

The Sun

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with which trade treaties were then existing that the treaties would terminate on the expiration of the time specified in them, or if no time had been specified, as in the case of treaties with France, Switzerland and Bulgaria, on November 1, 1909. Under that notice the agreement with Germany ends on February 7, and if no new agreement is made in the meantime Germany's general rates instead of its lower conventional rates will then be imposed on imports from the United States. If no new arrangements are made before the end of March German imports into the United States will be subject to "the rates of duty prescribed by the schedules and paragraphs of the dutiable list" of the Payne bill, "and in addition thereto 25 per cent. ad valorem."

As matters stand the prospect for a new agreement is not bright. The German Government is said to be willing to meet the United States even more than half way in a new arrangement but is blocked by the opposition of the Agrarian party in the Reichstag. For many reasons the situation is extremely unfortunate. A tariff war would hurt both contestants severely, although this country would in all probability suffer less than Germany. In round figures our sales to her are about \$350,000,000 a year and our purchases from her are about \$150,000,000. Only a part of this business would be stopped, but enough of it would be affected to cause a serious loss at both ends, to say nothing of the breach in friendly relations which would inevitably attend a trade conflict.

Diligent effort is being made to discover a mutually satisfactory basis for an exchange of minimum rates. It is reported from Berlin that the Agrarians are inclined to a belief that the imposition of Germany's higher rates for the month of February 7, the date for raising the tariff in Germany, and April 1, the date on which the maximum American rates can be applied, will give this country such a dose of tariff war that it will be ready to meet Germany on almost any terms. Should no ground for agreement be reached it is more than possible that the Germans will have an excellent opportunity to modify their belief.

The Island of Birds. Including the original proprietor, Colonel LION GARDINER, the island to which he gave his name has had twelve lords of the manor, and a thirteenth now inherits its 4,000 acres and appurtenances. The story of the fortunes of the family and the history of this sea girt demesne have lately been told with the color of romance: how Captain KIDD secreted treasure there, how there was a descent of Spaniards in the eighteenth century, how the predatory British almost ruined the manor house during the Revolutionary war, and how the enemy's squadron dropped anchor off shore in 1812 and sacked the island—all these things have been revived as traditions that lose nothing of interest by the lapse of years; but no word has been said of tenants older than the GARDINERS, who continue to reside on the island or return to it at intervals, as sure of sympathy and welcome as they are of the protection of the "lords of the manor."

Mr. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, curator of ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History, has called Gardiner's Island of Birds. On his first visit in 1893, with a special permit, he had to enlist the services of the Fire-maker, a hereditary officer, who built a fire at a point on the Long Island shore to signal to the lord of the manor that a guest might be expected. There was a responsive shimmer from a homemade heliograph, and a boat then put out to convey Mr. CHAPMAN across the three miles of water to the island. He describes it as consisting of rolling plains in the interior, here and there a lake, with a fringe of shell strewn shore, and swamps intersected by small tidal streams. There was some hardwood primeval forest, together with covers of cedar and bayberry and tracts of wild briar, but there were also meadows and fields of grain, with flower gardens and orchards about the manor house. There was enough elevation to afford fresh water brooks except in a dry season. He found no foxes, red squirrels, chipmunks or other natural enemies of the birds, and the domestic cat, which according to a Massachusetts ornithologist kills more birds annually than the hunters do, was not tolerated. Thus Gardiner's is a refuge and home for the feathered migrants and tenants. They have a full table always and breed without molestation.

Having no enemies to fear, the robins build without artifice in the open, on projecting stones and between fence rails as well as in trees; and catbirds, many of the sparrow tribe, orioles, thrushes, flickers and other familiar birds make their homes so close to the house as to form a domestic colony. In the tall grass and in the salt swamps grackles and red winged blackbirds are to be seen in flocks, and their cheerful if unmusical choruses are heard all day. The gay, darting kingfisher is very much at home, and the wood duck and black duck are fearless tenants of the ponds. The feathered meadow folk, vesper, field, grasshopper and savannah sparrows, kingbirds and indigo buntings, are to be seen fitting on all sides, balancing on stalks or taking a survey from fence posts. The sweet, refrained and full bodied meadow lark sails above the fields, and at dusk the swift flying woodcock is a familiar sight. As late as November Mr. CHAPMAN has counted fifty varieties of birds on Gardiner's Island, and some of them are remarkably numerous. The melodious whistle of the Carolina wren, a bird not at all common in this latitude and rare on Long Island, often charms the ear on Gardiner's, and the Bartramian sandpiper, piping plover, roseate tern, herring gull, the sharp tailed and seaside finches abound.

But the pride of Gardiner's is the fishhawk colony, the largest in this country and perhaps the largest in the world, says Mr. CHAPMAN. In 1812 the GARDINER of that period was quoted in WILSON'S "American Ornithology" as saying that there were 300 nests of fish-hawks on the island, and it is a bulky, conspicuous pile of sticks and old grass

to which the bird returns every year. Mr. CHAPMAN calculates that there are at present between 150 and 200 nests, built not only in trees, as the habit of this hawk is in other places, but trustfully on the ground, there being no mammals to eat the eggs or destroy the young. In his comprehensive book "Camps and Cruises of an Ornithologist" Mr. CHAPMAN has a study at close range of the Gardiner's Island fishhawk, a bird that has characteristics almost human. The duck family is naturally well represented on and around the island, and in Bostwick's Woods the crows have a wonderful roost, to which they resort in great flocks with almost deafening clamor toward sunset, hundreds of them flying over the water from Long Island. English pheasants were introduced in 1892, twenty-five females and 100 males, and in eight years they had increased to 5,000. Roup has thinned their numbers since 1900, but they still startle the visitor by whirling and whirring up right under his feet. There are several hundred night herons on the island, and they are almost as tame as domestic fowl. In the spring the quail's cry is as frequent as chattering in the hall from the barnyard.

Gardiner's is only seven miles long by two and a half at the widest part, but it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find an equal area anywhere in the United States so rich and melodious in thriving and contented bird life. May the succeeding lords of this picturesque island manor in the generations to come maintain it as the home and sanctuary of the wild birds, equal tenants with them in the enjoyment of its peace and fertility.

A Return to Eden. There is a warning to archaeologists to hasten their excavations by the waters of Babylon, before the land blooms and becomes populous again, in Sir WILLIAM WILCOCKS'S plans for the irrigation of the Euphrates-Tigris delta, which have been already described in THE SUN. In his lecture before the Royal Geographical Society he put aside the hydraulic engineer for a while and gave his views regarding various interesting matters which he was able to investigate in the course of his technical labors.

He agrees with the views of those who limit the Creation to the land between the rivers and place the Garden of Eden just above the Euphrates delta, from Anah to Hit, the home of the Hittites. He identifies the four streams of Eden, Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel and Euphrates, as the four branches into which the Euphrates divides when it enters the delta, and he marks the present site of many other names of places in the Biblical accounts. The deluge he takes to be a flood of the rivers, and NOAH'S ark, he believes, floated about in the delta till it stranded on the desert; not on the Armenian Mount Ararat. The place he picks out for the landing is near Ur of the Chaldees, where Euphrates and Tigris formerly met. Sir WILLIAM'S only criticism of the patriarch is this: "If NOAH had been a hydraulic engineer he would have constructed the Pison River escape instead of an ark, and saved not only his family but his country." This escape for the Euphrates waters through the bed of the first river of Eden is the first step in Sir WILLIAM'S reclamation plan; it will cost \$350,000, will double the cultivated area, and has been approved by the Turkish Government, which has already assigned the money needed.

The Turks under their new Sultan are eager for the improvements just now; the chief difficulty lies in the jealousies and suspicions of each other of the European Powers. Men may go up to Jerusalem by rail nowadays and ride in trolley cars in Damascus. The day may not be distant when the same modern conveyances will carry tourists to the temples of Tadmor in the desert, to the places where NOAH built the ark and ABRAHAM dwelt, to the hanging gardens of the Babylon of SEMIRAMIS, through the streets of the Arabian Nights, and even to the spot where grew the fruit of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste brought death into the world and all our woe.

The Democratic minority in selecting Representative JAMES M. GRAHAM of Illinois in place of HENRY T. RAINEY, rejected by the Republicans, to serve in the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation, has shown a conservatism and foresight hardly to be expected of its counsils. Mr. GRAHAM, serving his first term in the House, and who doubtless has never heard of him, is innocuous not only for that reason but because he seems to be a competent lawyer and is in no sense a politician. For four years, beginning in 1902, he was State's Attorney of Sangamon county, and since retiring from the office he has practised law as a member of a leading firm. Many years ago Mr. GRAHAM was for one term a member of the lower house of the Illinois Legislature.

The record still remains with the Apostles. After wide heralding that Professor JOHN DYKLE PRINCE would lecture in Lodi and seventeen languages on the subject of music, this Paterson Senator fell in performance far short of his promise. He sang songs in Arabic, German and Greek; he melodized in English and Irish and Scotch; his tuneful lays poured out in Turkish, Spanish, Italian and Slav; even a chant in Pueblo Indian failed to bring him up to the dozen. Eleven was the most he could muster.

This is the record of the polyglossary who every man heard speak in his own language: "Parsons, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia and in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Crete and Arabians."

Seventeen items in this list, and seventeen was announced as the aim of Professor PRINCE. We wonder if he hoped to match the miracle of the gift of tongues.

We have been patient with our old friend the Charlotte Observer. Knowing its many sound and engaging qualities, we have forgiven its besetting sin, humored its poets, admitted cheerfully that GEORGE WASHINGTON, THOMAS JEFFERSON, ANDREW JACKSON, WILLIAM B. BRYAN, EDGAR A. POE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, EDWIN FORREST, THOMAS A. EDISON, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, COUNT JOHANNES DANIEL WERNER, DANIEL PRATT and OLIVE JAMES were natives of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina. We have subscribed to the Mecklenburg Declaration. We have done all and more than the most long suffering friendship and comity could ask. But when the insatiable Tar Heel asserted that it "made" DEACON HEMPHILL "a Deacon." Truth in an apostrophe of indignation must outrun.

In a sense DEACON HEMPHILL was born a deacon secular, but, as the terms of his patent prove, we signed and sealed him to that dignity. No branch concern in Charlotte or anywhere else can monkey with the prerogatives of the head office.

We hate to say it, but the Observer was an admirer of Dr. COOK and seems to have become a follower of his system.

IS THERE A HELL? The Question Evaded or Ignored by Almost All Preachers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Mr. Gladstone said he considered the question whether there was a hell the most important which the human mind had to discuss; and yet theologians, scientists and sceptic deniers, all avoid the question. It is purely academic. The Boston Christian Register, which is the representative Unitarian paper in this country, recently said that more infidels, so called, are made by reaction from the preaching of a personal devil, a literal hell, etc., than are made by the preaching of the teaching of any of even the most liberal exponents of religion.

Joseph Cook, the Boston preacher, said that a belief in eternal punishment was the nerve of Christian foreign missions, but a writer in the Western Christian Advocate, who is a Methodist publication, declares that he has been connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly thirty-five years and has heard a great many sermons, and he can recall only one preacher who indulged in lurid descriptions of literal hell. This is altogether begging the question. It is within the memory of the Rev. Samuel J. May, the popular preacher at Eaton Square Chapel, was compelled to leave the Church of England entirely by the number of converts to the Rev. Mr. Denning, a brother of Lieutenant-General Denning, now colonel in the service of the English Church Missionary Society in Japan because he adopted "Whore's views" on the subject of Hell. The late Dr. Huntington of Grace Church held these views, and so did Dean Farrar and Phillips Brooks. These are not the views of any one who believes in a never ending punishment, and yet our pulpits are silent on this subject.

Why cannot ministers of religion of every sect and name tell us what they believe as to the nature of the punishment of Hell? I have studied the subject for half a century and I clearly see that the Old Testament Hell is a reality. The late Dr. Huntington of Grace Church held these views, and so did Dean Farrar and Phillips Brooks. These are not the views of any one who believes in a never ending punishment, and yet our pulpits are silent on this subject.

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THE IRISH QUESTION. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Those of your correspondents who have done me the honor to notice what I have said in touching on the Irish question must excuse me from going into that question at present. If I did go into it I hope I should be able to convince them that I had studied it with care, under good guides and in a liberal spirit, with hearty sympathy for the sufferings of the Irish race.

It is a lifetime task to me recall a little incident. I was with Guizot at Val Richer. Walking in his garden and talking about politics we touched on the Irish question, then looming in England under the form of the disestablishment of the Protestant State Church in Ireland. "The conduct of England to Ireland for the last thirty years," exclaimed Guizot, "has been admirable." I said that disestablishment had yet to come. Guizot stepped forward, turned to me, waved his arm and said: "Yes, and it will come; but with that exception, I repeat, the conduct of England to Ireland for the last thirty years has been admirable." This, I think, must have been about 1868.

Guizot was a fair judge. In the affair of the Spanish marriages among others he showed that he had no special bias toward England. For the present my attention, like that of every other Englishman who loves his country better than a faction, must be absorbed by this evil social and political fight. Here, as the deficit being the budget which brought on the faction fight, we see a legacy of the Boer war.

GOLDWIN SMITH. Present Method Called Arbitrary and Artificial Meat Recommended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: If the snow should some time fall on New York city evenly, without drifting as it falls, and if it should be of a uniform thickness everywhere, the problem of removing it would be comparatively simple. A single method of removing the pest, for such it certainly is in a large city, might be determined upon as the best, and it might be applied with excellent results. Some of the snow might be piled up in a mass of uniform thickness everywhere, the problem of removing it would be comparatively simple. A single method of removing the pest, for such it certainly is in a large city, might be determined upon as the best, and it might be applied with excellent results.

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THE MEAT PROBLEM. Abattoirs to Provide for Local Consumption a Possible Solution. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The boycott of beef and other meats may or may not lead to beneficial results so far as concerns the consumers. Cold storage has solved many problems and will probably solve this. The packers can afford to wait. The meat eating millions cannot or will not.

Twenty years ago in one of the richest sugar planting regions of Louisiana the growers met in solemn convocation and agreed not to pay field hands more than a certain price a month. Not long afterward some of the big plantations were stocked with the very flower of the negro workmen and the rest of the confederates gazed on their neglected fields and tried to console themselves with loyalty. Will the beef eaters fare better than those other planters? I think not. They will see the choice cuts in their neighbors' tables and find some consolation in that. There is another conceivable solution. Why should not local abattoirs spring up all over the country, especially throughout the South, where cattle raising is easy and grazing almost always abundant?

To-day there are practically no neighborhood abattoirs. The business has been actual drivers to Chicago and other centers. There are fine cattle ranges all over the country, notably in the Genesee Valley of New York, but even better south of the Potomac. Very little education is needed to make Southern the best cattle growing country in the world, and the great and local abattoirs would speed the enterprise. If Southern men in sufficient number can be induced to enter the business on a limited scale the whole South, at least, will soon be independent of the Western packing houses, and possibly the rest of the country will follow its example.

There must be men in great plenty who will be content with reasonable profits, and it is to these that the American people must look for their emancipation, and incidentally their dinners. The boycott is at best a temporary expedient, and very likely it will fail. WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY 22.

The Wholesale Meat Accountant for High Prices. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Again it is announced that the price of meat is going up. Can any one tell why? Is there any good reason? Has there been a great increase in the supply of meat during the last few years? Must we continue to pay, pay, pay without protest, however high prices soar? Shall we continue to heap duress upon those who already have more than enough? If the cattle raiser is the beneficiary of the price, and the retailer is the loser, why does he not show signs of prosperity? And why is it that the wholesaler is a man of wealth whose fortune is steadily on the increase? Why cite the price of corn and the appreciation of gold to account for the increase in the price of meat when the great and increasing wealth of the wholesaler? The consumer will be squeezed as long as he consents to be.

While the investigation by Congress is going through the "circumlocution office" I would suggest to your readers that they resist the temptation to abstain from buying meat after February 1 until the price is reduced to reasonable figures. It may be that in this way, and in this way only, the consumer may protect himself. G. L. SHERWOOD. BROOKLYN, JANUARY 22.

A Summons to a Meatless Diet. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Why can't the people in New York city and the immediate vicinity aid in this "crusade" to reduce meat prices as people in other parts of the country are doing? We hear a great deal about organized capital, organized labor, but why not organized consumers?

There is one gleam of hope in the fact that very soon we shall have a Congressional report on the actual cost of producing and distributing foodstuffs. I am ready with the best of my organized capital, organized labor, but why not organized consumers? There is one gleam of hope in the fact that very soon we shall have a Congressional report on the actual cost of producing and distributing foodstuffs. I am ready with the best of my organized capital, organized labor, but why not organized consumers?

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