The Sun.

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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.

Character of the Loyal Servitor.

When he thinks he is among friends he never fails to speak disrespectfully of his master behind his master's back.

He intrigues constantly against him, partly from malice, partly from an invincible habit of intrigue and delight in crooked counsels.

He seeks persistently whatever seems likely to disgust, embarrass or injure his master, and he often finds it.

He has an irrepressible sense of mischief.

His self-possession is imperturbable; he is not clogged by any feeling of delicacy; he is not ashamed before the man he betrays or those convinced of or strongly suspecting that treachery.

He finds a bland and innocent face very helpful in his business.

Yet you would think he could not help blushing whenever he saw a postage stamp.

A Great Day for Mr. Flagler and Key West.

Mr. HENRY M. FLAGLER's imagination was as potent as his money in the daring enterprise of extending the Florida East Coast Railway to Key West. It is a grand thing to possess the means to build an ocean railroad to the isolated city of winds and waters from which Havana can almost be seen across the strait; from an aeroplane 5,000 feet aloft perhaps it could be made out on a clear day with a powerful glass. But the dollars without the imagination would never have built this prodigy of railroads.

If Mr. FLAGLER had not done it what other man in the United States in our time would have thought of doing it? The work was begun and completed in a period when railroad construction had practically stopped elsewhere in the United States for causes too obvious to be recited. A man approaching 80 who could plan such an enterprise and resolutely push it to completion in the face of obstacles that often seemed insurmountable, not knowing whether he would live to see the first train roll into Key West or whether the new road would ever earn a dividend, is a man of heroic mould, one of the great commanders in chief of industry and progress in a generation of great achievements.

New York has been brought within fifty hours of Havana, and the sea part of the journey has been reduced to six hours. Key West is now really in the United States and can get its supplies by rail. Its importance as a naval base has been so vastly increased that it must be treated with the utmost deference in future by the sea strategists. The most southerly county seat in the United States, with its feet in the waters of the Gulf and its eyes for nearly a hundred years straining enviously in the direction of the continental United States, it now promises to become a great seaport and metropolis, and it ought to be proud and happy in the consciousness of a shining future. Yesterday was a great day for Florida, a greater day for Key West, and the greatest day in the life of HENRY M. FLAGLER, the magician who wrought the wonder of the railroad across the tropic sea. What man of 82 ever before enjoyed such a triumph?

A Barrier to Invasion.

The modest structures that constitute the Quarantine station of this port are perhaps of greater significance in the protection afforded to the people of our country than the more obtrusive forts and the great guns that frown from them. Little does the passerby comprehend the immense labor and self-sacrifice within those grim walls, where are concentrated all the means known to science upon the great object of protecting the community against a foe more dangerous than shot and shell.

The last bulletin of the State Board of Health furnishes some illuminating data which, startling but readily understood, indicate the exacting functions of the health authorities at Quarantine. Referring to the board's retirement from the work done in conjunction with Dr. DOTY in the repulse of the recent threatened invasion by cholera, the following statement is made:

During the four months struggle with this unseen foe seventy-seven vessels from infected ports were examined and cleared. Passengers on these vessels furnished specimens from which 60,000 "cultures" were made to obtain ocular demonstration of the presence of living infecting organisms and 30,000 microscopic examinations were made. The result of this minute scrutiny, which has probably never been equalled in any other part of the world, was that 150 passengers were detained for observation, among whom twenty-six proved to be infected with living cholera germs.

To indicate the enormous labor involved it may be stated that on one day, November 2, 1911, not less than 20,761 passengers arrived in New York harbor from infected ports. Each of these persons was examined and specimens obtained and investigated by culture and microscopic scrutiny, with the result that the vessel was released from Quarantine in thirty-one hours. In order to free the passengers, crew and vessel from expensive and irksome detention the laboratory force worked day and night. In this endurance and speed test it was ascertained that the eye and brain of the microscopist do not equal in capacity the eye and fingers of the "culture" expert; while only forty microscopic examinations could be made in an hour, five hundred cultures could be prepared in the same period. This is a wonderful achievement, demonstrating the value of practical experience.

These data are given in order to emphasize the importance of the choice about to be made by Governor DIX of a general to command the forces that are to stand arrayed in the contest against invasion of this port and the country by infectious disease. Who is to be Dr. DOTY's successor? This is the anxious question of every physician, and it may well be the concern of every inhabitant of the city and the whole United States. It is to be hoped that the Governor may at least bear in mind that a good ship and hotel doctor or a good family physician does not of necessity possess the scientific training required in directing the intricate defences against disease. Now is the time too to agitate the placing of the important office of Quarantine guardian in the hands of the Federal Government, which has a fine record of achievement in all medical appointments in the army, navy, marine and colonial services.

The Coming Olympic Games at Stockholm.

In one respect the Olympic games have come dangerously near failing of the purpose for which they were revived. They do not make for a better understanding and better friendship among the nations of the earth. After the last quadrennial contests, held in London four years ago, there was more bad feeling between Englishmen and Americans than there had been at any time since the Venezuelan affair.

Sober minded Americans who attended the Olympic games in London four years ago and were not altogether carried away by their patriotic feelings recall some incidents of that meeting with regret. It is true we brought home the lion's share of the palms and prizes in spite of the holding of archery contests and such other mild struggles as were found to be on the programme. But over almost every important event in the programme there was a contest of some kind. Either the American committee raised objections over the award of the prize to an Englishman or the English committee protested over an American's getting it. The rules were supposed to have been promulgated in advance, but either they were not carried out exactly as announced or the American committee had not thoroughly understood them.

In the early stages of the contests there was the tug of war, which was won by a team of British policemen, and everybody who was in attendance at the games remembers the storm of protest from the American committee because the policemen wore steel plates on the heels of their shoes, which must have given their wearers some advantage. On a technicality in the wording of the rules the protest of the American committee was disallowed. In this case there should have been a thorough understanding beforehand as to just what kind of shoes was to be allowed. As a result of this decision some members of the American committee seemed to get the impression that our athletes were not going to get a fair deal at any time, and they were not reluctant to express this opinion as a prophecy. Necessarily this had its effect upon a great portion of the American people who attended the games, and it also had an influence upon many of the American athletes who participated in other events, as any one who has talked with them knows very well.

Unfortunately not the judicial mind, not even the open mind, was the main characteristic of those who took the lead in the American committee. Diplomacy, or even tact, might have gone a long way toward smoothing out difficulties that arose in the latter part of the programme. The English pride themselves upon their love of fair play. The fact is, they are the best winners in the world; but at the same time they are the worst losers. This was especially true of the English committee which had direct supervision of the Olympic games four years ago; it consisted for the most part of representatives of their local athletic association. But in the national committee which was over them there were real sportsmen and gentlemen who were ready at all times to take up any just grievance presented by the Americans and see that justice was done. Of this toward the latter part of the contests the Americans did not seem willing to take advantage, and the fact that the American committee did not see fit always to make its protests with dignity and tact, maintaining at times a haughty, injured silence, or loudly expressing its indignation at others, or perhaps refusing to appear when protests were being heard, was the cue for what had been a dignified portion of the London press to start in upon a campaign against the American athletes which would have done credit to some of our saffronest "yellows."

When CARPENTER was disqualified during the 400 metre race, the tape holders dropping the line before he reached it, and the race was declared void on the ground that the American runner had fouled HALSWELLE, a Britisher, there was pandemonium in the great stadium at Shepherd's Bush, heated Americans declaring that the judges had previously determined that the race should not be given to an American. The Britishers hooted. The judges held a meeting, to which they invited only HALSWELLE, and as a result announced that the race should be run over the next morning in lanes, and that CARPENTER was out of it. To the majority of American spectators the decision seemed unfair. At the same time there were transatlantic visitors seated near the scene of the declared fouling, among whom was TAGG of Chicago University, who asserted that there had been an unmistakable foul, but that it might have been unintentional.

Whatever may have been the quality of the justice shown by the judges, it is a fact that from that time on to the end of the contests the bitterest feeling was displayed between the Britishers and the Americans who witnessed the contests, and the London press rang with charges of unfair methods employed by the Americans.

We want to be the victors at Stockholm this year. We have the men to win the vast majority of the laurels. But we want to win them without all the bickering and fussing and "cussing" that characterized the proceedings at Shepherd's Bush. It is still early. Let those in charge of the matter see that the members of the committee that will be in charge of the American athletes who go to Stockholm to represent this country are not only men who are conversant with athletics and with sport but men whose disposition or training has made them able to look upon things not from a partisan standpoint but from that of fairness. They must be able to keep their tempers, and they must convince the representatives of other nations that we stand for fair play. Of course they must be able to get us what we are entitled to, but at the same time along with determination they must have enough diplomacy at their command to convince the other fellow that while we are getting our own we are getting it fairly and not begrudging any competitor his equal rights.

The personnel of the committee having been made up with this in view, these gentlemen will owe it not only to the athletes who contend for us but to the people of the United States to see that the rules governing the games cover every possible point, and to let our men participate in the various events only after satisfying themselves that they thoroughly understand the rules of the game. Then it is up to the men to play it. These conditions fulfilled, we shall win again and again, and the world at large will approve.

Some Unknowns.

Where we read in the long list of estates under the care of the Public Administrator such entries as "FRANK TURNEY or TURNER, occupation unknown, country or place from whence he came unknown, receipts of estate $7,718 39," and "Unknown man, occupation unknown, country or place from which he came unknown, receipts of estate, $ 05," the tantalizing mysteries that surround the dwellers in the city are vividly projected on the mind. Who was UNKNOWN with his nickel? A derelict who had abandoned hope and sunk numb and resigned to his death? Or an eager, determined man, for the moment distressed and baffled, but full of heart and courage, pluckily trying with wit and strength to get a foothold once more and rebuild what adverse circumstance or malign fate had destroyed? Or a boy untested and more bewildered to his death than otherwise?

And prosperous TURNEY or TURNER; what of him? A miser, it may be, hoarding his pennies and avoiding his fellows through fear that they might ask for help or aid; a fugitive struck down before he could waste, in the vain effort to forget, the spoil of some crime of brutality, force or cunning; or a son, cursed with a dishonored name, working his life out to make good the thefts of his father. Or our TURNER or TURNEY may have been one of those with no talent for friendship, threading his way among his fellows, unresponsive to their advances, unwillingly repellent to their quick sympathy and ready comradeship. Did unknown TURNEY or TURNER meet and look into the eyes of plain UNKNOWN? It may well be that he whose name the list records in two forms would gladly have laid aside that misunderstood, possibly fearful, relic of identity for the anonymity of plain "Unknown."

Into the great hopper of the Public Administrator's machine they go side by side, the commonplace and sordid along with the mysterious and the tragic, nobody knowing one from the other. Perhaps somebody cares; but they present themselves in the prosaic "statement on oath" addressed to "The Honorable the Board of Aldermen of the City of New York," provided for by "Chapter 230 of the Laws of 1898, section 27 of said act," out of which nobody except an O. HENRY can extract anything but the bare bones of romance.

The Trail.

The Boy Scouts are richer by the services of two new Chief Scouts, one a mighty hunter, one an expert woodsman.

If craft and woodcraft can find the trail, this pair should find it.

In the labyrinthine dark forest it is so easy for a novice to be lost, but surely a hunter and trapper, even without the aid of a forester, should be able to find the way to his own door.

Our friend Mr. STOGIE of Connecticut, whose exposure of a common and contemptible fraud we print in another place, furnishes one more unanswerable reason for the abolition of cigar bands. Not only is the cigar band ruinous to good tobacco, provocative of profanity and the cause of wasted precious moments but it puts temptation in the way of honest men, and unquestionably has wrought the downfall of more than one weak brother who otherwise would have lived and died a good citizen and honest neighbor. This phase of the subject deserves the attention of all serious and virtuous citizens, and suggests the organization of an association to combat cigar bands as destructive of those high ethical standards that must be maintained if the republic is to endure. Perhaps, however, this detail of the struggle might better be left to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which has already done something toward the abolition of cigar bands. Meanwhile let all men unite for Freedom, Equality and Unbound Smokes.

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY.

Reflections of a Republican Who Thinks for Himself.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I like your "Plain Language About a Man in the Camp," as doubtless many others do, and probably some of those many others will have something commendatory to say of what you have written of more importance than what I have to say. My little speech is just this:

It is plain talk of that kind, loyal talk of a loyal chief, that will serve to put the holding hitch in the bonds of many a wavering voter to the biggest man on the Presidential horizon to-day. This may be mighty poor metaphor, but I know what I mean and I trust others can guess.

Who among us has not been wearied on occasions, if not actually disgusted, by the seeming policies of the present Washington Administration? But who among us, if he stops to think, is not pretty well satisfied that the man at the top has been doing his best to give us what he honestly believes to be the best for all of us? And when we stop to think, that job has not been an easy one in this most mixed show of public sentiment that has ever occurred in the course of our national development.

President Taft has been trying to do two things: To serve his people, the whole American people, faithfully, and to carry on a work that he has deemed in many respects well begun by his predecessor. That double task, it must be admitted, is not easy. And yet wherein has this man Taft done grievous wrong to any one? Has he not done the best according to his lights? Have his lights been of the most distinctly guiding variety?

President Taft may not take this as a compliment, but I mean it as such, and I say, give him a further trial! E.

NEW YORK, January 21.

SLEDS OF OUR SIRES.

Disrespectful Words for Those Who Regret Their Disappearance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have slid, tobogganed, skiied and snowballed the old duffer who put ashes on the slide, and these old fogy lamentations about the disappearance of the sleds of our sires are very wearying to me. Those contraptions of solid oak, held together with enough hardware to sink a ship, were hard to steer, heavy to pull up hill, a cause of discontent and aching legs. Thank heaven the delights of riding bellywhacker can be had by our children without their lugging around two or three stone of useless weight.

When we used a double ripper in the old days every boy of us had to grab hold of the rope to pull it up hill. The new sleds, holding just as many fellows and girls, are so light that the return to the beginning of the slide is more of a romp than a task.

The runners of the old sleds, the kind that had swallows and white bears painted on them, were so low that they got under the crust and threw the riders off. The new sleds are built on proper lines, and the runners glide smoothly over inequalities, lengthening the slide and adding to the joy of life.

If anybody could find one of the old sleds, which is fortunately impossible, and should offer it to a boy in exchange for his modern sled, the boy would intelligently refuse to swap, just as he would refuse to surrender the electric telephone he has rigged up with his chum and replace it with the arrangement of baking powder tins and string that we used.

I have noticed one significant thing about these moss grown chaps who snivel about the good old times. They all want those good old times reproduced for somebody else. You don't hear of them getting out of the limousine to ride behind Dobbin, or avoiding the steam heated bathroom for the sake of breaking the ice in the pitcher when they want to wash their faces. Sometimes it seems as if they must be jealous of the boys of to-day, who certainly have better toys and not less fun than their dads had, thank heaven! EDMUND P. CRADWICK.

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn., January 22.

Questions About the Sherman Act.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It would seem that a plea of the unconstitutionality of the Sherman law in its penal force and effect might be sustained on account of its vagueness and indefiniteness, among other grounds, for these reasons:

1. A law which restricts the liberty and penalizes the acts of a citizen to be constitutional must at least define in clear and unambiguous terms what acts or omissions are criminal per se in contravention thereof. The violation of such acts is not taken by implication. If the law is so complicated or indefinite as not to reveal its meaning, how shall a citizen know unless the law is interpreted in each case in the light of reason by the court as it held in the Oil and Tobacco cases? If, therefore, a decree interpreting this law must be made in each case before it may be known whether it comes within the law, who is to know the law and how can it be known before it is interpreted, and how can one know it before he acts, and if one cannot know it before he acts how then can the intent to violate the act be presumed or its unintentional violation be held to constitute a crime? Is the law intended to ensnare? Is not his liberty restricted and a penalty unjustly imposed by a void law?

2. That the Sherman law is loosely drawn is apparent. That it was so drawn to insure its passage as to vagueness and indefiniteness may well be assumed; that the latter inequalities exist too has been fully demonstrated by the long struggle to interpret it, which has not been concluded as yet. The law unjustly imposes a penalty on its citizens by reason of its vagueness and ambiguity, therefore it must be unconstitutional and void in its penal force and effect as punishing that which is not well defined and determined as coming within its provisions.

The laws of our country, we all agree, should be so clear in their construction, as well as wise in their provisions, that a wayfaring man though a fool may not err thereby, and should not entrap the wise or unwise or thoughtless. History has revealed to us that Caligula caused his laws to be written in small letters and in ambiguous terms and hung up high on the pillars of the temple, the more easily to ensnare the people. That should not be the purpose or effect of our laws. THOMAS H. HAM.

ALBANY, January 22.

Nineteen Twelve.

From reading of it much I feel,
Of this I'm more than sure,
That truth is stranger yet by far
Than campaign literature.

It's funny, though we want good men,
The best that can be had,
That all the same and all the time
We want them mighty bad.

Now, if you say
That when I from the job
Stepped down and out
I cried, "Farewell, Ambition!
To thee, Big Stick, and all,
Good-by!"
Then, by the rampaging Godfrey, sir,
The Ananias Club for yours!
For, 'twas neither that I said "Farewell,"
Nor yet "Good-by!"
'Twas au revoir!—T. R.

Tell me, ye winged winds
That round my pathway roar,
Is there no place that I can get
That is an easy chore?
Where some one else does all the work
While I just draw the pay
And roam the country o'er at will—
Is there none such, I pray?

The winged winds then whooped and roared,
Raising my hair till all was furzy,
"The only job like that one now
Is copped by the Governor of New Jersey!"

ED MOTT.

THE PLEDGE BREAKERS.

Will the Extravagance of the Democratic Representatives Undo Their Party?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is certainly disheartening to thoughtful citizens to read of the wildly extravagant expenditures that are even allowed consideration by the members of the Democratic House. These men were elected pledged to a reform and strict economy in public measures and are now proposing flagrantly to violate the promises given to the country when they were put in power.

It will be throwing away a fine opportunity to establish a creditable record to serve the country well, to show that the Democratic party can be trusted and is worthy and competent to administer public affairs on a proper and economical basis. The men who advocate these expenditures should be pilloried and exhibited to the country as unworthy of their positions.

Speaking even in a party way, it is giving the Republicans a great chance, which President Taft cannot fail to utilize, for his veto of these Democratic measures is inevitable and will greatly strengthen him at an opportune time in his career. There is some consolation, however, in the announcement that Chairman Underwood and certain of his associates are inflexible in their opposition to these appropriations.

It is to be hoped they will exhibit the backbone necessary to sustain the cause of good government. Nevertheless it is humiliating to know that caucus action is deemed necessary to teach the rank and file of the Democracy their duty. E. T. W.

NEW YORK, January 22.

THE COURTS.

Senator Root's Explanation of Dissatisfaction Assailed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of to-day there is a synopsis of Senator Root's address before the New York Bar Association on the subject of the recall of Judges, in which thousands of patriotic citizens outside of the legal profession are interested.

It was with regret I saw that he believed the sentiment favoring the recall of Judges was inspired by "the impatience of the American people toward the courts when individual decisions do not agree with individual wishes."

The only hope the country can have to change existing conditions in court procedure without revolution and anarchy lies in the sincere consideration of the situation by men of high character and great ability in the profession like Senator Root, but when he assumes at the outset that dissatisfaction with existing conditions is due to personal grievance he strangles at once any hope that might arise from his interest in the subject.

The general sentiment in favor of the recall of Judges derives its strength from the belief on the part of the people that in the courts they may get law, but seldom justice. Suits in the courts because of antiquated procedure have become a game in which the peculiar rules are known only to the lawyers and Judges, and in which justice has become a shadowy tradition.

This is the reason busy men object so seriously to jury duty. Their time is taken from their own affairs, often at great personal loss, and they give their best ability to the consideration of the cases before them. After the verdict they see the cases taken up on appeal, often on some most trivial point not affecting the justice of the decision in the least, but by the weird rules of the game the higher court decides that the first trial was not exactly according to Hoyle and sends it back to be tried all over again.

Naturally all the jurors feel that the court has squandered their time for nothing, the litigants are in practically the same position they were in at the start, except that justice has been delayed and they have to pay more money in fees, and the general taxpayer sees the courts still filled with the same old cases and the need for more courts, more judges and more expenses, much of which is to come out of his pocket.

It is safe to say that every citizen has personal friends who are lawyers whom he respects and admires for their integrity, honor and charm, but most of us regard the profession as singularly callous to the claims of justice, and the net result of its efforts seems to have been to build up a system of law to the advantage of the profession and to the injury of the public.

No doubt there are many people, like myself, who favor the recall of Judges, not because they believe it will be the great "cure all" in itself, of all the present legal evils but because they believe it will call sharply to the attention of the profession, which should guard the people's interest, the need of a thorough house cleaning.

Much has been said by THE SUN and other papers and also by President Taft about "Mob Law vs. Courts," in which the grotesque Frankenstein of modern practice has been clothed with all the attributes of divinity. The fact seems to have been overlooked that precedence, law and order were made by the calm will of the people and that the same calm will that created them can change them.

PATRICK T. FARNSWORTH.

BALTIMORE, Md., January 21.

The First Wordless Play.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It isn't quite fair to New York to give Berlin the honor of having produced the first wordless play, nor is it fair to say that a novelty has to come to us by way of Berlin, Paris or London in order to be recognized.

As a matter of fact not Herr Max Reinhardt nor Mr. Winthrop Ames, but Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske was the first to present this form of a novelty to an American audience. I do not remember what year, but it was during Mrs. Fiske's management of the Manhattan Theatre that she introduced a young Norwegian actor, who kept an audience at that theatre in breathless silence during a—what shall I call it—a soul display of the characters in Ibsen's drama "Peer Gynt" through a most unusual, impressive acting.

This dramatic novelty was an artistic triumph, and New York, not Berlin, Mrs. Fiske, not Mr. Ames, was the first to introduce and recognize it. M. W.

NEW YORK, January 22.

On the Field of Waterloo.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

A French visitor to the field of Waterloo complains of an inopportune announcement which he found defacing the wall of the farm in which Napoleon slept on the night before the battle. He expected to read some interesting historical inscription.

What he actually read was this:

"Cette ferme à leur rencontre doit sa renommée,
Mais la maison de champagne * * *
En dixhuit-cent-quarante-neuf fondée,
Doit la sienne à son vin, car qui ne le connaît?"

Which may be rendered thus:

"To Waterloo, that mighty clash of arms
Owes its repute this paragon of farms;
But the house, founded 1849,
Is rendered famous by its peerless wine!"

Naturally there is a clamor for the removal of the plaque, just as we, on our part, once insisted on the removal of the advertisement of a tomato sauce from another of the historical Waterloo buildings.

The Fraud of the Cigar Band.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Some brands of cigars instead of wearing bands have the name perforated in the wrapper, and if your unselfish campaign against cigar bands should rouse public opinion enough to force all cigarmakers to adopt this system it would at least prevent some of us from transferring, for donation purposes, the bands from 25 cent cigars to those that cost less than 5 cents. A. STOGIE.

HARTFORD, Conn., January 22.

No New Thing Under the Sun.

From Lord Broughton's Diary, June 12, 1849.

House of Commons found Palmerston speaking on Cobden's motion for settling disputes of nations by arbitration. He spoke admirably, and exposed the folly of the scheme completely, but in a way not to offend his opponents, who cheered him repeatedly.

Remedy.

Knicker—Love flies out of the window when poverty comes in the door.

Bocker—Have a revolving door that poverty can't get in and a car window that love can't open.

Recipe.

The politician who succeeds
The proper wires to pull
Must keep a silence full of words,
And words of silence full.

AROUND THE GALLERIES.

A Notable Loan Collection of Masterpieces.

Amazingly fine is the exhibition of old masters that serves to consecrate formally the new galleries of M. Knoedler & Co. in upper Fifth avenue. With his characteristic energy and originality Mr. Roland Knoedler determined that this affair should be something to be remembered in the art history of New York, so he hit upon the ingenious plan of only showing pictures that had been sold by his house to American collectors, and all of those pictures that were masterpieces. Furthermore, to give this unique undertaking a practical side, a small fee is charged for admission, the proceeds to be given to the Artists Fund Society of this city, which is "an organization of professional artists, established for the purpose of giving aid to its members in disablement, sickness and distress, and assisting families of deceased members." To this laudable enterprise various wealthy men have lent their pictures, though their names do not appear in the official catalogue, possibly because they wished to shun publicity, also to testify by good works their faith in the firm of M. Knoedler & Co. We are free to confess that we regret the omission of these names, though the ownership of some of the magnificent canvases is the secret of Pulcinello, notably Mr. Frick's Velasquez and Vermeer, and Mr. John H. McFadden's Turner.

With a few exceptions the works shown have never been hung in any public gallery, the former Yerkes Hals, the portrait of a woman, being one. This was sold last year, and while it is not a second "Frau Bodolphe" it is a solid and satisfactory example. The collection is appropriately framed by its palatial setting, for the word "palatial" is the precise one to describe the new Knoedler Galleries. The entrance is lofty and imposing, and on the walls are Van Dycks and other masters belonging to the house. There is a large gallery devoted outright to the English school, and two smaller galleries in which Spanish, Dutch and again English canvases may be seen. In all there are one Beechy, three Constables—we saw only two, as the noble "Stoke by Nayland" landscape had not yet arrived; one old Crome, seven Gainsboroughs, six of them portraits, one a pastoral landscape with figures and cattle; five Hoppners, at least one of supreme quality; three of Sir Thomas Lawrence, one the celebrated "Lady Peel," of which Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower declared that it has the charm of Rubens's "Le Chapeau de Paille" in the National Gallery; five Raeburns, four Sir Joshua Reynoldses, gorgeous specimens of his art, and one in particular of unusual interest, because it is in a sterner key than the regulation Reynolds—we mean the portrait of John Julius Angerstein; four Romneys, one the melting interpretation of Henrietta, Countess of Warwick, and her two children, a lovely evocation of childhood, indeed; four Turners, of which "The Burning of the Houses of Parliament" (1834) is the most significant, though the others are of a high order; a Jan van de Capelle, a Cuyp, a marvellous Van Dyck, the portrait of the Countess Leccari; a Hobbema; a Murillo, the portrait of "A Cavalier," whose features singularly recall those of the younger Edwin Booth, the same sombre, almost tragic expression and poetic gaze; an Ostade, two Rembrandts, alas! neither one "The Polish Rider," though they are splendid examples of his art; a rare Terburg, the portrait of Margaretha van Haexberger, and one Vermeer, though the catalogue registers two, the absent one being Mr. Widener's "Woman Weighing Pearls"; but the one present is some compensation, for it is the beautiful canvas known as "The Soldier and Laughing Girl," painted with a breadth and freedom not often noted in the more elaborate compositions of this unique master. Yet it is none the less Vermeer, and its subtle arabesque in which blacks, yellows, browns, reds and blues mingle in lyric joyfulness makes it a companion in tonalities to the "View of Delft" by Vermeer at the Hague Gallery.

And the Velasquez! It is the portrait of the inevitable Philip IV. of Spain, and is entitled the "Parma Velasquez." It was painted in 1644, therefore about sixteen years preceding the death of the artist and when his art was at its loftiest. The color scheme, while not unusual to those who have visited the Prado Gallery, is sufficiently unlike the specimens of his "Philip" in this country to excite both curiosity and admiration. And as for the quality, there is but one phrase that fits it: Velasquez at his noblest. The catalogue gives its pedigree, and it was specially considered by the late Don Aureliano Beruete, who to the regret of lovers of Velasquez died but a few days ago at Madrid. There is no need of further expatiating upon the jewelled art of this Knoedler exhibition. The pictures will be on view until January 27.

With the closing of the last exhibition at the Union League Club Mr. Harry W. Watrous ends his connection as chairman of the committee on art. His régime during the past year has been very successful. The show that has just ended was conservative and interesting withal. The artists represented were Reynolds Beal, Frank A. Bicknell, J. H. Boston, J. W. Breyfogle, a Whistlerian study in browns; Lewis Cohen, W. R. Derrick, J. H. Fry, a nude; W. Granville-Smith, Arthur Hoeber, an open air, snappy and the best landscape we have thus far seen from his clever brush; J. C. Johansen, De Witt Parshall, Arthur Parton, a capital study of clouds; W. S. Robinson, W. T. Smedley, Harry Thompson, H. T. Van Laer, W. J. Whittemore and Carleton Wiggins. An exotic quality was imparted to the exhibition by the presence of some Indo-Persian pictures from the collection of Ralph H. Thomas. These pictures, by artists with few exceptions unknown, date from early in the sixteenth century to late in the last century. They show pure Persian art and also the Mongolian influence. Those who believe that Europe can claim the priority in the creation of an original art might with profit study these Persian inventions. One reminded us of a mediæval illuminated missal. In others the boldness of the drawing and the exquisite portraiture extorted the deepest wonder and admiration. Antique porcelains belonging to the club are also shown.

Cause of the Duel Between Colonel Hamilton and Colonel Burr.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Although I have not attended the performance of a certain historical drama now being seen on Broadway, I have seen some of the literature put forward by an enterprising press agent, and I find in it the astounding statement that the duel between Burr and Hamilton was fought "in defence of a woman's name."

Can this be verified in any authentic historical work? And although it may be permissible to alter facts slightly for the purpose of building a historical play, is it right deliberately to falsify a matter of history in advertising that play?

NEW YORK, January 22. J. E. VINCENT.

The Golden Circle.

Knicker—The alchemist wants to turn all things to gold.

Bocker—And when we get it we want to turn gold to everything else.

HOW THE CHOLERA WAS KEPT OUT OF NEW YORK

The State Health Department Gives a History of Last Summer's Campaign.

EVERY INCOMER EXAMINED

Blood Tests at Rate of 40 an Hour for 26,455 Passengers Reaching This Port.

In the latest monthly bulletin of the New York State Department of Health there is a brief history in the form of a report of "How Cholera Was Kept Out of New York State." It tells of the fight waged by Dr. Alvah H. Doty and the State Department of Health from July 20 to November 19, when, as cholera is a summer disease, the special work at Quarantine closed.

Early last spring when there was an epidemic of cholera in Mediterranean ports passengers brought directly from those ports to the United States were likely to bring the disease into this country, especially through the port of New York. This was especially so of the Italian ports, and the situation began to get dangerous in June. In June there were reported 634 cases of cholera, with 157 deaths, 573 of these cases and 162 deaths in the provinces of Naples and Palermo. Six cases of cholera had already been discovered on arrival in this port in June, one from the steamship Europa, from Naples, at Quarantine on June 14 and five cases from the steamship Duca degli Abruzzi, from Genoa and Naples, detained at Quarantine from June 20 to 23. Several passengers were allowed to land from the Abruzzi who later developed cholera and two of them died. One of them, a man, died at Auburn, N. Y., on June 30, and the other, a woman, died in Brooklyn after an illness of five days.

Thereupon the Federal Health and Marine Hospital Service of the Treasury Department issued a circular in which it was recommended "to diminish the danger from cholera bacillus carriers, steerage passengers coming from ports or places where cholera prevails and arriving on vessels upon which cholera has appeared shall be detained ten days for observation unless after five days' detention they are found not to be bacillus carriers." The same applied to other persons arriving on the same vessels who might be considered affected. Secretary MacVeagh, however, modified these orders to say that such persons must be submitted to a bacteriological examination and that they should not be allowed to enter until the test showed they were not affected. The order of Gov. Dix to proceed in this work at this port was dated July 20.

As soon as a ship carrying passengers arrived at Quarantine the regular boarding officer made the usual routine inspection. He gave the purser small yellow cards on each of which the purser and his assistant copied from the ship's manifest the name, sex, manifest number, ship's name and date for each passenger. This took about an hour, at the end of which the Director of State Laboratories boarded with numbered receptacles for the individual tests. The passengers were then lined up with their yellow cards and each was called and tested, the numbered tube being used in each case for the corresponding manifest number. It was thus found possible to take 265 tests an hour.

The tubes were then taken to the laboratory and subjected to tests and incubation, which could be done very rapidly until it came to the microscopic examination of the tubes, when, as the eye and brain of a microscopist cannot work with the same speed as the fingers, it was only possible for one microscopist to report on forty cases an hour. This lengthened the period of detention.

In the four months seventy-seven steamships arrived from affected ports with 26,455 passengers who were examined. Of these 150 were detained for further examination and of these twenty-six were proved to be affected with cholera. No cases of cholera were discovered after August 18.

A COLUMBIA PUPYS.

The University Gets the Output of Its First President.

The manuscripts, papers and letters of the Rev. Samuel Johnson, the first president of King's College, now Columbia University, which were presented to Columbia by the Johnson family of Stratford, Conn., have just been received by the university library and make one of the most notable additions to its material dealing with the early history of Columbia. The gift also includes papers left by William Samuel Johnson, the third president of King's College, and a great many documents dealing with the early organization of King's College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Letters, journals, sermons, written prayers, notes on college matters, an autobiography, a catalogue of President Johnson's library, a list of the books read by him from the time he was graduated from "Yale Colledge" up to the age of 60 and the books read by his son from his early childhood up are the most important items in the gift. The total number of pieces is 867, and some of the more interesting sections are: Manuscript works by President Johnson, 37; letters, 466; manuscripts of sermons and prayers, 109; manuscripts relating to King's College, 16. Among the letters are several from Benjamin Franklin and Myles Cooper, the second president of Kings College. Other manuscripts of interest are "Samuel Johnson's book, being a journal of his voyage to, abode at, and return from England," "Morning and Evening Prayers for the College," "Explanation of my device for the seal," his autobiography and his will written at the age of 70.

The collection will be placed on exhibition as soon as the room set aside for the permanent display of Columbiana is ready.

MUNICIPAL NEEDS COMMITTEE.

Social Programme Proposed by Seba Eldridge and Others.

There is a movement afoot to establish a Municipal Needs Committee to draft and carry through a social programme for New York.

A plan of permanent organization that has been suggested to the provisional committee is first a small executive committee to plan and direct work, a general committee consisting of practical social reformers, economists and others, special committees on research, legislation, publicity, finance, &c., and a group of cooperating agencies comprising all the reform organizations in the field.

"The method of prosecuting the work," Seba Eldridge, who is interested in the proposed committee, said yesterday, "would be to investigate or cause to be investigated those phases of our city life about which we know little. A publicity service and organized cooperation with city and State legislative bodies and administrative officials would be necessary. We would take part in all movements calculated to make legislation, administration and private action, so far as it affects public weal, more enlightened and efficient."