelt in prayer outside, the rain clouds made the light dim, the choir was hemmed in, but by angels and ministers of grace. The chanting began. Atmosphere was not needed in this large and gloomy edifice, only more light. Gradually the picture began to burn through the artificial dusk; gradually its glories became more perceptible. Begun by Hubert in 1420 and finished by Jan in 1432, its pristine splendor has vanished; and the loss of the wings—the Adam and Eve and the brothers Hubert and Jan Van Eyck—made the picture almost unrecognizable. The choir was hemmed in, but by angels and ministers of grace. The chanting began. Atmosphere was not needed in this large and gloomy edifice, only more light. Gradually the picture began to burn through the artificial dusk; gradually its glories became more perceptible. 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