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Reciprocity—All or Nothing.

The reciprocal trade agreement drafted by representatives of the United States and representatives of the Dominion Government must be accepted or rejected as it stands. It is not open to amendment by articles or by schedules. It cannot be revised "piecemeal" or otherwise. Those who want free lumber and protected (?) wheat must strike a balance between their desires, as must those who want protected lumber and free wheat. Those in whose hands the fate of the proposed agreement now rests must weigh local interests against national interests. There is little or no opening for log rolling or for vote trading. The issue presented must be squarely met.

Many bills proposing a similar reduction in our tariff schedules have been introduced in the House by individual Congressmen. The submission of such a plan by the Administration with a message urging its early approval is an exhibition of remarkable political courage. Mr. TAFT and Mr. KNOX were entirely familiar with the reception and the fate of similar proposals introduced by members of the national legislature. They knew the opposition that such a sweeping measure must encounter, the antagonism inevitably to be aroused. They are convinced of the wisdom of the proposed relations, of the great benefit and the exceedingly limited injury that would follow.

The mistake in the proceedings, if mistake has been made, seems to be the failure to prepare the public mind, by a prolonged campaign of information, for the reception of a plan which to many probably seems little short of revolutionary. The President and his assistants in the enterprise may be well informed regarding the certain and the probable results of the proposed changes, but Americans in general are not. It would be better for the people and for the bill if the facts were more widely known. Some of those facts THE SUN has already given to its readers.

Music and Royalties.

Those enthusiastic admirers of music who cannot eat happily without the accompaniment of such melodious strains as the so-called "meditation" from "Thaïs" or the barcarole from "Les Contes d'Hoffmann" may be resigned to abandoning that obbligato if the price of the table d'hôte is to be raised more or less for the sake of the musical privileges. That may happen if the society that looks after the rights of French composers is able to carry out its plans for their protection.

A representative of that organization in this country proposes to exact a royalty on the performances of all modern French composers protected by the present copyright law. This tax is to be levied on all orchestral and operatic works as well as on all songs or symphonic compositions that figure on any public programmes. Whether or not the agents of the society intend to pursue the amateur into his retreat and tax him for playing or singing what he may have purchased has not been made clear as yet, but the intention to tax all music performed in public had been very definitely expressed.

Probably a royalty of 10 per cent. or less on the receipts of all the concerts given in Mendelssohn Hall during a season would not enrich the composers or publishers to any considerable degree, but the sum demanded from every composer, however small, might be likely to deter the concert givers from putting such numbers on their programmes. This would undoubtedly be the effect if the agent of the society also demanded a royalty from the orchestras that produced symphonic works. There is not an orchestral body in the United States, if one be excepted, that is not dependent on a subsidy. No symphonic orchestra, in other words, pays its way. If to its other burdens there were added the necessity to pay royalties on new music, these numbers would soon disappear from its programmes. One excellent reason for such a course is the comparative indifference of the public to these newer composers. What may really be said to "draw" in the repertory of a symphony orchestra is the musical classics. No symphonies, for instance, interest the public so much as certain of BEETHOVEN'S.

So there is little probability that this new measure will result in any permanent advantage to the French composers whom it is intended to benefit. There is not sufficient power in their music to permit such exactions. The same is equally true of the modern German composers. Their works would also disappear with the same promptness were they to become as expensive as a royalty would make them. None of the modern schools would be accounted by the conductors or the performers of sufficient importance to make them worth the payment of a share of the receipts of the concert.

The Société des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Editeurs de Musique believes that its members should participate in the profits of all concerts at which their works are performed. There is plenty of justice in this claim. On the other hand, there are few symphonic concerts at which there is any profit. Direct compensation goes of course to those that participate, but that eventually comes out of the pockets of the philanthropists who make the concerts possible. The society naturally believes that composers should benefit from the same source. It would be difficult, however, to persuade conductors to take this view of the situation. The attempt to force the collection of a royalty on all French compositions performed in New York would only serve to eliminate them from the programmes. It is usually regarded as a distinction to the composers to place their names on a programme without paying them in addition a royalty for producing their works.

Genuine Economy in the House of Representatives.

This extract from the *Congressional Record* of January 24, 1911, is better worth reading than it may look to persons not accustomed to the perusal of that sterling sheet:

"The Clerk read as follows:

"'Page 30, line 18, after the word "substation," insert:

"'"And provided further, That on and after July 1, 1911, letter carriers of the Rural Delivery Service shall receive a salary not exceeding $1,000 per annum."'

"The Chairman—The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

"The question was taken, and the amendment was agreed to.

"Mr. WEEKS—Mr. Chairman, I offer the following amendment which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

"The Clerk read as follows:

"'Lines 15 and 16, page 30, strike out the words "thirty-eight million seven hundred and ninety thousand" and insert "forty-two million seven hundred and ninety thousand."'

"The Chairman—The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

"The question was taken, and the amendment was agreed to."

Four millions in a minute; the rural carrier is worthy of having his hire raised as often as Congress gets a chance. He started with $150 in 1896; raised to $300 in 1897, to $400 in 1898, to $500 in 1901, to $600 in 1904, to $720 in 1907, to $900 in 1909. Let the good work go on. Why not? The voice of Mr. CULLOP (HANNIBAL CHOLLOP?) of Indiana and many other statesmen is raised for economy:

"I am an advocate of economy and thoroughly believe it should be scrupulously practised in all public service, but it is not wise to cripple public service by parsimony and discrimination against any class of public servants or any class of people."

Except, perhaps, United States Judges. Besides, consider what the rural carrier has done for our institutions. Mr. COX, likewise of Indiana, has the floor:

"The rural route service has done more to develop this country than any other service ever inaugurated by the Government. It has annihilated distance, brought the country and the great cities, the centres of trade and commerce, in close touch with each other. It has disseminated knowledge and information throughout the land. It keeps in touch the great bodies of consumers and producers living in cities and the country. In short, the rural route service is a schoolhouse on wheels, and this class of men, through storm and sunshine, heat and cold, braving the elements of peril and danger, continue their ever increasing labor, conveying this information throughout the land, and for myself, I willingly vote for this small increase of salary. The carriers in cities, with no expense whatever and working much shorter hours, receive salaries from $900 to $1,200 per year. Why not recognize the modest demand for this small increase, and let them have it?"

What is a beggarly $4,000,000 among friends of the farmer?

Terra Australis.

Geographical ghosts are hard to lay, and modern science has a trick of showing that after all the myths had some justification. Thus the venerable father of history, HERODOTUS of Halicarnassus, was dubbed by sceptics the father of lies because, with other picturesque information that he collected, he stated that the Nile arose from four lakes among the Mountains of the Moon. Even after the lakes had been discovered scoffers would not believe in the Moon mountains, they even doubted STANLEY'S assertions about Ruwenzori; but now these mountains at the head waters of the Nile are frequented by scientific explorers and mountain climbing royal dukes.

The most brilliant and thorough confutation of a geographical myth was made by Captain JAMES COOK in his search for the Terra Australis. Geographers for centuries contended that there must be a southern continent large enough to counterbalance on the globe the mass of land found in the northern hemisphere. One of the main tasks imposed on COOK when he made his great voyages was to discover and to define the limits of that continent. He sailed all over the places where it should have been. First he cut down the proportions of what we call Australia by sailing around it on the south, by showing that New Zealand was not attached to it, and later sailing clear up the east coast and through the northern straits. Having reduced Australia to a big island, he made the most gallant voyage on record, circumnavigating the globe close to the Antarctic circle with a cranky ship, in no way prepared for meeting the ice, butting southward whenever the ice would let him, and reaching points that have not been attained again. He found no land, and demonstrated indisputably that the Terra Australis, if it existed at all, must be of comparatively small area and could be of little use to man.

Later explorers have touched some of the boundaries of that land, and others are preparing to explore until its limits are defined. Now comes Mr. RAYMOND PRIESTLEY, the Australasian geologist, who accompanied Sir ERNEST SHACKLETON'S polar expedition and has joined Captain SCOTT in his new endeavor to reach the south pole, with proof that after all the polar continent and Australia were joined at one time, and that, geologically, there was once a Terra Australis. It seems that when with the Shackleton expedition he picked a small piece of rock from a glacier. This proved to be Cambrian limestone, identical with a like formation found in South Australia. Both rocks contain the same kind of fossils. This, to geologists, is proof that Australia and Antarctica were united in a not distant past, as geologists reckon time. It is remarkable that though the Challenger and other deep sea sounding expeditions have passed through the intervening waters no noticeable submarine connection has been observed so far. But depths of two to three thousand meters probably count as little in geology as do so many centuries.

A Philippine Cottage Industry.

In spite of the high regard in which the products of the Filipino hat makers' art are held in Europe, the never fully satisfied demand for the hats, and the fact that the materials from which they are made are widely distributed throughout the islands, the practice of the industry has been curiously concentrated. According to investigators who have studied the subject this concentration "can only be accounted for by a certain immobility and a certain indifference to the introduction of anything new and unfamiliar, and is perhaps one of the greatest difficulties that must be met in spreading the household industries over the Philippines and in improving the methods in vogue." To overcome this indifference and spread throughout the islands a cottage industry that now employs thousands of persons in the fabrication of hats, mats, textiles and embroideries, and is capable of supporting thousands more, is one object of the director of the public schools, in which the weaving is taught.

The industry is carried on under a system resembling very closely that followed in England and on the Continent of Europe in the eighteenth century before the general introduction of machinery. The market for hats is never oversupplied. In the islands themselves, here and in Europe demand regularly exceeds supply. In some instances the concentration of the industry is traceable to proximity to sources of the raw material, as in the cases of the making of cloth from abaka in Albay, Batangas, and Iloilo, of bamboo hats in Baliwag, and of sabutan hats in Laguna. But HUGO H. MILLER of the Philippine School of Commerce, in an interesting monograph published as a bulletin of the bureau of education, points out that:

"The growth of raw material will hardly account for the fact that the making of hats from the midrib of the unopened buri palm leaf, carried on in the town of Kalasiao in Pangasinan and Pototan and neighboring towns in Iloilo, and the weaving of buntal hats in Lukban and adjacent towns of Tayabas and Laguna from fibre obtained from the leaf stem of the buri palm, is practically limited to those towns only, although the buri palm occurs in as great and even greater numbers in other localities throughout the archipelago.

"Nor will it account for Albay being almost alone in the manufacture of pinolpog from beaten abaka, Iloilo in that of flowered sinamay, and Batangas and Rizal in that of certain kinds of jusi. This concentration can perhaps be best seen in the town of Kalasiao, where the raw hat materials come from other towns some distance away, and where, although the buri palm grows in abundance throughout Pangasinan, the industry has spread but little to any of the surrounding towns, not even to Dagupan, of which Kalasiao is geographically almost a part."

Already the schools have introduced a new industry into Mahayhay, Laguna. For years pandan hats were woven there. In 1904 a woman was brought from Lukban to teach the weaving of buntal hats. After a period of discouragement a class of twelve girls was formed, one of whom eventually succeeded her teacher in the capacity of instructor. Soon the women of the town became interested, and now buntal hats are an article of export from Mahayhay. Later buri hat making was introduced in the same way and with equal success.

Leaving out of consideration such peculiar hats as those of the Igorots, the sun hats of the Batan islanders, and the headgear of certain wild tribes, Mr. MILLER says that there are two classes of commercial hats in the islands, the salakots or stiff hats worn by agriculturists and laborers for protection from sun and rain, and the blocked hats. Salakots are made in nearly every town, and the trade in them is almost exclusively local. They are made from leaves of anáhao and nipa, and sheaths found over the nodes of certain bamboos. Paper and cloth are used in the construction of some of them, as are layers of bamboo. Salakots are losing their popularity and being replaced by woven hats. Formerly the well to do and official classes wore them, and many were ornamented with silver. Such hats are not made now, and the decorated survivors of the days of their popularity are much sought as curios. Most of these stiff hats are round like a mushroom, but there is wide latitude for individual taste, and some highly fantastic shapes are evolved. Mr. MILLER gives two photographs of salakots that are decorated in good taste and show the great skill of their makers.

The woven hats are made from many materials. Mr. MILLER uses the word "straw" to describe the prepared strips of grass midrib or leaf used in making hats. The buntal is pulled from the stems of the buri palm, and is the simplest to obtain. The bamboo must undergo a complex process to yield straw, yet it is not difficult to obtain. Mr. MILLER describes the process by which the straw is obtained:

"The preliminary work in the manufacture of bamboo straw is done by the men. The bamboo after being felled is allowed to wither in the shade for from three to five days, and is cut up into sections at the node with a bolo. The nodes are trimmed off. Since the sections toward the bottom would produce too short material and those at the top too weak straw, the middle section only (from ten to twenty in number) can be used for the purpose. Each section is split into three or more pieces lengthwise, and the inner part is split away with a short, sharp, stubby knife until there remains but about one-eighth of the original thickness, including the green outer skin. The material split away cannot be used, since the straw obtained from it would be too coarse and weak. The stripper must be expert enough to know when he has obtained the proper thickness.

"The remaining strip of bamboo is flattened by placing one end on a bench and forcing the rest down flat so as to remove the curve. The stripper then cuts two lines across near the top, one deeper than the other, but not through the material, and pries and pulls the bamboo into three layers (lapat), each of which can be again reduced to thinner layers in the same manner, so that from four to ten layers, besides the green outer skin (balat), can be obtained, though the usual number is five or six and it is very seldom that more than eight are produced. The layers are then boiled in water for about half an hour and bleached in the sun, a strengthening and whitening process.

"The bamboo layers are divided into grades according to their distance from the green outer skin. While the green skin itself is useless and is thrown away, the layers next to it produce the best material, it being of a dark straw color and of the strongest and finest texture. As the layers occur further away from the skin they become lighter in color, of less strength and coarser in texture. The finer hats are therefore produced from the first few layers, those from No. 5 on being used for coarser hats only. The very finest hats are usually produced from layers Nos. 1 and 2."

The buri palm is one of the most valuable products of the Philippines. From the blades of the unopened leaf are derived rope, raffia, cloth, fancy articles and string, hats, mats, baskets and bayones. From the midrib of the unopened leaf Kalasiao or Pototan hats are made, as well as rope. The opened leaf yields roofing and walls for houses, covering for tobacco bales, fans and brooms, buntal straw and hats and rope. The sap produces tubá, syrup, vinegar, alcohol and palm sugar. The kernel of the young fruit is edible, and from old kernels buttons and rosary beads are made. The trunk gives starch and wood for fences, and the bark is adaptable for the soles of sandals. Buri straw, Kalasiao straw and buntal straw are very important in hat making.

Each district has its characteristic styles of weaving. The Kalasiao hat resembles the Panama hat, and is the dress head covering in Manila. It is expensive, and it is not expected that it will ever be an important article of export.

Hats made from rattan are called by the natives bejuco or hay hats. They are made in the same districts with the bamboo hats. They are beautiful and durable, but expensive. There are thirty different pandans in the Philippines from which straw is derived. The most used is the common pandan and the sabutan. The sabutan hats are extremely durable and the most costly made in the island, grade for grade. Another plant used for hat straw is the tikug, a long, smooth, slender, jointless grass, soft and pliable when properly treated. Nito, a long brown or black fern stem, is employed at times, though its principal use is for ornament.

Mr. MILLER names a number of other vegetables from which head coverings are made, but they are of slight commercial importance. His review of the industry seems to be adequate, and the possibilities of its extension obvious. The photographs he gives of hats show fine and regular weaves and well shaped crowns and brims. Of 621,000 hats exported from the Philippines in 1910 189,000 came to this country, and the number imported here should increase steadily if they are as good as they look.

La Mañana, the Ministerial organ, commenting upon the effort to raise the wreck of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor, recommends that the Government ask the United States to forward to Madrid an official report of the investigation.—*Despatch from Madrid.*

All in good time. The coffer dam will not be completed for several months, and it is not definitely known whether the hull can be floated. The investigation *La Mañana* refers to is still remote, but it may rest assured that any report relating to the work the Spanish Government will receive in due course.

The Grecian Bend.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I enclose tracings from silhouettes of the original Grecian bend girls. W. D. E.

NEW YORK, January 28.

Upon the Rialto.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reply to the question as to the reason of a certain part of Broadway being called the Rialto, it may be accepted as fact that the origin is Shakespearian. In the old stock days, when each individual studied and knew by heart a line of parts in the orthodox plays, it was the habit to quote from those same plays even in ordinary conversation, and the most usual greeting between actors was: "What news on the Rialto?"—from "The Merchant of Venice." And that part of Broadway termed the Rialto being the meeting place of actor folk it has apparently for this reason come by that name.

BOSTON, January 28. W. H. DENNY.

Film Drama for 108,000,000 Russians.

Cinematograph theatres are tremendously popular in Russia. Almost every village has one. Moscow and St. Petersburg have about eighty each. For the empire the number is estimated at 1,200, with an aggregate attendance last year of 108,000,000. At the average admission of 20 cents $21,600,000 was taken in. Admission charges range from 5 to 67 cents. Many houses entertain 1,000 a night. On Sundays and holidays the crowds are enormous. The pictures shown are largely educational and do much good, especially as so large a proportion of Russia's population is illiterate.

CHIPS OF OLD WORLD POLITICS.

"Trialism" for Austria-Hungary.

The failing health of the Emperor Francis Joseph concentrates attention more and more upon the character and ideals of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, who is to succeed him. The elementary view is that he is a reactionary by temperament and that in his reign Vatican influences and absolutism will control the politics of Vienna. This expectation, it is said, is the cause of the coldness with which the Hungarians regard him notwithstanding his Magyar wife.

Of late the Archduke has been credited with a large scheme of statecraft which seems likely to increase his unpopularity, while its intrinsic merits are at least open to doubt. This is nothing less than the erection of a great Slav State in his dominions as a counterpoise to the two which already exist, in other words to make a "trial" or triple instead of a dual State.

The territory from which the third State would be organized embraces the present provinces of Croatia, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Carinthia, Istria and the Adriatic littoral. As a compensation for the detachment of the southern Slavic provinces from Hungary, Bukowina and part of Galicia would be ceded to her on the northeast. A very pretty map can be traced showing the new grouping. It is also easy to see some political advantages to the dual or "trial" monarch, who would be able to play two of his States against a troublesome third in a great variety of combinations. But it may prove more than difficult to get the people involved to consent.

The Hungarians will be likely to make strenuous objection to having the great Polish problem of Galicia injected into their politics. The Mussulman element in the "Annexed Provinces" may equally object to being tied up with the Croatians, with whom they have already clashed politically. Their ideal is the creation and maintenance of Bosnian autonomy, and this sentiment remains so strong that there are those who doubt the wisdom of creating a Slav State in close proximity to the Balkans. Some day the Serb spirit might assert itself with disastrous consequences to the empire.

Anyway, all Europe expects busy times when Francis Ferdinand comes to the throne. In the meantime his representation of his uncle, the Emperor, seems to be more a matter of parade than politics. The old monarch, despite his 80 years, looks out for matters of real import himself. Thus it was he who handled the recent Austrian Cabinet crisis. As was forecast, he invited Baron von Bienerth, the Premier who resigned, to form a new Ministry.

The reconstructed Cabinet includes a German Finance Minister, a Czech Minister of Public Works, a Polish Minister of Railways, German Ministers of the Interior and Agriculture, and a special representative of Polish interests. This is a strong combination, but it is by no means certain that it can command the support of the Polish faction when the Austrian Diet reassembles and the old question of the costly canal system for Galicia, voted in 1901 but never begun, comes up again.

State Railways in France.

The administration of the State owned railways of the west in France has long been a scandal. Passenger trains are run on go as you please schedules, and freight trains cannot be said to run at all. All sorts of commodities are held up whole weeks in transit, and foodstuffs and other perishable goods rot in the cars. Claims for damages are piling up and in fact they can never be paid.

Explanations by the Government are that the delays are due to the limited number of tracks, inadequate rolling stock and antiquated methods. The remedies proposed are increasing the trackage, rebuilding the stations, and introducing electricity as a motive power for suburban services.

Estimates officially prepared place the cost of these improvements at about 500,000,000 francs or $100,000,000. The cost staggers the French people. The national balance sheet shows a deficit every year. Loans have to be made for current expenses, and there are all sorts of expensive schemes, improvement of the ports, of the waterways, of roads, of agriculture, of schools, calling for special funds.

Some of the newspapers are saying that the State owned railways are the costliest of all the country's experiments, and by far the least successful.

Prussian Finance and Legislation.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg made a very rose colored speech at the opening of the Prussian Diet in the early part of this month. He dwelt on the improvement in Prussian finances. Unfortunately the improvement does not promise to wipe out the deficit. The new Finance Minister, Dr. Lentze, estimates the shortage for the coming financial year at about 29,000,000 marks, or $7,250,000.

The total revenues and expenditures are estimated in the budget at about $1,021,328,000, an increase of about $38,395,000 over the preceding year.

In the legislative programme outlined the most notable suggestion is the proposed creation of a "Greater Berlin." The idea is to form a "union" for the local autonomous administration of railways and public constructions, and the upkeep of the girdle of forests and "prairie lands" around the city. Projects for the encouragement of internal colonization, reclamation of marsh lands and the moral and physical development of the young in the period succeeding school age are also to be embodied in bills in the Diet.

Not a word was said in the speech from the throne about the sore question of franchise reform.

British Budget Fag End.

Great Britain has been surprised in the last ten days by the announcement that the budget of 1910-11 has not yet been settled, despite the passage of a finance bill before the close of the last Parliament. It appears that that bill originally embodied a complete budget, but in order to rush its enactment the Government dropped out five clauses. The measure as adopted simply provides for the collection of the tea duty and the income tax, and provides that the fixed debt charge of the year shall be $24,500,000.

Parliament will have to dispose of a supplementary bill before the end of the fiscal year on March 31, and the two together will make up the budget. Four of the five clauses cut out of the first bill covered details of the apportionment of excise duties between the Government and the local authorities. The remaining clause has to do with the sinking fund. It appears the amount due to this account in 1909-10 was £2,890,000, or about $14,450,000, that being the surplus for the year. Instead of setting it aside the Government proposes in the supplementary finance bill to pool the sinking funds for 1909-10 and the current year, a proposal which the Opposition papers say is equivalent to wiping out the sinking fund for the former year and making the £2,890,000 available at once for current expenditures.

The Government has given assurances that the new finance bill will carry no new scheme of taxation.

Greco-Bulgarian Approaches.

There is a mild scare in Constantinople over a report that the Governments of Athens and Sofia are on the point of forming an alliance. In fact, there seems to be an understanding in Europe that they are on friendlier terms than of old. Of course such a condition would be most unwelcome to Turkey, as it would create the possibility of 300,000 to 400,000 soldiers being arrayed against her on two frontiers in case of trouble.

Somewhat naively, the Turkish papers are pointing out that such a coalition would be very bad politics, as one of Turkey's greatest dangers is the conflict between Bulgarians and Greeks in Macedonia. If the Macedonian bands were abolished by amity between the two races, all danger of European interference in Turkish affairs would be at an end, they argue.

This makes the cynical smile, and some of them point out that an offensive and defensive alliance between the two kingdoms for protection against Turkish aggression might not involve peace in Macedonia by any means. The aims of the Governments are purely political. The Macedonian struggle is almost wholly religious. It grows out of the hatred between the adherents of the Greek Patriarchate, virtually Roman Catholics, and those of the Bulgarian Exarchate, who are of the Greek "schismatic" church.

Thus, while the two Governments might be quite ready to fight Turkey together if occasion arose, the merry work of burning villages and slaughtering peasants of different faith, all in Turkish territory, might go on unchecked.

WOMEN'S CLUBS.

Their Achievements for Civic and Social Betterment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am not in the habit of bursting into print, not having the facile pen of many of my sex, but I feel that I must express an opinion even though it may never meet the eye of the person for whom it is intended. I am not writing in reference to woman's suffrage, but to assert my unqualified disapproval of a statement by Martha McCulloch-Williams in which she says, speaking of woman's clubs:

They may have their uses; I have never discovered them, not being given to microscopic research.

I have the honor of being a member of a large woman's club in a suburban town of 32,000 inhabitants not far from New York. If Mrs. Williams will honor me with her address I would like to present her with a copy of the annual school report of this town, in which the various ways in which the woman's club has materially helped the schools and school children are noted and mentioned with appreciation. For instance, by the efforts of the art section of this club in conjunction with the aid of the children of the schools and the board of education an art exhibit was held which over 1,100 people attended and whereby a copy of a famous masterpiece was placed in each of the 125 rooms of the schools of the city, also pictures and casts in the assembly rooms. Another mention is made in this report of the establishing of children's playgrounds through the woman's club; again, mention is made of the "library talks" for children by the same women who were instrumental in securing the library for the city. Strange, isn't it, that club women are interested in children, that they should give young people's concerts at nominal prices, giving rich and poor alike the opportunity of hearing good music; that they should do so many things for the best interests of the community that I cannot possibly enumerate them? Strange, is it not, that there are other women's organizations in this town also doing splendid work in more ways than one?

Of course the woman who is working for the civic interests of the community in which she lives merely does this sort of thing for the sake of being conspicuous and original. She desires above all to see her name in the paper, et cetera. What a pity, and what a blow to her self-conceit it must be when she happens to remember that there are thousands of women just like her working out civic and social problems, seeking the conservation of the child and the woman as well as the preservation of forests and inanimate things; thousands of women in the 1,000 clubs of the General Federation of Women's Clubs whose platform is "the care of women and children and the home, the latter meaning the four walls of the city, as well as the four walls of brick and mortar."

Even the Federation of New York City, marvellous as it may appear to the non-microscopic eye of Mrs. McCulloch-Williams, supports two scholarships for girls and other philanthropic enterprises. I am not so well informed of their politics as Mrs. McCulloch-Williams seems to be, but know that one of the present candidates is above reproach. As for the politics of the larger federations, they are conducted with dignity and a regard for the constitution of the assembly with no perceptible "hysteria"; at least I have never beheld any manifestations of the disease, and would like to know of what it really consists.

If Mrs. McCulloch-Williams will read the last report of the convention of the General Federation of Clubs held at Cincinnati last May, which fills a book of 500 pages of achievements and possibilities of further achievements, and then apply a microscope to her own soul, she might find in it a small germ containing the elements of sympathy and tolerance, which with careful cultivation might develop into a great and glowing belief in the efforts of her sex to "widen, deepen and sweeten" the lives of others as well as themselves.

MABEL P. JOHNSON.

MOUNT VERNON, January 28.

The Profession of Woman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If any meaning can be gleaned from Martha McCulloch-Williams's rather incoherent statements on the status of woman at various periods in the world's history, it is that the degradation of woman was essential to the advancement of civilization. She writes:

To my purblindness it seems women have shown a talent for losing out rather than holding their own. Further, I hold that in such losing out was the real beginning of civilization.

If there is any truth in the law of equal inheritance, degradation of either parent would have an equally degrading effect on the offspring. If children inherit qualities alike from the father and the mother, how can it benefit the race if the son inherit from the mother qualities that a man would despise in himself and deplore in his son?

The law and the prophets of the suffragists' propaganda are the education and the development of women, not to rival men, not to antagonize men, but to be the responsible and congenial companions of men, the competent mothers of twentieth century sons.

Sixty years ago Sydney Smith said that he could not see why a woman 40 years of age should be content with the same education as a boy of 11. Though anti-suffragists find much that is mean, petty and unintelligent in women, even they must admit that woman has travelled fast and far since Sydney Smith gave them that excellent tip.

If the "profession of being a woman" means anything else than capitalization of sex, it would be interesting to know what.

Mrs. Williams believes suffrage is a privilege and not a right. Suffragists don't care whether it is a right or a privilege, so long as the right or privilege is not restricted according to sex. Mrs. Williams also believes that if her own creed were fully operative to-morrow the millennium would not begin the day after. Suffragists ask for this tolerant and common sense view of the States that have equal suffrage.

SARA MCPIKE.

Yonkers Woman Suffrage Association.

YONKERS, January 27.

Brigands and Highwaymen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reading the account of the vote selling scandals in Ohio and Illinois we are reminded that the women of New Jersey were disfranchised by legislative enactment in 1807 and by constitutional amendment in 1844, both illegal and unconstitutional, the alleged reason being their "susceptibility to bribery." In Ohio the guilty parties only have been fined and disfranchised for five years, whereas in New Jersey not one woman was tried or convicted, but the whole sex disfranchised for all time, and under a Federal Constitution that guarantees equal, just and impartial laws for all citizens. Such lawmakers are on a par with brigands and highwaymen, and it is such illegal, unjust and discriminatory acts on the part of the governing class that makes revolutionists of all right thinking men and women.

HARRIETTE M. JOHNSTON-WOOD.

NEW YORK, January 28.

Can This Be a Sure Enough Sociological Fact?

From a chapter on "Home Life" in "Social and Mental Traits of the Negro," by H. W. Odum, Ph. D.

The father and mother are often against each other, and loud is their war of words, sometimes fighting. The children are witnesses to this quarrelling and fighting. Sometimes the children are hostile to either mother or father or both. The relation between the younger and elder children is not one of harmony, nor are the general relations between the older children and parents better. The parents in turn are reckless and severe in their abuse and punishment of the children. Such phrases as "I'll skin you alive," "I'll beat the life out o' you," "I'll wear you into er frazzle," "I sholy am gwine kill you," are everyday expressions.

Most Generous Theatregoers.

From La Suisse.

French musicians have protested against the too frequent production in France of foreign works—Wagner, Viennese operettas, Puccini. The Italians have brought about the removal of "Pelléas et Mélisande" and "Louise" from the programme of the Rome exhibition of 1911. The Germans, most eclectic of theatregoers, applauded last week at least twenty-five French pieces at Berlin, Leipsic and Dresden.

"BULLS."

The Famous Irish Taurine Genius Found in Other Languages.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Sir Richard Steele explained why his countrymen made bulls: "'Tis the effect of climate, sir. If an Englishman were born in Ireland he would make as many," said he. It is not every one who knows a bull when he sees her. It may be no bull, but merely a blunder—a bêtise, as the French have it. To make sure that we have the true criterion let us first set down a few of the genuine, orthodox Irish kind:

He built the wall wider than it was high, so that when it fell down it should be higher than it was wide.

Two weary and footsore Irishmen come to a milestone: ten miles to Dublin. "Arrah," says one, "'tis but five miles apiece."

Disputing of the date of St. Patrick's birthday: "He couldn't have had two unless he was twins."

The Irish sailor reported that in Philadelphia they copper bottomed the tops of the houses with sheet lead.

Give me the loan of a hatchet to saw an empty barrel of flour in two to make the dog a pigpen.

His estate is divided by impenetrable furze ditches made of quarried stones set on edge.

In these and in hundreds like them we have the true flavor of the Irish bull.

There are genuine bulls in French, but they are rare. The genius of the language does not lend itself to anything less than neat precision. A French bull is usually nothing more than a bêtise. Still, they exist.

Léon, Bishop and Count of Lisieux, wrote to the Duchess of Brissac as follows:

"Madame, knowing how fond you are of red partridges, I send you herewith half a dozen. Three of them are gray and one is a woodcock. You will find this letter in the bottom of the basket."

A Frenchman used a large stone jar for a pillow, explaining that it was not hard because he had stuffed it full of hay.

The very best French bulls are acted, not spoken. The Duke de St. Simon relates that a lady, lying ill, was much disturbed by the ringing of the church bells. To deaden the noise her lover had the street in front of her house laid with straw.

A spoken bull in French is apt to be something different from the Irish variety, something more like a bêtise, as has been said. And it is difficult to retain the flavor in translation. "Ce sont toujours les mêmes soldats qui se font tuer," says Marshal Bugeaud of his army. This loses a little when one translates: It is always the same soldiers who get themselves killed."

"En fait d'inutilités il ne faut que le necessaire" is more highly colored in the French than in its translation: "Only so many useless things are required as are strictly necessary."

Here is the translation of part of an Italian letter:

We have had a most famous earthquake. If by the mercy of God it had lasted for another half hour we should all have gone to Paradise, from which may God deliver us. * * * Whether you receive this letter or not, please advise me in either case.

Here is a Portuguese bull. In offering a reward for the recovery of the corpse of a drowned man his relatives remarked that the deceased might be identified if found by a slight impediment in his speech.

After much research it has been so far impossible to discover a genuine Spanish bull; but here is a Dutch bull:

The pig had no marks on his ears except a short tail.

And here is a German bull:

Der Zahn der Zeit, der alle Thränen trocknet, wird auch über diese Sache Gras wachsen lassen. The tooth of time, that wipes away all tears, will permit grass to grow over this matter also.

Blunders in English speech are not uncommon. The orthodox bull of Ireland has scarcely crossed the Channel.

A Fellow of the Royal Society speaks of "the earthquake that had had the honor to be noticed by the Royal Society."

"The West Indies will now have a future which they have never had in the past" sounds promising until one sees that its bullish quality is a mere blunder by which the word "opportunity" was omitted. There is none of the flavor of the famous definition of salt by the Irish schoolboy: "Salt is that which makes your potatoes taste nasty if you don't put it in."

Even the best of the foreign bulls in Latin tongues evoke the suspicion that they are mere translations from Irish originals. The Dutch, the Germans and perhaps the English may have the genuine article at times. No American bulls have emerged from the long research that is the foundation of these few paragraphs. They are printed in the hope that the readers of THE SUN may be willing to contribute to what should be a monumental work, namely, Irish bulls in other languages.

E. S. H.

WEST POINT, January 28.

ICELANDIC IDIOMS.

The Plusser of the Prescript Invited to Go to Iceland.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* While looking through a file of THE SUN yesterday I saw a letter in which the writer by implying, similar to "accuse," the supposed use by one Jacob Backes of "Icelandic" idioms. Following this correspondence in your columns I saw that the named gentleman used "Icelandic" and "jingomaniacal jargon" as if they went together.

Sir editor, I am not yet a citizen of the United States and must have no voice about saying should the language be called the American, but I am an Icelander born, and having been a spectator of the letters referred, and have seen no signs of Icelandic idiom. And if there had been any used, Mr. Backes could have had improveness in his writings. There is nothing to be ashamed of or apologize for of the Icelandic idioms.

But what about the American idioms? I saw a sign very well painted on the front of an establishment in Forty-second street last night in fine part, which said:

"A Specialty of Smart Clothes for College Men of the Latest Imported Varieties at Moderate Prices."

This, I am now informed by well educated American friends, is correct and idiomatic. Will anybody tell me where are the "college men of the latest imported varieties," and at what point in the scale the "prices" of the "varieties" become immoderate?

Such construction is found everywhere, in the printing as well as on the shields. As every one can place their phrases as willing, and there is no lack of prepositions and commas, I think after Mr. Backes baptizes the language all over his operation is just begun, and if he wants to complete the job to live in Iceland for a few months and keep his ears open, and hear good models to remodel American.

ANDREW SAFKORE.

MILLS HOTEL NO. 1.

NEW YORK, January 28.

Ditching and Latin Grammar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having recently observed an appeal by a boy to his father to be allowed to forego the study of Latin, the following anecdote, as related by John Adams and clipped from *Niles's Register* of 1827, may serve its purpose even at the present day. R.

LANCASTER, Pa., January 28.

The following anecdote was related by the late John Adams, even to the last days of his life, with all that good humor which was so characteristic of him, and it is presumed has not yet passed away from the minds of many who have heard it from his own lips; a few only of his strong expressions are remembered:

"When I was a boy I had to study Latin grammar; but it was dull, and I hated it. My father was anxious to send me to college, and therefore I studied the grammar until I could bear with it no longer, and going to my father I told him I did not like study and asked for some other employment. It was opposing his wishes and he was quick in his answer. 'Well John,' said he, 'if Latin grammar does not suit you you may try ditching, perhaps that will; my meadow yonder needs a ditch and you may put by Latin and try that.'

"This seemed a delightful change, and to the meadow I went. But I soon found ditching harder than Latin, and the first forenoon was the longest I ever experienced. That day I ate the bread of labor, and glad was I when night came on. That night I made some comparison between Latin grammar and ditching, but said not a word about it. I dug the next forenoon, and wanted to return to Latin at dinner, but it was humiliating and I could not do it. At night toil conquered pride and I told my father (one of the severest trials of my life) that if he chose I would go back to Latin grammar. He was glad of it, and if I have since gained any distinction it has been owing to the two days labor in that abominable ditch."