The Sun.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1911.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President of the Association, Edward P. Mitchell, 170 Nassau street; Treasurer of the Association, M. F. Laffan, 170 Nassau street; Secretary of the Association, D. W. Quinn, 170 Nassau street.

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand. The daily and Sunday SUN are on sale in London at the American and Colonial Exchange, Carlton street, Regent street, and Daw's Steamship Agency, 17 Green street, Charing Cross Road.

Paris office, 32 Rue Louis le Grand. The daily and Sunday editions are on sale at Kiosque 12, near the Grand Hotel; Kiosque 77, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Place de l'Opéra, and Kiosque 19, Boulevard des Italiens, corner Rue Louis le Grand.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Judge Parker's Correct and Loyal Attitude—Mr. Shepard's Opportunity.

The interview with the Hon. ALTON B. PARKER printed last night in THE EVENING SUN and reproduced elsewhere on this page will increase public interest in his memorable journey to Albany on Wednesday. We shall be disappointed if the Judge's remarks on the Senatorial situation do not enhance the general admiration which his straightforward, unselfish course is now commanding.

Asked squarely whether he himself would or would not accept the Senatorship if it were offered to him as a compromise candidate, Judge PARKER replied in words whereof the dignity scarcely concealed the subjacent indignation at the mere thought of being suspected of a duplex interest. He reminded the reporter that he had already made it clear that his obligations were such that he could not accept the office. He pointed to his explicit and specific statements on the subject, statements made before his friend and law partner Mr. SHEEHAN entered the open field. He declared in positive terms that nothing since has happened to change his view. He went further and described his attitude as fortified, if possible, by his sense of duty to the Democratic principle of majority rule. Judge PARKER believes that the caucus obligation is not dissolved by one or two or any number of ballots in joint session, but is binding until the majority has called a new caucus.

Does not all this confirm what we said yesterday about Judge PARKER's steadfastness in the interest of the friend and associate who was so loyal to him in the days of the canvass for the Presidential nomination in 1904 and of the campaign of that year when he himself was the candidate at the front?

Standing firmly for the regularity of party action, and manifestly deploring the rash action of the young bolters, we think that Judge PARKER will welcome the highly judicious suggestion of Mr. SHEPARD's close friend the Brooklyn *Eagle* that it is now in Mr. SHEPARD's power and is his political duty to resolve the situation with credit to himself, with justice to Mr. SHEEHAN, and with immense advantage to the larger interests of the Democratic party. We doubt not that other good friends of Mr. SHEPARD will share this view of his opportunity and duty.

Mr. Lodge.

Ten years ago to-day GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR, who in spite of some obvious faults of temper and an occasional narrowness and rigidity of view, was honored and will long be honored as a statesman wholly worthy of the great traditions of the Senate and of Massachusetts, wrote to his colleague, HENRY CABOT LODGE:

"I am happy to believe that you have before you a long, honorable and most brilliant career of service to the Commonwealth and the country. * * * Large as are the honorable achievements you have already made, you are, in my opinion, at the beginning only of a period of very large and rapid growth. * * * So far as I can see you will retain and enjoy, even far more largely than you possess it now, the confidence of the Commonwealth and country, and if your life and health continue, will have a public career which will extend over a much longer period than any of your predecessors or associates."

If that confidence of Massachusetts in Mr. LODGE has been temporarily weakened, if his public career came near being interrupted or cut off this year, it was not mainly his fault. He has not changed. His opinions, his public conduct, have not ceased to be such in substance as Mr. HOAR approved and illustrated.

Mr. LODGE has his faults, his peculiarities of temperament, his capabilities of irritating, his stern and rockbound Massachusetts Bay frostiness and superiority; but all these are essentially surplusage. In intellect and knowledge, in capacity and experience, he is fit to be a Senator in Congress from Massachusetts. Against the tumultuary methods, the vulgar ignorances, the demagogic innovations, the cowardly worship of cheap popularity, all the brass and blare of the school of politics which Foss directs in Massachusetts, for instance, Mr. LODGE (no matter how injudicious some of his friendships) stands in the sharpest contrast. If the country is coming to a government of instant action by the popular breath of the moment; if representative government is to be supplanted; if the old orderly deliberate processes prescribed by the Constitution are not supported by the sudden sages of to-day; still the ancient conservatism and intelligence may be allowed to linger in the Senate for a little: by the side of the La Follettes, the Bournes, the Davises, the Taylors, may still be left some representatives of the earlier order, of the New England of WEBSTER, FESSENDEN, SUMNER, EDMUNDS and HOAR. As Mr. LODGE said the other day, "whatever my shortcomings, I have cherished with reverence the dignity and the traditions of the great office which I hold."

The Age of Luther.

The second paper by Professor ARTHUR C. MCGIFFERT on MARTIN LUTHER and his work in the current number of the *Century* is mainly interesting perhaps because of the evidence it affords that LUTHER returned from the pilgrimage to Rome imbued, not with righteous indignation over the iniquity of the papal city, but with heightened veneration and enthusiasm for Holy Mother Church. As Professor MCGIFFERT's narrative proceeds many readers will no doubt be compelled to change their estimate of the character, genius and motives of the great Augustinian monk who brought about an epoch in the history of the world. The stature of the central figure in the Reformation has remained undiminished in the glare of light thrown upon that crowded drama by RANKE and JANSSEN and their disciples in the school of documentary research, but in this stronger illumination the stage is seen to be larger and the spectacle a far more complex composition than they appeared to be until recently even to trained historians. A popular reappraisal of LUTHER and his work in conformity with modern critical opinion should be widely welcome.

There would, of course, have been no Reformation if the voice of LUTHER had not been magnified by answering echoes, if his message had not been variously interpreted by a multitude of receptive hearers. At the beginning of the sixteenth century many sorts and conditions of people in Germany, and indeed other countries, were in a protestant, expectant frame of mind. The lesser nobility had been impoverished and its turbulent sway broken through a momentous change in the art of war, the peasantry was being deprived of its communal property through the adoption of the Roman law in the lower territorial courts, the prosperity of the smaller merchants and of the artisan guilds was impaired through the revolution in commerce wrought by new trade routes. When the entrepôt for Asiatic wares was transferred from nearby Venice to distant Lisbon, large capital was required to carry on international trade, and corporations took the place of individual dealers.

The revolution in commerce was a fundamental economic influence which reacted upon politics and the general structure of society. It was preceded and accompanied by a golden period of discovery and invention, the rise of monopoly, the accumulation of huge private fortunes, the diffusion of wealth, and the introduction of higher standards of living. Though robbed of their common lands, the peasants enjoyed an era of abounding prosperity. During the first quarter of the sixteenth century farm produce advanced almost uninterruptedly in value. Even the supply of money metals was enormously increased, at first chiefly through the application of large scale production to the silver mines of Germany and Hungary.

The new economic order created a universal ferment. Many were injured through the decay of ancient occupations or the invasion of traditional rights and privileges or the rise in the cost of living. The prosperous were impatient of the customary tributes and personal service, then exacted principally by the Church, the last remaining completely feudalized institution. Art and literature, recently inspired by a sense of wonder over the marvels of life, gave expression to the spreading discontent which is characteristic of modern democracy. The people, eager for reform and disappointed in the momentary rule of petty religious and political demagogues, hoped for the coming of Prester JOHN out of the East to right all wrongs and prepare the way for the Kingdom of Christ upon earth.

Bibliographical authorities enumerate several thousand titles of black letter pamphlets, not to speak of books, issued by LUTHER and his contemporaries. The little printing shops of the day reaped a harvest of groschen. Every one, from peasant to knight, felt that the printed word would dissolve all doubt concerning the true intent of the Scriptures as to the governance of the world, and if one could not read one might perhaps learn something from pictures. The pamphlets that bore Wittenberg imprints were in special request, and modern collectors have invented an elaborate system of rules for distinguishing genuine Wittenberg imprints from imitations forged at Zwickau, Grimma, Eilenburg, Jena, Leipsic and elsewhere. Meanwhile the world is still waiting to hear from Prester JOHN, only his message is looked for in the jargon of sociology instead of in the language of black letter divinity.

To Mr. Mann the Chief Credit.

We are afraid that the House has rather crude notions about the aeroplane as a flying machine and about the uses to which it can be put. It took some time to win Mr. FITZGERALD of New York over to the view that the little airships would be valuable for reconnoissance, and he seemed to be reluctant to vote for the appropriation for purchases by the army which the Hon. JAMES R. MANN of Illinois advocated. We should like to believe that Mr. HARVEY HELM of Kentucky was facetious when he said:

"If we want to pull off a mimic or mock warfare, a sham battle in the air, something spectacular, with these twenty aeroplanes, vote for the amendment."

But unfortunately in the next breath Mr. HELM asked this preposterous question: "Suppose Germany has 1,000 of them; suppose France has 10,000 of them; suppose England has a million of them, how could they ever get any of them over here?" The gentleman from central Kentucky seemed to be laboring under the impression that an aeroplane, like a Zeppelin, would have to cross the Atlantic under its own power. But it remained for Mr. MANN to distinguish himself in a sort of prophetic frenzy:

"Other countries have taken advantage of our learning, of our skill, of our ingenuity, and are providing these machines, which will render in a few years the Brooklyn Navy Yard a place for grass to grow, and the Kentucky grass region of my friend here a place where you will cultivate, not horses, but wheat. They are interested in a way. The time is not far distant when aeroplanes, hitched together, will run in trains, and where one machine failing will not affect the rest of them."

Mr. MANN seems to know more about limited express trains drawn by cloud compelling "iron horses" than about aeroplanes, and Mr. HIRAM MAXIM would tell him that explosives dropped from aeroplanes are not likely to do much damage; but we are grateful to Mr. MANN. The army needed aeroplanes in its business, and it was Mr. MANN's forceful way of describing the activities of the aeroplane and its effectiveness in war that won the House's assent to an appropriation of $125,000.

Gold and the Prospector.

According to the preliminary figures of the United States Geological Survey, California last year displaced Colorado as the first gold producing State. California's increase in production was $400,000, and Colorado's decrease $1,400,000. Even before the issue of this report people of Colorado interested in gold mining were casting about for reasons for the comparative decline in production, and laid stress upon neither of those officially assigned: "the continued success of gold dredging operations" in California, and the suspension of several important mines in the Cripple Creek district, Colorado, "to await the completion of the Roosevelt drainage tunnel." They considered one of the most important facts the failure to open any new mining camps.

They lay the blame upon the prospector. Men seek gold in Colorado now as in the past; but the prospector is no longer willing, as were the prospectors who made the discovery of the great gold camps of the State, to follow game trails in the mountains with a burro, bacon, beans and flapjack flour, and to gamble with Fortune whether he shall return with nothing or with a claim that will make him independently rich for life. Instead of being quick to strike out into untrodden regions on these expeditions of discovery, he keeps close to the opened camp with its comforts of life. He turns to working leased properties which he can reach by a trolley car in the morning and from which he can as easily return in the evening to his home in a city.

He justifies his course by saying that if he should make a discovery he finds that "he is so far away from a railroad that it is discouraging to try to do anything with it." But it is pointed out that Leadville, of which the total yield of its mines has been more than $350,000,000, and Cripple Creek, of which the annual production is $20,000,000, came not because there were three railroads to compete for the hauling of the ores, but because these camps had ore to ship. Much of the new country which a recently constructed railroad opened up was believed to possess great mineral wealth, and reports have strengthened this belief; but, says the Denver *Republican*, "it is like pulling teeth to get a prospector to strike out and find the long awaited mine."

The superiority of the conditions to-day as compared with those that the first gold discoverers had to overcome seem to have made the prospector cowardly:

"By a seeming contradiction it takes longer to realize on a mine to-day than it did when everything was lacking which now seems necessary to success. The spirit of battle is not so strong; men are weaker with civilization at hand than they were when it was missing, and less willing to undertake the fight entailed by every victory worth winning."

Colorado is no doubt right in saying that so far in uncovering her mineral wealth the soil has been scarcely more than "scratched." The thirst for gold remains the same; but the number of men willing to undergo the hardships that its search imposes and to await patiently the realization of their hopes seems to be growing fewer. Not only Colorado but all the mineral producing States of the Rocky Mountains need now as much as ever the old fashioned prospector and his burro.

I am a candidate for the office of United States Senator at the hands of the Republican party. I hereby agree to submit my candidacy to the Republican voters at a special primary and agree to abide by the result.—*The Hon.* LAFAYETTE YOUNG *of Iowa.*

We are sure that Colonel YOUNG would run at a primary like a two-year-old.

The large sandglass on the desk of Speaker CANNON to notify members who are on their feet that their time is up under the five minute rule of debate must be a fascinating device for other members to watch; but since time is nearly always extended on the motion of a sympathetic colleague, the sandglass will stop no orator's flow of words.

Switzerland is undergoing the sorrows that come from borrowing. When the St. Gothard tunnel and railroad were built it seemed convenient to have Germany as well as Italy shoulder part of the cost. German directors shared in the management, and special rates were made for German freight. The Swiss decided by a referendum, a few years ago, to nationalize all the railroads, and it became necessary to make terms with the Gothard road. Germany at first objected to giving up her share of the control. She offers to yield now, but only on condition that she gets preferential rates on all the Swiss railroads, and on all that may be built hereafter too.

These modest German demands have roused the temper of the canny Swiss. They regard them as meant to infringe on the sovereignty of Switzerland, as a mailed fist extended to grasp the Swiss railroads. The Italian partner, too, feels aggrieved, for Italy has put much more money into the enterprise than Germany has, yet cannot ask for more than she does. The Swiss, meanwhile, are raging against Germany and everything German, while Germany takes the attitude of a virtuous creditor, who means to exact the due and forfeit of his bond, and whatever else he may bluff his debtor into giving up.

THE COMMERCE OF 1910.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—A record breaking export trade in December and an import trade above the average served to lift the oversea commerce of 1910 to an unexpected level, to the highest level in our records. The inward and outward commerce shows a total value of $3,427,218,892, an increase of $80,000,000 over the business of 1907. The exports of 1907 exceeded those of 1910 by about $60,000,000, while the imports of 1910 exceeded those of 1907 by $140,000,000.

The exports of the year show a total value of $1,864,411,270, to which raw cotton contributed $530,156,515, breadstuffs $95,704,078, meat and dairy products $107,933,357, mineral oils $88,571,319, copper about $90,000,000, coal about $40,000,000, and lumber and timber about $55,000,000. Full details are not yet published, but they will show a wholesome gain in sales of manufactured goods and a striking gain in our sales in the Western Hemisphere. Imports were valued at $1,562,807,622, a gain of $87,000,000 over 1909, and of $140,000,000 over 1907. The increase in imports is one of the phenomena in our recent economic history. The imports of 1900 were valued at $829,149,714, the increase in the last ten years having been 90 per cent. Reference to the records of 1900 and 1910 shows a 60 per cent. increase in imports of chemicals, drugs and dyes, of nearly 90 per cent. in cocoa, while the imports of coffee show a large increase until 1905, and a considerable decline since that year. Imports of copper have doubled, and imports of rubber have trebled. Nearly all raw materials show large gains, but the increase in that line has been no more rapid than the increase in purchases of luxuries, of gems and furs and laces and wines. Sugar is one of the largest items on the import list, and in that there has been fluctuation rather than material changes. The very considerable increase in consumption has been met by increase in the domestic product and by the product of Porto Rico and Hawaii.

The ten year gain in exports has been only 26 per cent. The further increase in the volume of the outward movement will depend mainly on the force and the intelligence of the selling effort. The trade of the world belongs to those who go after it and stay with it. Only a comparatively small part of the foreign sales of this country is the fruit of trade energy.

WOMEN'S CLUBS.

They Have Been a Power for Good in Social and Other Reforms.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am not a suffragette, although I think if women want to vote they should be allowed to do so. Nor am I an active club woman, but I know club women and belong to a few clubs, and I am the champion of both. I do not say that clubs have elevated the social position of women, but I do assert that they have done a great deal for the individual woman. That was the first great epoch in the life of woman when she was raised from the yoke of bondage to the place of a respected human being. The birth of women's clubs marks the second epoch, when she threw off the yoke of inferiority and declared herself capable of taking an active part in civic reform.

The club woman of to-day is the representative American woman, working for progress in everything good, noble and uplifting. It is she who is responsible for the wave of reform that has swept the country during the last few years. It is she who is responsible for the well cared for poor. It is she who is responsible for the societies for the protection of animals. It is she who is responsible for the decrease in the importation of champagne noted in the papers a few days ago. It is she who is responsible for prohibition reigning solidly through many States, and now that she has learned that the proper granting of saloon licenses will better reach the liquor evil she will soon balk the "four flusher" politician who will rush a reform any distance along a perfectly safe road only to halt at the crucial moment. Therefore I take issue with Martha McCulloch-Williams when she says: "These militant philosophers have done nothing practicable." I should advise her to attend a convention of the City Federation.

Again Mrs. Williams says: "If in all history of elections or of politics there can be found dirtier pages than those which record women's club politics, I should like to see them." A little further on she says that "when men are no longer able to reverence women they will cease to reverence anything." I take it for granted they still reverence these women who are making dirty pages in the history of women's clubs and who are snobs enough to cast their vote, if they had one, for the "dashing devil of a fellow." Will not Mrs. Williams discriminate? Perhaps in club life we do have the counterpart of the "near precious stone and the near silk," but you find it in any walk of life. Because a woman sits up and takes notice that is no reason why a man should not reverence her, but it is a mighty good reason why he should be frank and truthful with her, making her feel her close companionship with him because he knows she must take any old excuse for his absence from home. An old book from which Mrs. Williams quotes, "By their fruits ye shall know them," also says "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit."

Woman nowadays is a force, but she need not and will not lose her dignity, her sweetness or her womanliness. You will find them all in women's clubs to-day, and there Mrs. Williams may find the light still burning in the "Holy of Holies."

ANNIE FIELD NICHOLSON,
President of the Dixie Clubs of New York.
NEW YORK, January 19.

Texas Delicacies.

From the Baltimore American.

"We can produce at a banquet in Dallas more novelties to tickle the palate of an epicure than could be seen anywhere outside of Texas," says Colonel Conant of Dallas. "In proof of that assertion, just give heed to this menu that my friend Colonel Frank Holland, ex-Mayor of Dallas, thought out and executed at a dinner he recently gave to a few of his associates:

"Barbecued hump of cattalo, roast of karakule, sweet corn (fresh from the field), elberta peaches, rice and satsuma oranges.

"Not a list imposing for its length, but remember that there is just one cattalo herd in the world, and in the United States but one karakule flock. Maybe I'd better explain that the cattalo is a cross between the buffalo and domestic cattle, and the karakule is the high caste, fat tail Persian sheep. Such a combination of rare viands was never at any previous feast since the dawn of history, and the best phase of it was that every dish was the product of some Texas farm or ranch, even the nuts which ended the repast coming from local pecan groves."

A Shoemaker's Epitaph.

From the Liverpool Daily Post.

The following epitaph is to be seen on the grave of a shoemaker in a Cumberland churchyard:

My cutting board's to pieces split,
My size sticks will no measure make,
My rotten last's turned into holes,
My blunted knife cuts no more soles;
My hammer's head's flown from the haft,
No more 'Saint Mondays' with the craft;
My nippers, pincers, stirrup rag,
And all my kit have got the bag;
My lapstone's broke, my color's o'er,
My gum glass froze, my paste's no more,
My heel's sew'd on, my pegs are driven—
I hope I'm on the road to heaven.

Mountain Laurel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your Harrisburg correspondent is mistaken in his botany. The mountain laurel is Kalmia latifolia. I refer him to Gray's "Manual of Botany" or the well known books of Mrs. Dana or Alice Lounsberry. The leaves are very poisonous.

As I am writing I will mention that in the warm weather of a few days ago robins were seen here, which is very remarkable. We have also had bluebirds. M. H.

FISHKILL-ON-HUDSON, January 18.

A Quadrilateral Dinner.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to "triangular dinners": The worst case I have heard of was where a young couple sat on adjacent sides of the dinner table with a sour infant in a perambulator near them, while the unfortunate bachelor wished that he had dined in genuine solitude at his club. G.

AMPERE, N. J., January 17.

THE SENATORSHIP.

Let Mr. Shepard Himself Make Mr. Sheehan Senator.

From the Brooklyn Daily Eagle of yesterday.

State Senator Roosevelt and his merry band of solvent and unpurchasable insurgents, solidified and unseducible, declare that they have no personal feeling against Mr. Sheehan at all. Their objection is to C. F. Murphy for having forced his nomination by dictation to a nerveless caucus. They are determined to show that C. F. Murphy cannot make Mr. Sheehan Senator, though toward Mr. Sheehan they feel no anger or hatred.

Well, the insurgents have shown that C. F. Murphy, whom they resent, cannot make Mr. Sheehan Senator, whom they do not personally antagonize. What C. F. Murphy cannot do Mr. Shepard could do, make Mr. Sheehan Senator himself. As Mr. Shepard, who has no objection to himself, also has no personal objection to Mr. Sheehan, why should not he do what C. F. Murphy cannot do, make Mr. Sheehan Senator himself? That would be magnanimous and large, and the spirit of it and the size of it would be rare statesmanship and high politics. It would belittle C. F. Murphy, gratify W. F. Sheehan, and elevate E. M. Shepard to the rôle of Senator maker, in which C. F. Murphy has failed.

The deadlock would be broken, and by Mr. Shepard. The Democracy would be harmonized, and by Mr. Shepard; the State would have a Democratic Senator, and by Mr. Shepard. Mr. Shepard would be the creator and dominator of conditions which C. F. Murphy has failed to effect. Martin Van Buren, Mr. Shepard's idol, in 1820 made Rufus King United States Senator under not wholly dissimilar conditions, and earned Mr. Shepard's biographical praise and augmented Mr. Shepard's literary distinction by doing so. This would be the act of a large mind, and the failure to do it would suggest the limitation of a small mind.

Mr. Shepard made Mr. Dix the nominee for Governor. By making Mr. Sheehan the nominee for Senator he would reveal himself to be a Warwick, "a king maker, greater than the king," the power behind the throne greater than the throne, and his unselfish service to Democratic harmony would far outrank the lesser rewards others accepted out of his hand.

Mr. Shepard could not be Governor, but he made Mr. Dix the nominee. Manifestly he cannot be Senator, but he can make Mr. Sheehan Senator, and thereby he can magnify the truth, as true in politics as it is in Scripture: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Judge Parker on the Binding Power of the Caucus.

From THE EVENING SUN *of yesterday.*

Alton B. Parker was found at his law offices at 37 Wall street by a reporter this afternoon.

"Judge Parker, would you accept the United States Senatorship if offered you as a compromise candidate?" he was asked.

"I do not care to speak of a situation that will not present itself," Judge Parker answered; "nor to assume even that there can be any circumstances under which a majority would think of naming me. I made it as clear as I could, both before the election in public speeches and the day afterward in interviews, that my obligations were such that I could not accept the Senatorial office. Nothing has happened since to change my view; on the contrary, it is strengthened, if that were possible, by the duty I am now under to support in so far as I can the right of the majority to rule."

"Why did seven Assemblymen cast their votes for you yesterday?"

"The reason given was that having joined those who were unwilling to be bound by caucus they had to select some one to vote for, and they were pleased to say that I seemed to have more friends in their districts than some of the others. Two of the men I had been introduced to when speaking in their respective cities; the others I had not had the pleasure of seeing before."

"What is your opinion about the binding power of the caucus?"

"I do not pretend to have studied the question. It is my impression that the caucus direction is binding, however, until after a new caucus be called and the rule changed."

"What will Governor Dix have to say to-day in regard to the controversy?"

"I don't know of course, but shall be surprised if he changes the position of non-interference he has so steadily insisted upon."

"I do not care to talk of Mr. Sheehan," continued Judge Parker. "I said my say as to him the other day, and it was printed in THE SUN."

Excuse Bad Spelling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a rule theories are idiotic, but maybe I shall not be written down an ass if I submit the following:

The fact that I have never in my life come across such bad spellers as in this country set me thinking of a cause, and I arrived at the conclusion that this bad orthography was not necessarily the result of bad education. In fact, I believe it matter of common knowledge that spelling and ability, either literary or practical, have no connection whatever. Inability to spell, or rather to learn to spell, rests upon a physical defect. Bad spelling comes from not paying attention. Great readers are often bad spellers. A bad speller sees and reads each word as a whole, that is, as a grammalogue or thought symbol, and not as so many letters; and an educated bad speller does this very much more than a good speller. Bad spelling, in fact, is the result of eyesight, not of mind. It is not short sight so much as oversight and a difficulty of focussing the eye. Short sighted people are apt to spell well, for they hold a book close to their eyes, whereas long sighted readers see the small print as a confused mass.

How many celebrated educated people have been bad spellers? Was not the Duke of Wellington an atrocious speller? Was not Thiers, though a supremely clever man, also deficient in orthography? And there are and were others. So, ceteris paribus, my theory is not quite so bad as some of those put forward by our municipal Sherlock Holmses. ABECEDARIAN.

NEW YORK, January 18.

Old Fashioned Makers of the Old Fashioned Whiskey Cocktail.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The shameful and sinful ignorance of "Irate" in regard to an old fashioned whiskey cocktail is pitiable. If his identity is discovered he will have a lot to answer for, for the slander which appeared in THE SUN of January 17.

Dick at the Flatiron, Fred at the Victoria, Jim Gray at the Albemarle, and Jimmie Courlander and George Knight at the Weber House in Mount Vernon are a few that will make it warm for Mr. "Irate" if they ever recognize him.

If "Irate's" claims as a critic are to be credited, let him establish them by describing a muddler.

NEW YORK, January 18. ANGOSTURA.

A Quotation from "Robin Hood."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The information vouchsafed in Mr. H. S. Mott's letter in to-day's SUN might well be discredited because of the very careless and incorrect quotation from "Robin Hood." Can you not see dear old Uncle Henry as he sings:

"I never have yet made one mistake.
I'd like to, for variety's sake."

BALTIMORE, January 18. LITTLE JOHN.

The Boast of a Giganticide.

Jack the Giant Killer donned his invisible coat. "I can brag that I go around in winter without an overcoat!" he cried.

"AMERICA" AND "AMERICANS."

Do the Names Belong Rightfully to the United States and Its Inhabitants?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It has repeatedly been said by some to be presumptuous and assuming, or at least to be curious, that the people of the United States call themselves and are called by others Americans and their land America. I have been interested in the recurrence of the subject in recent letters in THE SUN. The fact that we so speak of our land and our people is unquestionable, and the further fact is undoubted that not only do Europeans and Asiatics follow our example, but all the dwellers on the American continents and their isles, without a single protest, do likewise. The reason why the land is America and the people are Americans is easy to be seen when the history of the New World is considered.

When the Americas were colonized by Europeans, these Europeans brought with them to our shores and continued here to use their olden national designations. By emigration and colonization they did not sever the political ties that bound them to their mother lands, and they did not become either in the usage of vulgar speech or in the eyes of the law new peoples. They still remained Spaniards, Portuguese, Frenchmen or Englishmen. It is also true that if by conquest or treaty cession the lands they occupied passed under the political rule of any other European people or king, or if they emigrated to colonies possessed by any other European people or king, they lost their former nationality and became members of the people under whose sway they had taken up their abode, just as the men of Louisiana, New Mexico or Hawaii became Americans, and the foreigner landing on our shores and renouncing his allegiance to his former sovereign ceases to be an Italian, Russian or Englishman and becomes an American. Not race or blood, not language, not geographical location, makes a people, but the common bond of allegiance to the same sovereign, whether king or republic.

Thus prior to 1776 there were no people in the New World who could properly call themselves Americans or their land America. The words America and Americans were until 1776 merely geographical expressions. There was no distinctive people on these continents. The colonists and their descendants were all members of one or other European people. The Indians had not, according to the views of the Europeans, risen to the political state and did not possess political rights. It is easy, then, to see why we became the Americans and our land became America. For the good and sufficient reason that we, first of the European colonists in America, became a people, and so had a right to make use of a new name to designate ourselves and to distinguish us from the people of whom we once formed a part, and for the further reason that we had to find a name that would be common to the citizens of the thirteen peoples who in 1776 declared that they assumed a place among the peoples of the earth and who in 1789 united to form a new people of a new republic. They could not call themselves Englishmen, since after 1776 they were Englishmen no longer; so also they had to call themselves by some additional name than Virginians or New Yorkers after 1789, for they were not only citizens and members of the people of Virginia or New York, but were also citizens of a new commonwealth and members of a new people. So they took the name of Americans and called their land America.

With the exception of the black republic of Hayti, whose beginnings run back to 1791, no distinctive people not part and member of some European people existed in the Americas other than ourselves until a generation had come and gone. It was in 1809 that the first revolts occurred in the Spanish lands to the south of us. Thus during this entire generation we were the only people of America, the other white men on these continents being members of the English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch or Danish peoples, just as prior to 1776 we were members of the English people. Thus naturally and properly as the eldest born people of the Americas, older by thirty odd years than any of the other American peoples with the exception of Hayti, we called ourselves and are Americans and our land America.

JOHN G. EWING.

NEW YORK, January 19.

MR. MARTINE'S LIMITATIONS.

He Would Be Grotesquely Out of Place in the Senate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a resident of Plainfield for many years and knowing Jim, or Farmer, Martine personally, I can testify that he is "honored and respected by his neighbors" as a man of kindly traits and unblemished character, but his political aspirations have been considered almost in the light of a jest even by members of his own party. Hence he has been steadily and repeatedly rejected as a candidate for minor offices.

It is not enough that a Senator shall be of the kindly disposition and unblemished character which I cheerfully accord to Mr. Martine. Even if he have not the breadth of mind which would enable him to draft a bill to be presented, the clearness of vision to present it favorably, and the fighting power to carry it through, he should still have breadth enough to be able to understand a bill presented by others, and sufficient acumen to discover its blemishes, the "nigger in the woodpile," the "joker," the "snake," &c.; but that is where, in the language of the day, he would "fall down." Felling trees, feeding chickens, cutting grass and gathering watercress on his Netherwood farm, Mr. Martine is a bright and shining light; but in the Senate of the United States he would be deplorably out of place. PATRIARCH.

PHILADELPHIA, January 19.

Territory of Northern Australia.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia has passed a bill providing for the acceptance from the State of South Australia of the territory of Northern Australia. The Commonwealth Government pledges itself to build a railway connecting Port Darwin on the north, the port of the Northern Territory, with the railway system of South Australia. It is estimated that this railway expenditure will amount to about $50,000,000. This Northern Territory has 523,620 square miles, or about one-sixth of the total area of Australia. Except for the small settlement at Port Darwin it has scarcely any white population, most of it being an empty wilderness, the total population of the territory being estimated at 2,967 people, of whom two-thirds are Asiatics.

It is anticipated, however, that the building of the transcontinental railway will open up the country and lead to development of its resources. The phenomenal rise in the price of rubber has recently drawn much attention to the Northern Territory as a field for rubber plantations. The only drawback is the fear of white ants, which in this territory are a terrible scourge. On the Roper River, however, an indigenous gutta percha tree is found which is impervious to white ants. There is also a vine which produces a coagulating juice of a quality similar to the gutta percha tree. Specimens have been sent to England and have been favorably reported on. Several kinds of rubber trees have been successfully cultivated at the Botanic Gardens at Port Darwin.

The buffalo industry is an important one for the territory and promises to increase in importance, as buffalo hides are becoming in great demand in conjunction with rubber in the manufacture of tires and belts for machinery. The yearly exportation of buffalo hides from Port Darwin is about 5,000. These animals run wild, but are easily domesticated. A company has been formed in England to raise buffalo, can the meat, make bovril, and tan the hides.

Another industry offering some promise is freezing and canning turtles, the coast line swarming with turtles, frequently of immense size. Considerable trepang fishing is done by Malays along the coast. Port Darwin depends chiefly for its prosperity on pearling, chiefly conducted by Japanese. It is possible that considerable mineral wealth exists in the interior which may be opened up by the new railway. At Port Darwin there is a cable station, and from here there is a telegraph line through the wilderness all the way to Adelaide, in South Australia. It is likely that the new railroad will follow the telegraph line a large part of the way. It will also likely connect with the railroad system of Queensland.

THE DUTY OF WOMAN.

An Explanation of Social and Political Aberrancy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What are women in the world for anyway? Answer: For important work and necessary, that men cannot do, that is, child bearing and motherhood. Nothing, no mission or cause, can equal it in importance to this generation or those to come.

The child left to the care of a competent nurse (are there any such?) is not well brought up, is not being moulded into the makings of a good father or mother to guard and train the following generation, and the race is going to deteriorate.

The boy whose mother is a hysterical club member or a lay figure on which to hang extravagant clothes is not going to have much of a desire for a home of his own or much respect for some one else's daughter. The daughter whose mother has no household duties to share with her, whose idea of education is a superficial acquaintance with some "ologies," with which she romped through college or a fashionable finishing school, and who cannot mend the simplest garment acceptably or cook an eatable meal, is not competent to make some one else's son a good wife or to arouse in him a loyalty to her or their home or to their marriage relation.

It is generally conceded that the social evil and divorce are undesirable and deplorable, and investigations and statistics are published about them and earnest people lay plans to curtail them, while all the time they overlook one cause of the trouble, the other one, the woman's club and suffrage fever, specious, malignant, insidious and fatal to the home and all that word means for the good of the world.

There may not seem at first glance to be any immediate connection between the woman's club and woman's suffrage, but the relation exists in the fact that the well to do women who make up the membership of most of those clubs and the so-called patriotic societies are the ones who are shouting most loudly for the vote, the good mother and housewife being on the contrary too busy doing the work for which she was created to join the hysterical clamoring.

She knows that the franchise carries with it duties and responsibilities which would interfere with her life work. She is not fitted to fight in wars, which with her vote she may have helped to precipitate; nor is officeholding compatible with child bearing.

In looking for the causes which have brought the woman's movement to its present status we find as the first and most potent factor a superabundance of females in the world, so many more than males that there are not husbands enough to go around, and many being thus deprived of the opportunity for the work nature intended them to do take up occupations that from the point of view of the future good of the race are undesirable.

To begin to mend matters, ab initio, prospective parents and physicians should endeavor to curtail the producing of females. Indeed, it would solve many of the vexing social problems of the day if there were none at all born for a few years, and after that only enough to supply the world's need of mothers.

FLORA C. S. HAZARD.

NEW YORK, January 19.

A WORD FOR THE RETAILER.

In the Grocery Business He Has a Hard Time Making a Living.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As to the responsibility of the retailer for high prices, if any one thinks that making money in the retail business is easy let him try it once. I am familiar with the grocery trade and know that any success beyond a bare living is but seldom attained, and then only by the most economical methods joined with business skill.

It costs the average grocer about 15 per cent. of money taken in for his expenses, and out of the remainder he has to pay for his goods and make a living profit if he can. I have in mind the "corner grocer" who takes in $100 a day. He has to start off early in the morning to buy his market supplies, and he returns to his store at about 7 o'clock. Then he unloads and puts his horse in the stable and hitches up another horse to his delivery wagon.

Concerning the cost and bother of making deliveries let me tell a story. I overheard a grocer talking over the phone: "Yes, this is Meyer; yes, ma'am. Is that all you want? Will it do if I send it about 5 o'clock this afternoon? My wagon will be making deliveries in your neighborhood at that time. Oh, you must have it at once? All right; I'll send the boy as soon as he comes in."

I asked what the lady had ordered. "She wanted a package of yeast," said Meyer, "and I have already made two deliveries to her house to-day. I must send the boy with this yeast, although my profit on it is less than a cent. I cannot afford to lose the lady's custom."

In the old days in New York people went to market carrying baskets in which they brought home their purchases. This custom enabled the retailer to sell 5 per cent. cheaper than he does to-day, when he must deliver all orders. A. S. KIRKMAN.

BROOKLYN, January 19.

The Late Joseph P. Beach.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Southern newspapers have expressed in a spirit similar to that of New England journals their appreciation of the character of Joseph P. Beach. Joseph P. Beach was a son of Moses Yale Beach, who acquired the early SUN about five years after its establishment in 1833 by Benjamin H. Day. Mr. Beach made it a metropolitan newspaper. In this enterprise his sons were associated with him.

After the Beaches had sold the paper to Charles A. Dana in 1867, Joseph Beach removed his family to Cheshire, Conn., which had been his home ever since. He was a man of broad and unostentatious charity, and lived a quiet, simple life, never, however, losing interest in literary pursuits. He devoted more than forty years to genealogical research concerning his own and other New England families. He also gave much time to scientific work, and at the time of his death had completed the compilation of a history of the Connecticut township of Cheshire. Although over 80 years old his brain was to the last as clear as a bell. He was a pleasant man to meet; a vein of humor ran through all he said, making him always interesting. He was broadly benevolent. The educational expenses of many successful professional men were paid by him, the beneficiary often not even knowing the name of his benefactor until later years. He was a true and loyal friend.

To the old newspaper men of New York the name of Joseph P. Beach spells energy and progress, two attributes which continued with him till the day of his death. Who of that period does not remember the pigeon coop on the top of the old SUN building at Fulton and Nassau streets? Every outgoing vessel carried several carrier pigeons, which were turned loose on the return voyage as soon as land was sighted, with European news copy in their keeping. Perhaps the carriers did not bring the news as fast as the wireless does now, but they were equally sure, as they always returned to their home on top of the old SUN building and their friends "the Beach boys."

NEW YORK, January 19. J. L. J.

The "Barefooted Gazette."

From the London Chronicle.

The carrying of firearms by burglars has been deprecated in *Bosiatska Gazeta*, which apparently is the only newspaper to represent the views of the thieving fraternity. The first number of the *Barefooted Gazette* made its appearance in Moscow on July 1, 1908. At first it was regarded as a comic weekly, and the authorities paid no attention to it; but they soon discovered that it was the official organ of Russian thieves. Every week accounts of the latest burglaries and thefts were given, followed by comments in which mistakes that led to discovery and capture were criticised, and various points of the technique of thieving were discussed. The editor often pointed out the folly of carrying revolvers when pursuing the peaceful profession of burglary, and advised his readers to avoid bloodshed whenever possible. For some time the police were baffled in their attempts to find the publisher of this remarkable journal, but at length they succeeded, and the *Gazette* ceased to appear.