# The Sun.

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## The "Good" and the "Bad."

In Mr. TAFT's message of January 7 there is one paragraph which perhaps merits closer attention than it has received. Intended by the President as a preface to his proposal of elective Federal incorporation for concerns doing interstate business, it has a much broader significance. Indeed, it gets very near to fundamental principle. Mr. TAFT said:

"Many people conducting great businesses have cherished a hope and a belief that in some way or other a line may be drawn between 'good trusts' and 'bad trusts' and that it is possible by amendment of the anti-trust law to make a distinction, under which good combinations may be permitted to organize, suppress competition, control prices and do it all legally if they do not abuse the power by taking too great profit out of the business. They point with force to certain notorious trusts as having grown into power through criminal methods by the use of illegal rebates and plain cheating, and by various acts utterly violative of business honesty or morality, and urge the establishment of some legal line of separation by which 'criminal trusts' of this kind can be punished, and they, on the other hand, be permitted to carry on their business. Now the public and especially the business public ought to rid themselves of the idea that such a distinction is practicable or can be introduced into the statute."

For much of the confusion in the public mind as to the possibilities of classification, Mr. ROOSEVELT'S methods of thought are responsible. He was constantly shouting and pounding into the minds of his hearers his own absurdly conceived idea that it was the duty of the Executive, thereby meaning his own individual duty, to supervise this classification and to decide what corporations were "good" and what corporations were "bad," in respect of general character, before proceeding to pursue the "bad" for specific misdeeds. Of course, it is a proper use of the word absurd to apply it squarely to Mr. ROOSEVELT'S topsy-turvy notion of an initial executive judgment of guilt on general principles, preliminary to selection for investigation and prosecution in the courts for specific acts of illegality.

How shall we measure the superlative absurdity of such a division of all the interstate corporations into two definite parties separated by a distinct boundary line—on the one side the sheep, the white, the meritorious, the virtuous, the laudable, and on the other side the goats, the black, the pernicious, the vicious, the intolerable?

Let us imagine Mr. ROOSEVELT, or one of his disciples, attempting to apply the same theory of classification to other persons than corporations. All citizens are "good" or "bad," in a general way, in advance of judicial determination of their character. As Mr. TAFT'S predecessor would have put it, all citizens are either "desirable" or "undesirable," and it is for the Executive, through the Department of Justice, to mark the individual citizen with the label of goodness or badness as the Executive may in his wisdom determine. Thenceforth the good citizens may go about their accustomed business and enjoy the pleasures of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness, unharassed by governmental interference and free from extraordinary supervision by the police. This will be the good or desirable citizen's lot until such time as the Executive shall change his own mind and the citizen's tag.

On the other hand, the citizens executively and arbitrarily classified as "bad" in advance of conviction of any specific crime or misdemeanor shall lead lives that are a foretaste of the seventh inferno. They shall go nowhere unaccompanied by the Federal secret service. The daily reading of their families and friends and clients and patrons shall consist of Presidential messages, statements and warnings pointing publicly to the brand of badness that degrades them. The experience of the ticket of leave man trying to earn a living under the surveillance of suspicious authorities shall be incomparably easier and happier than that of these unconvicted subjects of Executive classification. They shall be pursued, watched, investigated, at every turn and in every transaction. When not actually under Federal investigation of their private lives, the "bad" citizens shall live in continual terror of it. And when at last they are accused of specific misdemeanor or crime, in greater or minor degree, they shall be held guilty, because of the bad character which has been officially ascribed to them, until their innocence is proved, and the burden of proof of innocence shall practically be upon them, as to the particular charge in the courts.

The indications are that the calmer and more reasonable intellect of President TAFT perceives the utter fallacy of his predecessor's notion that corporate wickedness should be restrained by classification, or punished by Executive sentence of a general nature, preliminary to the legitimate resort to the old fashioned process of judicial ascertainment of specific guilt. So far as Mr. TAFT is concerned it would seem that the idea of trusts "good" beforehand in the general sense, or trusts "bad" beforehand in the general sense, by reason of their assignment by Executive decision to one of two rigidly delimited classes, may be eliminated and dismissed as a crude and somewhat fanatical imagining.

In the message to which the brief reassuring statement of Tuesday invites renewed attention the President showed a clear understanding of the dire consequences of extensive investigation, even when confined to corporations "with respect to which there is any reasonable ground for suspicion that they have been organized for a purpose and are conducting business on a plan which is in violation of the anti-trust law." He described these possible consequences in the following words:

"Such an investigation and possible prosecution of corporations whose prosperity or destruction affects the comfort not only of stockholders but of millions of wage earners, employees and associated tradesmen, must necessarily tend to disturb the confidence of the business community, to dry up the now flowing sources of capital from its places of hoarding, and produce a halt in our present prosperity that will cause suffering and strained circumstances among the innocent many for the faults of the guilty few."

Surely the comprehension and the solicitude here displayed are not affected. Surely they were not expressed thus forcibly for the mere purpose of terrorizing business opinion and influencing it in favor of the President's project of Federal incorporation, an alternative not yet sufficiently considered and discussed on its merits. That would be ROOSEVELT, not TAFT.

## Mr. Root's Warning.

There is little occasion for surprise that the gloomy fashion in which the Hon. ELIHU ROOT described local political conditions to an audience of New York Congressmen awakened no protest of optimism. On the contrary, however much Mr. ROOT may have illuminated his subject with his usual clairvoyance of thought and phrase, it seems clear that the conditions themselves were well known and poignantly felt by all who heard him. The unhappy truth seems to be that however men differ in range of vision and extent of information regarding the condition of Republican affairs in this State the character of their knowledge is identical.

All that is apparent, knowable, capable of being forecast in the present fortune of Republican politics in the State of New York inevitably gives political value to that ancient cornerstone of popular education, "No lickin', no larnin'." Preserved from the former since November 3, 1891, the Republican party has long since ceased to give evidence of the possession or power for the acquisition of the latter. For ourselves we profess complete agreement with Mr. ROOT in the conviction that participation in one will at no distant time give the dominant party in this State a new and necessary incentive for the acquisition of the other.

## Errand Boys.

For the self-respecting members of the Republican party of this county the report of the committee of seven now engaged in selecting a successor to the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS has a very particular interest. In one way or another it will answer the generation old question: Must the man who directs the Republican party in New York county of a necessity be some one's errand boy? If we judge the temper of the local Republicans correctly, after many messengers their spirits are hungering for at least one man in the office of the county president.

In recent years that office has been decorated by the Hon. LEMUEL ELY QUIGG, who did the will of Senator PLATT; by the Hon. ROBERT C. MORRIS, who obeyed all the similarly derived orders he could fathom; by the Hon. EDWARD LAUTERBACH and the Hon. WILLIAM HALPIN, who repeated with pleasing accuracy the commands of the Hon. B. B. ODELL, Jr. Last of all these other men's men was the Hon. HERBERT PARSONS, who derived importance solely from the fact that the brass buttons of his livery bore the potent letters T. R.

Each of these incumbents found the estate of the county president justly low and left it lower. Some were sustained by Federal patronage, some by State, some by both. Each political bellboy surpassed his predecessor in obsequiousness, abject subordination and self-satisfied servitude. Each contributed a measurable degree to the degradation of his party in the eyes of the community and to its offence to the self-respect of most of its members.

Are the local Republicans to have at last a leader whose brains shall work independently of the telephone and whose spirit shall sustain itself without the visible warrant of a master *in partibus?*

## A Courageous Jury.

Respect and honor are due to the Brooklyn jurymen who have protested against the action of County Judge FAWCETT of Kings county in rebuking them because he was displeased with a verdict of acquittal and in discharging them from further jury service at the present term of court by reason of his judicial displeasure.

These gentlemen point out that they have not sought of their own volition to participate in the administration of justice, but have been compelled to do so in the discharge of a highly important civic duty; that the law imposes upon them and not upon the Judge the responsibility of determining whether or not a defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; that Judge FAWCETT himself instructed them to acquit in the case which called forth his criticism if they entertained any reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the accused. They insist that the verdict which they rendered was the necessary and legitimate expression of their unanimity in entertaining such reasonable doubt. Hence they can perceive no propriety in the condemnation visited upon them from the bench.

Neither can we. The jury "scoring" habit is a gross abuse of power for which there is no justification in law, and we are glad to believe that it is a comparatively modern innovation for which the precedents are not numerous. It cannot too soon be completely abandoned. We do not question the right of the public to express dissatisfaction with the verdicts of juries. It has the same right to express dissatisfaction with the decisions of Judges. There is no branch of the Government that can claim immunity from public criticism under a free government. A criminal court, however, consists of two parts, each discharging a function wholly distinct from that of the other: the Judge, who deals with the law of the case; the jury, that passes upon the questions of fact. Neither can properly interfere with the duties of the other, and in the absence of misconduct on the part of the jury the Judge has no more right to condemn it from the bench for a verdict of acquittal than the jury would have to criticise his law.

It is difficult even now to obtain good men willing to serve as jurors in our great cities. It will soon be impossible if reputable citizens know they are liable to a judicial "scoring" in case they deem it their duty under the oath which they have taken to acquit a defendant whom the Judge thinks they ought to have found guilty.

We commend these Brooklyn jurymen for their courage in protesting against a growing abuse of judicial power.

## What Can Mr. Asquith Do?

Though elections in Great Britain will drag on through the rest of the week, and the last returns, from the Orkneys and Shetlands, will not be made till well on in February, the practical result of the polling is settled and accepted by both parties. The Unionists have not won a majority; the Liberals and Laborites, at best, cannot have one large enough to maintain the Government if the Irish members are eliminated; the Nationalists hold the balance of power. Neither side, we imagine, would care for another test of strength immediately, and the question that interests England now is what will happen when the Parliament meets.

That Mr. ASQUITH will try in earnest to keep in full the promises made before the election to the Irish leaders is hardly probable, even with his pressing need of the Nationalist votes. Any measure involving real home rule would deprive him of the support of many Liberals, probably enough to wipe out entirely his Irish majority. Can he devise such relief for Ireland as will hold his own party together and at the same time prove acceptable to the Nationalists? With home rule left out, can his offering be greater than what the Unionists might be willing to concede to win over the votes that would put them in power? At this time above all others Ireland needs a real leader with the strength to hold his party together and the brains to take advantage of the perplexities of both sets of English opponents. Though Mr. JOHN REDMOND has managed to steer the Nationalists along while their part in Parliament was unimportant, he is no PARNELL or O'CONNELL. One section of the Nationalists in Parliament is opposed to him, and when it comes to accepting or rejecting not home rule but compromises of various sorts agreement among the Irish will be difficult. A split in the party now would be disastrous.

There can be little expectation of radical legislation from the new Parliament, and that may disaffect the Labor party and in that way deprive the Government of its majority. One unlikely combination is conceivable, for which there have been precedents, a coalition of the Unionists with the conservative Liberals to oppose socialistic measures and Irish reforms, an alliance that would be likely to deal satisfactorily with the reform of the House of Lords, which Mr. ASQUITH now declares is the first matter to be settled. A constitutional change put through by both the historical parties would be respected more than one having the appearance of a partisan measure.

To bring about such an alliance, however, would call for more genius and initiative than has been shown by any commoner of late years: it might have been achieved perhaps by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, whose day is past; if the Liberals had had such a leader they would not be in their present predicament. The solution of Mr. ASQUITH's problems will be as interesting to watch as the election has been.

## The Panama Libel Case.

The decision of Judge HOUGH yesterday quashing the indictment in the Panama libel case against the New York *World*, on the ground of the lack of Federal jurisdiction for such criminal prosecution of a newspaper, is a victory for the freedom of the press. It is in line with other notable decisions by upright Federal Judges, in more than one of which THE SUN has had special interest.

In contemplating this righteous decision the fact must be kept in mind that while it counts much for the protection of newspapers from unusual and oppressive proceedings against them in the form of law, it signifies absolutely nothing as to the truth or falsity of the statements printed in the *World* about the disposition of the Panama Canal money.

## A Deacon Secular and a Victim of Megalomania Mecklenburgensis.

As we feared, too long devotion to the Mecklenburg Declaration and Dr. COOK has injured our old friend the Charlotte *Observer*. It is making Cookian discoveries on its own hook:

"As well might THE SUN claim to have invested CHARLEMAGNE and NAPOLEON with the imperial honors as Deacon HEMPHILL with the diaconate. Here are the exact and heretofore undisputed facts of history: The *Observer* first made the honore [d. Deacon?] an Elder in recognition of his able defence of that great Calvinistic document the Mecklenburg Declaration; later, for apostatizing, it degraded him to the diaconal but still distinguished rank, where he has since remained."

We believe that the original patent issued by THE SUN creating JAMES CALVIN HEMPHILL a Deacon Secular with all the rights, dignities, privileges, immunities and exemptions issuing from and pertaining thereto, is now in the vaults of the South Carolina Historical Society. At any rate we made Mr. HEMPHILL a Deacon Secular before the Charlotte *Observer* had observed him. That honor it is in no man's power to take away. Once a Deacon always a Deacon.

Notice that our unfortunate contemporary is still playing with that mere courtesy title of Deacon Ecclesiastical. Deacon HEMPHILL is rather decanus than diaconus. He is the president, dean and master of his trade or corporation in South Carolina, as he is soon to be in Virginia.

As to the remarks of this darkened Tar Heel about CHARLEMAGNE and NAPOLEON, we have always humored its delusion and have been glad to concede that both were natives of North Carolina.

The swinishness of Buffalo that wants to hog everything.—*The Hon.* EDGAR TRUMAN BRACKETT.

Has Buffalo some mineral springs to be "saved" too?

As a traveller with no official past of any consequence who can invoke the notice of crowned heads and uncrowned rulers on his travels and obtain state dinners and gold medals and other distinctions usually reserved for men of achievement, Mr. BRYAN has earned the right to be called the Great Uncommoner.

The bill (S. 1425) to incorporate the Descendants of the Signers was announced as next in order.

Mr. KEAN—Let that bill go over.—*From the Congressional Record.*

Perhaps Senator KEAN really meant "Let that bill go under." There is a good deal of opposition to it in the Senate. Mr. LODGE of Massachusetts gave expression to it when he said: "We want to consider a little carefully before we create hereditary orders."

The desire to preserve for posterity in a correct form the history of the famous phrases of our own time leads us to protest against the following misstatement recently reprinted in the editorial columns of the *Evening Post:*

"The *Freeman's Journal*, however, declared that 'in the lobby of the Senate ALLDS applauded CASSIDY's racetrack speeches and said that the Governor ought to have a good swift kick.'"

We quote from the news columns of the *Evening Post* of June 23, 1908:

"Mr. PAGE pulled out a clipping from a Chicago paper, which printed an interview with J. B. H. MONGIN, one of the small fry politicians of central New York and an alternate for J. SLOAT FASSETT. This interview began: 'Some one ought to give Governor HUGHES a good swift kick.'"

In view of the character of the witness this testimony should establish the authorship of the words beyond all question. The Hon. J. B. H. MONGIN has recently been removed from office by the Hon. CLARK WILLIAMS, whom Governor HUGHES named as State Comptroller. For his sacrilege, therefore, MONGIN has been punished properly. For the benefit of future historians it has seemed worth while to set forth the real responsibility for this crime, which the *Evening Post* through misinformation and wholly without malice, we are certain, laid at the door of the Hon. JOTHAM P. ALLDS.

We never will have titles in America. We do not want them. They confer no real distinction.—*Minneapolis Journal.*

There are more titles to the square inch in these United States than anywhere else in the world; nor is there any other people so enamored of buttons, orders, small distinctions and two cent pomp.

Is it possible for the Houston *Post* to learn that the candidate for Mayor of Boston whose "campaign expenses amounted to $103,250" was not "the Republican candidate"? Candidates for Mayor of Boston are not nominated by parties, and the gentleman in question happens to be a Democrat. Having the misfortune to be an intelligent Democrat, he was of course defeated by the illustrious Little General. This is known probably in most American places outside of the thought rooms of our esteemed if misguided contemporary, which too rashly assumes that a well bred and forehanded candidate for office must be a Republican.

CANNON in Illinois fighting against a direct primary law.—*Oregon Journal.*

Again we recommend the Wickedest Man in the World to read the sixteenth chapter of Leviticus.

### The Peerless in South America.

*From the Providence Journal.*

The honors paid to Mr. Bryan in Peru suggest the possibility of his removing permanently to that or some other South American country and running for President. His style of oratory would doubtless appeal to the volatile Latins, and provided he mastered their language he would be able to give them such a campaign as they never before experienced. There are not many railways in Peru, but Mr. Bryan might make a whirlwind canvass from the tail of an oxcart or some other antipodean vehicle; and what mere native aspirant could hope to stand against his flood of rhetoric and flow of soul? The Nebraska leader's views on finance would be more acceptable in South America than they have proved to be in the northern half of the hemisphere, and altogether it seems as if a large and attractive opportunity awaited him at Lima, Quito or La Paz.

### Protection in the British Elections.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In view of the returns may it not be said that the question which has been before the electors of Great Britain and Ireland has not been the House of Lords or the budget, but protection versus free trade?

In 1846 Sir Robert Peel, following the lead of Richard Cobden, explained that his views on the corn laws had undergone considerable change and that the force of events had brought him to the conviction that the system of protection, which he had so long supported, must be abandoned.

The Tories raged with indignation against the Prime Minister, whom they regarded as a traitor, and then it was that Benjamin Disraeli stepped to the front as the champion of protection. Disraeli always said that he educated his party, and the surprising results of the present election seem to indicate that Mr. Chamberlain was won from the ranks of free trade and radicalism by the master hand of the great Semitic statesman.

The keen sarcasm of Lloyd-George scarcely comes up to the level of that of Disraeli sixty-four years ago. He accused Sir Robert Peel of catching the Whigs bathing and running off with their clothes. He said that Peel was a political Petruchio, who had tamed his shrew with her own tactics; that Peel's party was an organized hypocrisy and that the Prime Minister was merely a sublime mediocrity.

It is the Chancellor of the Exchequer who now finds himself in an awkward situation. After the Parliament is reopened it will be seen that the House of Lords holds the whip handle!

BROOKLYN, January 26. A BRITISHER.

### Brokers and Customers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A certain firm has been suspended from the New York Stock Exchange. Now the dear public may read that the failures recently announced have cleared the atmosphere, that there has been "considerable liquidation" and that "stocks are surely due for a good rally."

But what of the people who have money in the hands of the suspended firm? Should they be squeezed because certain brokers refuse to fulfil their contracts in Hocking Coal and Iron?

GEORGE R. STEVENSON.

CINCINNATI, January 25.

## PREDATORY CORPORATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I add to my previous letter that lawyers tell me that in all the States the fundamental law permits the State to modify or revoke any charter of a corporation it has granted? Each State has that which is described as a visitatorial power to overhaul the doings under every charter it has created and ascertain if the corporation managers are violating Federal laws or State laws. Each and every industrial corporation unlawfully increasing the cost of living must have been the creature of a State; Congress has not yet created any. President Taft invited the wicked trusts that conspire against competition and for monopoly to come under the control of Congress, find shelter and be disciplined:

"Will you walk into my parlor?" said the spider to the fly;
"'Tis the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy."

But why run amuck against the Supreme Court and the custom of more than a century in regard to the chartering power of industrial corporations if each State has sovereign power over its creature and can take its life if it monopolizes trade, interstate or intrastate?

This is the month in which the States can act. Every State Legislature in the Union that meets this year, excepting five, is now in session. President Taft, approving Mr. Root's Pennsylvania dinner speech three years ago, warned a few days since thirty Governors then in his presence what will happen to their States if they do not mind their p's and q's. Mr. Deneen, the loyal Republican Governor of the State in which are the headquarters of the beef trust, received admonition. The Illinois Legislature is in session and its courts are open.

If State corporations are doing the unlawful things in restraint of trade that the President has described in his recent message to Congress and are thus responsible for the increased cost of living, then the chartering States can quickly put an end to the rascality if they will.

It happens that twenty-six of the States have now Governors and Legislatures of the same political party as President Taft. They are to be assumed loyal to the last Chicago platform. Of the remaining twenty which have Democratic Governors a dozen are known as "Southern." The others are Colorado, Indiana, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio and Oklahoma. Thus the States chiefly chartering trusts are Republican. Why do they not act in the sense of their President's menacing warning if the Republican politicians in those States think and wish the same things of the trusts as their President?

I am told that New Jersey is the banner State in creating "predatory corporations" empowered to do business wherever other States will tolerate them and authorized to own stock in other corporations, have all the watered stock they please, and generally do the things that Taft, Roosevelt and Bryan condemn. New Jersey is a State of the purest Republican water. The Roosevelt-Bryan politicians unsparingly denounce her corporate creations. If she rose vigorously up against her creatures she and her Governor Fort could do more than Congress and President Taft, and yet Roosevelt-Bryan politicians in the Legislature are dumb and motionless. Why is it thus in all the States, even in the Bryan States, if the politicians are sincere when they affirm that the commercial corporations cause the monopolies and increased cost of living? Has commercial competition completely died out in the country since Roosevelt began his schemes to infuse new life into it and discover a sovereign to control predatory corporations?

A MAN IN THE STREET.

NEW YORK, January 26.

## FASSETT AND REFORM.

### A Neighborhood View of the Statesman of the Southern Tier.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Congressman Fassett's call for a Republican housecleaning is funny, to say the least. Here at home those who know Fassett and his methods believe that the first step in Republican housecleaning would be to retire him from public life and the management of the party's affairs in this State and Congressional district.

Has anything ever happened to bring condemnation upon the Republican party, in this section of the State at least, more than the reprehensible methods employed by him to obtain his first nomination for Congress? At that time by appropriating "body and breeches" J. B. H. Mongin, who by the way has just been dumped out of the State Comptroller's office by Clark Williams, he managed to hold a convention in Seneca county over a year previous to the day of the election upon which Congressmen were to be voted upon. This "snowshoe" convention has gone down into history, in this district at least, as a culmination of most disgraceful methods in the conduct of party primaries and conventions.

By an equally contemptible scheme whereby a nomination for Assembly was promised to a resident of Schuyler county who was that year beaten at the polls, as he deserved to be, he secured the delegates from Schuyler county also. He has at each election by immense amounts of money throughout the district made the conduct of elections so far as Republicans are concerned a disgrace to the district.

He is now loudly demanding that the rascals be turned out, and attempts to put the entire blame for the condition of affairs in New York State upon Woodruff. I beg to repeat that here at home the people believe that the first act in the housecleaning should be to turn Fassett out of public life and control of the Republican organization in this district.

R. D. SMITH.

ELMIRA, January 26.

## PRICES OF MEAT.

### Would They Be Lower if Retailers Combined to Reduce Expenses?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There is much talk about the price of beef. The retailers are barely making a living. The raisers of cattle say that the packers do not pay them enough. The packers, according to Roosevelt's committee, were making only a profit of 1⅙ per cent. on their sales at the time of the committee's report, and the quoted price of packers' stock is only a little above par.

Local cattle raisers are extinct. Slaughter houses that once existed in every Eastern village are a thing of the past, driven out of business because the packers sell too cheap, and yet the price to the consumer is grievous.

There is one retail butcher in Waterbury for every 600 inhabitants. Each has to pay rent, clerk hire and for teams. If they all went into a trust and had one big market they could save enough on running expenses to sell meat at 25 per cent. less and make more money than they do now.

Our salvation seems to lie in some such arrangement.

GRANDPA.

WATERBURY, Conn., January 25.

### Triumphant Gynocracy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The action of Miss Lulu Van Fleet, the Cleveland school teacher who severely beat a highwayman who tried to rob her and after she had given him a good thrashing threw him into a snowbank and jumped on him, again shows the superiority of woman both mentally and physically over man, and it is proof positive that there is no such question as the equality of sexes and equal pay, but that man is inferior and should be paid less than woman.

Because Miss Van Fleet forgot her pocketbook in the snowbank after thrashing this robber proves that women are capable of doing large and noble things and consequently forget such a petty thing as money.

JAMES D. DEWELL, Jr.

NEW YORK, January 26.

### The Comet of '58.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What became of the enormous comet of 1858? As I remember it lasted for weeks in the fall, a most glorious object.

C. PORTE.

NEW YORK, January 26.

## THE NEGRO'S FUTURE.

### To Rise in the Scale of Manhood He Must Learn to Respect Himself.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am afraid that Mr. Robert E. Park, who wrote to THE SUN recently on the subject, missed the point of my previous letter about the negro. I do not wish any one to think that I am so unjust as to expect manhood of the average negro to-day; how could he achieve in a few decades of years what we have failed to accomplish in centuries?

This is my point: how can the negro hope to become a man if he does not first show the desire, not for conscious wealth and the power to order people around with nonchalance, but to be a gentleman at heart, to be truly noble? Does he show this desire? Not to my knowledge. Does he in his "self-consciousness" wish for sympathy from us? I imagine he had rather have something more substantial.

Even if he has grown into this desire since the last time I saw him, even if he has come to appreciate sympathy, is he therefore exempt from the old rule that a man must conquer himself before he can conquer the world?

It was because I thought that "A Negro," whose letter was printed in THE SUN recently, did not fully realize this that I wrote my letter and because I thought he would have the intelligence to understand my point of view. I am not a negro hater. I too will take off my hat to him when he has achieved self-respect, pride and independence, but that does not alter the existing facts.

I recommend that Mr. Park take up his residence in the South for a while. Let him have his daughter insulted a few times, let himself be treated with abundant "self-consciousness," and he may not take quite so lofty a view of the matter. It is a well known fact that the Southerner treats the negro with far more leniency and consideration than the Northerner does after he has once become intimately acquainted with the negro's peculiar temperament.

Now for the gentleman from Brooklyn who also discusses the subject in THE SUN. He is most courteous to honor me with his contradictions, but I am unconvinced and of mine own opinion still. Surely no one who thoroughly knows the negro could fail to agree with me as to his servility and impudence, to say nothing of other faults. I do not condemn the negro; he speaks for himself in railway car, restaurant and street; and as to a "glorious future," I do not assure him of any.

The old negro of slavery times perhaps commanded more love and respect than the freed man now. As to those other races, are not Moors and Hindus black, or at least blacker than our mulattos? Do we not in a way honor the one and do we not read the philosophies of the other?

How did the Indian get his name of the "noble red man"? Why do they sing in poem and story of his dignity and reserve, his bravery and fidelity? Does not the very fact of his "detention on reservations" prove that we acknowledge our crime against him and wish to make him some reparation?

If we do not respect the Chinaman, why do we hold diplomatic relations with him and watch his awakening with such an anxious eye? Is his not the oldest civilization in the world? Have we even now ceased to profit from the wisdom of Confucius?

Let the gentleman from Brooklyn think these things over; let him ask himself the meaning of respect. I think that it is the involuntary tribute that rises in my heart toward any one of any color who stands before me with dignity, sustains my gaze with calmness, who refuses help that he does not need and speaks to me with innate courtesy not because I am anybody in particular but just because I am another human being.

LUCY BEDFORD.

LIBERTY, January 26.

## COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

### A Correspondent Objects to Putting It Under Military Control.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is it possible that the editorial in to-day's SUN entitled "The Coast and Geodetic Survey" was written under some polite Satanic suggestion and not from any fair conception of the work of that bureau, work which it has done and which properly belongs to it?

We all know that the Navy Department was relieved of this bureau after the time when the Navy Department had been developed into a great and comprehensive division of the Government, having a genuine equipment for war and peace service, and that our learned legislators are now, since the death of Professor Simon Newcomb, discussing the removal of the Naval Observatory from that Department, for reasons which I need not enumerate.

Since the days of Bache, the first great head of the survey, through the administration of Hilgard to to-day, under Dr. Tittmann, the survey has plotted our territory scientifically and not alone as an adjunct of the War and Navy Departments. Its work has extended to every part of our country, and in conformity with the spirit of our Government and people it belongs directly to the agencies of peace and commerce. Dr. Tittmann has grown up in the bureau and knows every detail of its work, and except for President Cleveland's appointee for its head the Coast and Geodetic Survey has always been under control of a scientific man.

There is no reason to say that the bureau is a "snug harbor for political favorites"; if the President will hold his department heads to accountability such appointments will be stopped.

You have too frequently pointed out the spheres of activity of army officers to trip over the plan of adding a purely scientific bureau for national purposes to their labors.

CHARLES E. LYDECKER.

NEW YORK, January 26.

## ARE THE WINTERS WARMER?

### Forty Years Ago Cold and Mildness Alternated as They Do Now.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The article on winter weather printed in the Springfield *Republican* and reproduced in THE SUN reminds me of my own experience.

In eastern Pennsylvania, sixty miles back from tidewater and probably not 250 feet above it, we had three foot snowdrifts in the winter of 1867-68. Two years later johnnie jumpups grew in our front yard in February. The next year, the winter of 1870-71 I am nearly sure it was, the mercury went to 28 degrees below zero for just a couple of hours of one night, a trick it performs about twice in a century or so, I believe. However, the temperatures are as I record them, and possibly of interest to those who hold that the winters are not as cold as they used to be.

As to this proposition I need go no further back than the winter of 1903-04. In that season it was my privilege to have landed twice in this port from ocean trips and balmy weather in a temperature of about 5 degrees below zero, and this despite New York's nearness to that vast reservoir of heat the ocean. I believe it was then said that the Hudson would have frozen over had it not been for navigation. At any rate the lower bay with its ice masses afloat looked like the pictures in books relating to Arctic exploration. To speak more personally, I had a foot slightly frostbitten while standing on a corner waiting for a trolley, and not a very long wait either.

Some scientists think that the amount of heat received from the sun has not varied to any large extent in the thirty or more millions of years that have elapsed since the earth's crust cooled to 212 degrees Fahrenheit and river action began. It is therefore fair to assume, I think, that the weather in winter could not possibly change greatly in the small period covered by human annals, and still less in that infinitesimally minute fraction of time since observations have been taken.

D. G.

BROOKLYN, January 26.

### Faithful Philadelphians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* During the recent blizzard about a hundred men had been impatiently awaiting a train at Fifty-second street station with the morning papers from downtown. At last a man on horseback was spied through the falling snow carrying a bundle of papers. A rush was made for him, as the bundle was small, but we were met with "New York papers, gentlemen," and the good Philadelphians went back to their posts to await the local news items from downtown.

DE WITT B. EDMUNDS.

PHILADELPHIA, January 25.

### Wind o' the Moor.

Wind o' the moor, breath of the vast free reaches,
What is the mutable voice wherewith you cry?
I listen and listen again and I dream your speech is
Freighted with whisper of lips from the days gone by.

Ever at dawn of the day, or when sunsets darken,
The murmur comes of strange inscrutable things;
And methinks that I often catch, what time I hearken,
The rustle of feet and the beating of unseen wings.

Wind o' the moor, you are eldritch, aye, you are eerie;
For all of the pain of the past can you find no cure?
Rest for a little space, for my heart is weary,
And would fain forget—forget, O wind o' the moor!

CLINTON SCOLLARD.

## IS THERE A HELL?

### The Word Is Used in Both the Old Testament and the New.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a letter to THE SUN recently "Doctor of Divinity" says that our pulpits are silent on the question of hell. I beg to differ with him. The doctrine of hell is preached from thousands of Catholic pulpits throughout Christendom. The reverend doctor "clearly" sees that "the Old Testament Scriptures never taught an eternal hell of punishment." He has studied very carefully the words of the Great Teacher and is certain that He never taught it.

I will quote a few of the many texts of Scripture to show that the doctrine of hell is taught in the Old Testament and was inculcated by Christ Himself:

A fire is kindled in My wrath and shall burn even to the lowest hell. (Deut. xxxii., 22.)

The sinners of Sion are afraid, trembling hath seized upon the hypocrites. Which of you can dwell with devouring fire? which of you shall dwell with everlasting burnings? (Isaias, xxxiii., 14.)

The dead that are in hell, whose spirit is taken away from their bowels, shall not give glory and justice to the Lord. (Baruch, ii., 17.)

Woe be to the nation that riseth up against my people: for the Lord Almighty will take revenge on them, in the day of judgment He will visit them. For He will give fire, and worms into their flesh, that they may burn and may feel forever. (Judith xvi., 20, 21.)

Christ in describing the last judgment said:

Then shall the King say to them also that shall be on his left hand; Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels. (St. Luke, xxv., 41.)

Christ in the parable of Lazarus and Dives pictured the latter in hell: "The rich man also died and he was buried in hell." In this parable hell is emphatically called "a place of torments." (St. Luke, xvi., 28.)

Christ in warning against the fear of the world said to the Jews: "Fear ye him, who after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell." (St. Luke, xii., 5.)

Christ in preaching against scandal used these words:

If thy eye scandalize thee, pluck it out. It is better for thee with one eye to enter into the kingdom of God, than having two eyes to be cast into the hell of fire." (St. Mark, ix., 46.)

There are abundant texts in Scripture to prove the existence of hell. In the very last book, the Apocalypse, or Revelation the teaching is very definite. In describing the last attempts of Satan against the Church St. John says:

And there came down fire from God out of heaven and devoured them, and the devil who seduced them was cast into the pool of fire and brimstone, where both the beast and the false prophet shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Apoc., xx., 9.)

In the eighth verse of the twenty-first chapter of the same book the author denominates some of the souls who will people hell:

But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters, and all liars, they shall have their portion in the pool burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

The thought of hell is uncomfortable in this age of luxury, worldliness and crime. As the wicked say in their hearts, there is no God, so too they say there is no hell.

WALTER J. SHANLEY.

DANBURY, Conn., January 26.

## TRADE UNION DRY ROT.

### The Demagogy and Selfishness of Leaders Retard Progress.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To the interested observer of the methods of trades unions it is apparent that a transition is taking place both in the personnel of labor organizations and in the men who more or less control the policies and doctrines of organized labor in America.

To me personally the present epoch seems fraught with great possibilities and great dangers. I have no desire to assume the rôle of self-appointed moralist, but from a sense of duty, even a sense of self-preservation, I am moved to criticize in a brotherly spirit the weaknesses which tend to create a spirit of revolt among the members of labor organizations. I have no axe to grind or animosities to gratify.

In my judgment the troubles besetting organized labor at the present time are not due to hostility of employers so much as to general conditions that exist in its form of leadership and in its policies. My views represent the welfare of the man on the job. The general welfare is to me more important than the position and prestige of any individual. There are to-day too many labor leaders and they lack sincerity. Organized labor is burdened and retarded by a horde of officials who will do anything for labor but work.

Being elected to office, they immediately acquire a distinction which enables them to look down from lofty heights on the common horde. They assume an air of superiority which their mediocre abilities render ridiculous. They consider that they are sacrificing themselves by holding office, but their whole aim and object in life is to hold office without regard to the general welfare. What does it matter what becomes of principles or policies so long as the professional labor man can perpetuate himself and live without work?

Sincerity is requisite in any walk of life, as it distinguishes the honest man from the demagogue. Many of the troubles of organized labor can be traced to the pernicious doctrines of the demagogue. To no other form of organization is sincerity so essential as to trades unionism, yet I am forced by experience and the weight of evidence to say that it is an unknown virtue in the case of a large number of our labor leaders. Trades unionism is not making the progress in America that it should. This is largely owing to the selfishness and insincerity of the leaders. The intrigues and manipulations to which they descend for office and power would shame even a district captain in ward politics. This state of affairs is well known to the men loyally interested in trades unionism, and no material progress can be looked for until we get rid of the fakers and grafters. If the fakers learned their trade and the grafters went to work the troubles of organized labor would be reduced 50 per cent.

The principles of trades unionism are not written in sand or in false promises but are founded on sincerity, honesty, unselfishness and charity.

DAVID MACKAY.

ASTORIA, L. I., January 26.

## A VIRGINIA DINNER.

### The Good Fortune of Some Stranded Devil Wagoners.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In these exciting times, with the city populations of the whole country quarrelling over the price of cold storage beef, I want to stir your envy by telling you of an impromptu dinner enjoyed by some friends of mine whose automobile had broken down in the Shenandoah Valley somewhere between Leesburg and Winchester. A gentleman farmer near whose place the accident occurred courteously invited them to come in and refresh themselves while the devil wagon was being tinkered.

The dinner was simple enough. No oysters, no soup, no appetizers, nothing of that kind. It was all put upon the table at once. Yellow legged chickens with hominy cakes, spareribs and sausage with corn fritters, an eight pound ham cured in hickory smoke and garnished with "greens and eggs," and home cured bacon and hot corn bread and beaten biscuits and fragrant golden butter and unskimmed milk.

Everything was cooked to perfection, everything was good and fresh and genuine, and the tourists ate all with growing appetite, and subsequent delight and wonder. All this within easy reach of cold storage and the loud complaints of the ultimate consumer!

OLD DOMINION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 26.

### A Pipe Smoker's Thoughts on Thrift.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Bully for "Fifty-five," who told us how he saved the money to set his son up in business.

I also smoke a pipe, but because I prefer it to even the delectable imported cigar. These fellows who smoke the thin yellow pipe stuff because, they say, it is mild don't know the joys of a pipe (clean though old) filled with that splendid (whatever your favorite tobacco is).

Smoke a pipe, say I, because it's the real thing, and shave yourself (daily) because it's a luxury no barber can provide you.

As to polishing my boots, the contemplative five minutes during which the embryo merchant looks after you is, I think, well worth the price.

J. W. K.

HARTFORD, Conn., January 25.

### The Punishment of Judas.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On the question "Is There a Hell?" "A Patient" in to-day's SUN says that "all Catholics believe in such a punishment," yet they "never assert that any particular individual is in hell with the possible exception of Judas."

That is to say, the man who made Christianity and Catholicism possible was sent to everlasting punishment for his part in the divine scheme of salvation.

Judas and Pontius Pilate should have been made saints long ago.

MEDICUS.

NEWARK, N. J., January 25.