

The Sun

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The Coal Conference.

The meeting in Philadelphia to-day of representatives of the anthracite coal operators and miners is of much more consequence to most of us than any political convention or any "boom." Shall there be another coal strike? The taste of 1902 is still bitter in the mouth.

To the miners' request for a 10 per cent. increase of wages, a request to which the operators, or many of them, are said to be favorable, the public gives its good will.

To the demand of the head of the miners' union that the operators shall employ only union laborers the public can give no support. The union is already "recognized"; and to throw industry out of gear and greatly to vex and mulet the community in a fruitless attempt to substitute the "closed" for the "open" shop is to forfeit sympathy from the start. Live and let live; yes, let even a non-union man make a living.

Here is a controversy of some people that concerns all the people. May common sense and good humor settle it to the advantage of all.

Mouillard, Prophet of Aviation.

There was recently unveiled at Hellipsois, which is six miles northeast of Cairo, a memorial to LOUIS PIERRE MOUILLARD, author of "The Empire of the Air." It consists of a bust on a tall pedestal, against the front of which is poised an African vulture in full flight. MOUILLARD would not have been perpetuated if a box containing his papers had not been found in the cellar of the French Consulate during an aviation meet in the desert within sight of the ancient city of the sun god.

Among the papers brought to light were letters to and from CHANTE discussing bird flight and particularly an idea advanced by MOUILLARD that birds turn in the air by creating a resistance to it at the tip of a wing—wing warping, he called it. Thereupon the Ligue Aerienne set up a claim that MOUILLARD, a Frenchman, was the "Father of Aviation," and for the glory of France the bronze face of MOUILLARD, the face of a dreamer, now looks out upon the sands with that rapt expression which is associated with the following passage in his book:

"All my life shall I remember the first flight which I saw of the gyrfalcons, the great tawny vulture of Africa. I was so impressed that all day long I could think of nothing else and indeed, there was good cause, for it was a practical, perfect demonstration of all my preconceived theories concerning the possibilities of artificial flight in a wind. Since then I have observed thousands of vultures. I have disturbed many of the vast flocks of these birds, and yet, even now, I cannot see one individual passing through the air without following him with my eyes until he disappears in the distant horizon."

And in the crystal atmosphere of the desert how far one may discern those graceful birds winging their way with outspread pinions in which no motion is perceptible. In "The Empire of the Air" MOUILLARD called upon "blind humanity" to share his transports and see that man, if he only had faith, might follow the vulture through space on wings of his own contrivance. The Frenchman did take out a patent on wing warping, and upon this invention his fame as a pioneer in aviation, aside from the ideas advanced in his book, seems to rest. What the achievements and deserts of MOUILLARD really were Mr. WILBER WRIGHT undertakes to show in an article in the April Bulletin of the Aero Club of America.

It is admitted by Mr. WRIGHT that "The Empire of the Air" was "one of the inspiring causes of the efforts of the Wright brothers," but beyond inspiration the American inventors owe nothing to LOUIS PIERRE MOUILLARD. His soaring machines are declared to have been crude and impracticable. The Frenchman never raised himself in the air and made short flights as LILIENTHAL did in the glider which in the end was the death of him. All that can be truly said of MOUILLARD is that he was a missionary, a prophet. The charm and literary quality of his book set to work in a glow of enthusiasm to solve the problem of human flight. A sharp personal note is struck in the following passage in Mr. WRIGHT's article:

"It is most unfortunate that the project of erecting a monument to a man well worthy of the thanks and the remembrance of the world should have become entangled with an unworthy attempt to seek to add to the glory of France by flinging the credit justly due to LILIENTHAL, and by falsely accusing Mr. CHANTE, the benefactor of MOUILLARD, of having stolen the latter's secrets and transmitted them to the WRIGHT brothers."

The feuds of aviation are not the least bitter of the quarrels of science. It is too much to expect that the school of HAWORTH and PATHEAN will abandon

the mystic who lived and died at Cairo. There his memorial stands as proof that he is the "Father of Aviation," and yet beyond his wing warping device he contributed nothing to the scheme of practical human flight. Mr. WILBER WRIGHT concedes that the principle was correct but very inadequate; he points out that nothing was said in the specifications of a vertical tail and that "the subject of lateral balance was not even mentioned." The fact is, the WRIGHTS were leaders in demonstrating that human "flight" with the aid of a motor was possible, although they were not the first gliders, and although other men may have pressed them closely in the competition, using their ideas and even improving upon them. Nevertheless MOUILLARD was an interesting character and an inspired prophet. Some people would rather have written his glorious book than invented the vertical tail.

The Trade of the World.

The bureau of statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor reports the world's international trade in 1911 as \$35,500,000,000, an advance from \$20,500,000,000 in 1901. These figures are admittedly a duplication, as they include the value of both import and export trade, practically the same merchandise being covered by both statements. The returns of aggregate imports always exceed by about 10 per cent. those of aggregate exports. Thus the exports of all nations in 1911 are valued at \$17,000,000,000, the imports at \$18,500,000,000. Several influences contribute to this discrepancy.

It would seem that one account or the other would be the fair measure of trade volume rather than the combination of both. This, however, is of less importance or interest than the enormous expansion of international trade in the last few years. In 1850 the imports of all the countries of the world were about \$2,000,000,000. The increase since that time in approximate sums has been:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Value. 1850, \$1,000,000,000; 1870, \$4,000,000,000; 1890, \$8,000,000,000; 1900, \$11,000,000,000; 1911, \$17,000,000,000.

Part of the tremendous gain of the last ten years is due to price advance, but much the greater part is doubtless due to increase in quantity bought. The matter may be illustrated by the experience of this country. In some lines there has been price advance, in others comparative decline, and in still others actual decline. Thus the 780,000,000 pounds of coffee imported in 1900 averaged a little more than 7 1/2 cents a pound, the 800,000,000 pounds imported in 1911 nearly 11 cents; the 60,000,000 pounds of raw cotton bought in 1900 averaged 13 cents and the 100,000,000 pounds bought in 1911 21 cents.

Clothing, wool and sugar show only fractional price change; raw silk and copper were imported in greatly increased quantity at materially lower prices. The expanded interchange of products includes both foodstuffs and substances used in industrial processes. It includes sugar and wheat and beef, as well as raw cotton and copper. It comprises both raw materials and finished products, and affects all countries. The imports of the United Kingdom in the last ten years have increased nearly \$1,000,000,000; those of Germany, about \$700,000,000; those of France, about \$500,000,000; of the United States, about \$700,000,000. Gains measured in hundreds of millions of dollars appear on the records of Canada, Belgium, Argentina, Brazil, Austria-Hungary, China, British India, Italy and the Netherlands. Material though less extensive gains appear in the foreign trade accounts of nations of less commercial importance. The expansion of international trade is clearly out of proportion to the increase in the population of the world.

These aggregate imports of the various nations represent the aggregate exports, and exports represent, broadly, surplus production. The inference is a notable increase in industrial activity in many countries. The world's requirement of the great staple commodities grows constantly, and in most lines the greater demand is met by greater output. The conditions of recent years appear to have been altogether abnormal, and expansion on an equal scale in the next ten years seems doubtful. There is, however, little or no probability of any serious contraction. The world will do very well if the total output of the nations in 1920 amounts to \$25,000,000,000.

Unreasonable Mr. Clayton.

Is not the Hon. HENRY D. CLAYTON of Alabama, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, unreasonably severe in attempting to apply the harsh provisions of the criminal law to a citizen of this community whose only fault is an indulgence in extreme language? Or, not the Ephraim Congressman recognize that the enthusiasts who call him a criminal, a crook and a perjurer are merely following the fashion and endeavoring in all sincerity to adjust his vocabulary to the style of the hour?

Mr. CLAYTON should not complain of being called a crook at a time when the President is being referred to by a Senator of the United States as a "deliberate receiver of stolen goods," when those benighted citizens who support their President for re-nomination are called "burglars," when no act of insincerity, knavery, fraud, chicanery and crime is too disgraceful to be attributed without the formality of evidence to sustain it to Mr. TAF and to his adherents. If Mr. CLAYTON will pause for reflection he will recognize that slander and libel are now among the sacred rights demanded by the people, initiated in their behalf, and adopted by overwhelming majorities in every referendum in which the fraud of good sense and the violence of devout conduct do not overcome the popular will.

As for laws our unprogressive predecessors may have enacted or customs that our ignorant fathers may have established for the punishment of slanderers and libellers, they are and of right

should be null and void. The man who dares appeal to them for protection confesses himself a reactionary, and therein condemns himself beyond the furthest possibilities of any enemy who may choose to designate him as an ordinary thief or perjurer.

The Anarchy of Spring.

It takes the season that keeps their windows open to make New Yorkers realize how helpless they are to protect themselves against violations of the law which are not nearly so noticeable at any other time. Nominally there are prohibited by statute certain infractions of the law which disturb the public to a degree that brings additional burdens to city life in the spring and summer weather. That the disagreeable effects of these violations are more noticeable at the beginning of summer than at any other period is comprehensible enough. Even the discomfort caused by them is ameliorated by familiarity. The city sounds which seem intolerable when first they penetrate through the open windows lose some of their shock in the later weeks.

It is at this season that the hardened lawlessness of New York householders makes itself most evident. The cheerless sound of the impact of the duster on the suspended rug awakens the consciousness of the nervous cosmopolitan to appreciate the law that prevents the beating of rugs. The belated tooting of the automobile horn that must continue long before the drowsy helper arises to open the garage door is a reminder of a law that prohibits just this sort of racket. The difficulty of the chauffeur in alighting and ringing the bell would be slight in comparison with the effort of the awakened sleeper from which he was awakened. It is the windows open to the airs of spring that impress irritatingly on the minds of the spectators such violations of the law.

They are incidentally reminded, moreover, that there is no means of bringing them to an end. The most persistent struggler against the carpet beating habit will discover ultimately that it is perfectly futile to attempt to suppress the persistent offender. Even if he carries the case to the police court he is not unlikely to find there a hostile magistrate who will dismiss the defendant. Then the struggler against the hooting motor horn will have further enfeebled his nervous system if he is not wise enough to desist. These are some of New York's habitual law breakers whose presence is most appreciated when the softer breath of spring makes necessary the open window.

An' they here quit a-kickin' my dawg aroun'!

The Hon. WOODROW WILSON, occasionally of Trenton, N. J., seems to have lost his delegates with his letters. Why are the righteous forsaken?

I know how to conduct myself in hotels as well as any other Arizona gentleman.—Senator MARCUS A. SMITH.

There could hardly be any regular elevator service in a hotel full of Arizona gentlemen.

ROOSEVELT is not always a good Republican. He was in the convention that nominated BLAINE in 1884 and then bolted the convention and supported GROVER CLEVELAND. This is a fact not generally remembered.—Ex-Governor FENNEROS of Oklahoma Territory.

It is not generally remembered because it is not a fact. Mr. ROOSEVELT worked and voted for BLAINE after filling the air with cries about his unfitness.

The War bulletins of J. SANCHEZ AZCONA, private secretary to President MADRID, are very damaging to the reputation of General PASQUALE OROZCO. His merits must have been exaggerated during the last rebellion.

More than sound, an able, a great speech was that of NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER at Rochester yesterday.

The Aldermanic investigators of taxicab regulations have asked for only \$1,000 to enable them to pursue their inquiries. It is evident that they do not intend to ride about town much.

To DR. CHARLES MONTRAVILLE GREEN, a distinguished Boston gynecologist, is laid this postscript, terse and caustic: "Women talk too much."

When and where do women get time or space to talk too much, admitting for the sake of argument that there can be no profanity of their speech? In all the boundless ocean of air what waftlet is left for their poor vibrations? Man, the real loquacious animal, immitigable of tongue and lung, fills the world with his sound and fury. As the Ozark minstrel sings:

"Speech, speech, speech, Screech, screech, screech" Till Orion belts himself on the head, And the Pleiades whine that they were dead, And the froth of multitudinous mouths foams out o'cosmos' uttermost beach."

Women talk too much? They don't have chance, room; space is chuckful of the yawp of man.

WILSON borrows dress suit.—Yesterday's news.

And almost as easily as he has borrowed a full suit of principles.

Feather's Winter Hoop. From Daily Animals.

The legendary habit of the peacocks of roosting for the night in trees sometimes forces upon them considerable discomfort. After selecting a suitable place the birds rest, when it reaches apparently the same ones without ever descending the tree. Usually two in the same tree. During a recent heavy snowstorm Dr. Blair directed me to see a male peacock that had selected a big oak tree near his office window as a roosting place. The snow had fallen during the night to a depth of about ten inches, forming a wall on each side of the sleeping birds, which completely arched over their backs. As the snow gradually melted the snow water had gradually saturated their lighter feathers and formed a icy corset of ice on their heads. As we watched them they stood erect as if to learn just what the ground meant a tumble and not by, for they promptly settled down again for another nap.

Ohio River Floods.

From the Paducah Sun. The predictions are right a stage of forty feet will rise in the Ohio River higher than it has been at Paducah since 1887, when it reached a stage of 30 feet and did much damage. The highest water since the great inundation of 1864 was in 1887 when the river reached 41 feet. The highest stage in 1897 was in March, 1899, when it rose to a height of 47.6 feet.

THE MENACE OF GUAYAQUIL.

THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE HEALTH OF THE WORLD.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: One of the first happy results of the Spanish-American war was the removal of that plague spot from Havana which constantly menaced the health and happiness of Americans. As in all great movements, the battle against pestilence and death which followed this war led to greater conquests than were at first anticipated. Not only was yellow fever conquered through the effort and sacrifice of our physicians, aided by military discipline, by which alone such scourges may be abolished, but the study of the peculiar people and resources of Porto Rico, and the discovery that it was caused by the house fly, led to comparative study of the same conditions in our Southern States. There too we participated in the beneficence of war by reason of the enhancement of the physical and mental capacity of a people who had been justly accused of "natural born laziness."

Add to these happy consequences the protection of the alien people whose guardians we have become against small-pox, plague, cholera and other preventable diseases which formerly scourged them. What an incubus has been swept away from these unhappy peoples who had regarded their sorrows as a decree of inscrutable Providence!

I am led to these reflections by a "call to arms" which recent advice from plague stricken Guayaquil sound in no uncertain notes. Here is a centre of infectious disease which will surely send its deadly emanations into our own country when the Panama Canal furnishes a free gateway to the ever ready but insidious enemies yellow fever, bubonic plague and all the diseases of filth and squalor, in whom "familiarity breeds contempt" of these ever present foes to life. Again and again has the Government of Ecuador been warned; the warnings always arose from needless sacrifice of lives like that of Thomas Nast, several naval and marine hospital officers. With the ever ready mañana the genial dons have promised to clean up and never have fulfilled this promise. Once more sounds the stern voice of warning in the death of Commander Bertollette of the Yorktown to enter upon an active and if need be hostile campaign against pestilence.

All considerations of national amenity should be set aside as they were in the Spanish war. We have nothing to gain in territory or aggrandizement as a nation, but the beneficence of such a war is self-evident. In his splendid address at the peace dinner in this city President Taft created much merriment when he related how he ejected some of our weak neighbors into behaving themselves, citing Santo Domingo as an example, where he stopped the sanguinary and destructive combats of Generals and Generalissimos by taking charge of the revenues and giving everybody a square deal. Here is a far more momentous occasion. We have the unanimous opinion of Surgeon-General Rupert Blue, of Secretary of the Navy, Meyer, Secretary of War Stimson and ex-Secretary of War Dickinson that Guayaquil will certainly become a terrible menace to our people when the Panama Canal is opened. Assistant Secretary of State Wilson says: "The present sanitary condition of Guayaquil is such as to render the cleansing of the port before the opening of the canal absolutely imperative if Ecuador is to enjoy the benefits of this great waterway."

The State Department hopes that Ecuador will soon be able to carry out a systematic project for the complete and permanent removal of the unhealthy conditions that have so long existed in her chief port. The answer will be if it comes at all: "Mañana." The time for diplomatic courtesy is past. Strict quarantine must be established as in war. If these dons will not agree to let us help and direct them in "cleaning up" they must be starved into submission and forced to ask for our help. Mr. President, the time for action has arrived.

NEW YORK, April 9.

WHY NOT BE POLITE?

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RUDENESS FOR THE GENESIS OF HUBBARD'S.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The general consensus of your correspondents is that I am a "superior" person. Now nothing makes for "superiority" more than rudeness on the part of others.

When a man of any feeling or sentiment is treated rudely he is apt to freeze up, withdraw himself, become exclusive, as we say. As to the man who acts rudely, he makes the great mistake of not recognizing that he is proving his equality. On the contrary he is doing the very reverse, proving himself in fact an arrant snob and vulgarian. True gentlemen are always polite.

Snobbery ought to have no place in a republic, and it would not if only the practice of politeness were universal. Our public educators will be doing more for the origin of snobbery than anything else they can possibly do if they will only teach boys to say "I please" and "Thank you." NEW YORK, April 9.

The Inevitably Kindly Emerson.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Speaking of snobs in the following published I think in the New England Magazine in 1897.

"Mrs. Emerson spoke of some woman as a 'snob' and Emerson said he did not like that ugly class of words. Beginning with 'his wife asked how he would describe the snob,' he should say she is a person having great sympathy with success." NEW YORK, April 9.

Spring Formally Opened With Its Sweetest Song.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Yesterday I stumbled on a clipping from THE SUN containing the Bard of Alameda's epic on "Sassafras," which was published as a herald of spring a year ago.

Yesterday also after six weeks of patience trying to get our water pipe thawed out and the frost of the Seneca county peep from perked and began to sing. After such a winter would you not be glad to give us once more that which makes the opening "formal official." This is a year for reversing one's opinions. You know, do you give us "Sassafras." Come now! Please! FORTSMOUTH, Ohio, April 7. P. M. WIDWALL.

Naasaf, O, Sassafras!

Thus art the stuff for me, Naasaf, O, Sassafras! Sweet sassafras, of thee!

Lackless Swiss Patents.

General Correspondence Pall Mall Gazette. Outside the town of Basel, in Basel Campagna, anybody can practise the profession of a dentist without passing the preliminary examinations which are required by law in every other Swiss town and canton.

The result is that among the thirty-six "dentists" of the Bard of Alameda's epic on "Sassafras," there is only one who has his federal diploma, and among the others are a former chimney sweep, a butcher and several tradesmen who have failed in business.

A Busy Kansas.

From the Kansas City Journal. Oasavawnee will certainly miss a busy afternoon in the future, as Judge Heffer has decided to retire to private life. He was Justice of the peace, city clerk, fourth public secretary of several secret orders and the local secretary.

THE RETURN OF IDAHO.

A LITTLE "FRANKS," BUT PURE, ABLE AND HONEST, TRUE TO THE CONSTITUTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The return of THE SUN to Senator Heyburn of Idaho is a matter of uttermost importance that has appeared from time to time in your columns that in my opinion do great injustice to a most deserving member of the Senate. He has taken positions on the "Confederate veterans" which may seem to you and to me petty and churlish, but it is to be borne in mind that these have been matters of minor importance. On the large questions of the day he is always to be found in the front rank of the exponents of political sanity.

There is no stancher defender of the Constitution, no more strenuous opponent of the encroachment of the Executive power upon the coordinate branches of the Government, no more pungent critic of the movement of noisy agitators who have occupied the limelight in the last few years than the senior Senator from Idaho. It must be remembered that he represents a State supposed to be dominated by the very elements which he loses no opportunity to denounce and that his colleague in advanced ranks is a radical leader in that body. To take the attitude that he has assumed under the circumstances requires political courage of the highest quality, not always, or even frequently, to be found in legislative bodies.

It takes courage to keep an ear to the ground and float along with such popular whim without regard to any interest except your own. Senator Heyburn has never courted popularity at the public expense.

In addition he is one of the most conscientious workers in the Senate, a splendid constitutional lawyer, and of course a man of inflexible honesty.

He has sometimes attacked the newspapers, but I think that Sen. H. is big enough to avoid the spirit of vindictiveness and give credit where credit is due.

The country could more advantageously spare the services of many Senators than those of the Hon. Weldon B. Heyburn. NEW YORK, April 9.

THE STRIKERS' CHILDREN.

THE ATTENTION OF THEIR SYMPATHIZERS DIRECTED TO CERTAIN FACTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Do the ladies in New York who encourage the leaders of strikers in their attempt to incite a false public sympathy for the children of strikers who have had steady work and are now offered the same pay as the children of from 5 to 15 per cent. understand that most of the parents of these children wish to resume work immediately and earn their advance in wages, but are intimidated by the agitators who are highly paid, well ordered that these agitators may continue to receive their larger salaries, every penny of which comes from the public, through the pockets of the strikers? This drain is felt most by the poor and persons in moderate circumstances.

There are other parents who before the strike were prevented by these leaders and are still prevented by them from earning their own money. Here the gentle sex is called upon to help. Here it is a matter of a square meal for months.

The ladies here are parties to assist these strikers who are offered the same pay as the strikers, who by reason of violence and force have lost their jobs. Do not these latter children need food? Do not these parents who long have had work? NEW YORK, April 9.

FORM AND SUBSTANCE.

AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER'S CONCLUSIONS ON POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I read with genuine interest the editorial article in THE SUN relative to De Meines and I noted particularly the following statement: "A government, city, State or national, is what the electors make it, and not an institution wholly dictated by their fancies, follies and weaknesses."

I have read what has been generally written concerning the "commission" form of government and have reached the conclusion that the "form" of government has little to do with the "substance" of the results. I am rather inclined to believe that with an alert, honest and aggressive electorate the people's interests are as well served by one form of government as by another. I have known no government to be better where the electors have a voice in their own government.

NEW YORK, April 9.

Law and Order at the Baseball Grounds.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The opening of the baseball season at the Polo Grounds is a signal for the worst outbreak of rowdian that has ever been witnessed at the National League grounds. Late comers endeavoring to get to their reserved seats were the targets for bands of peevish, wads of newspapers, and other missiles which happened to be convenient. Men had their hats smashed in, but worst of all the rowdies did not discriminate, for women were pelted as hard as were the men. The police, who are supposed to be in charge of the grounds were powerless to cope with the situation. Two or three mounted policemen were sent to the grounds, but they were not efficient than all the private officers in the league.

This year the honor of opening the baseball season in New York City falls to the lot of the Yankees, who are in the American League.

The opening of the season at the baseball parks. No matter how careful and vigilant the police may be, rowdies are certain to creep into the parks, no matter which league they may be in. So unless the officials of the American League Park are very watchful there may be a repetition of the scenes that occurred at the Polo Grounds last season. The game gets a black eye when rowdies are permitted to riot. Proper police protection will be welcomed.

NEW YORK, April 9.

The Cambridge Sauterella.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The article in THE SUN of April 8 on "Men, Manners and Morals" might have been better called "The Cambridge Sauterella." The Cambridge commencement of eighteen hundred and ever so few "Commencement" was a grand time of feasting, fiddling, dancing, toasting, and other amusements, and fighting on the classic green. This had been so for generations, and it was only gradually that the "Cambridge sauterella" were replaced by the dignified and solemnities of the present sober anniversary.

The good doctor goes on to say, with something of the same spirit which prompted the late Senator Granger to think that he was not born twenty-five years later than he was, not born in the twenty-first century, but in the nineteenth century, that the Sauterella of the Cambridge Sauterella is a thing of the past. It is to be admitted that a village fire as depicted by Teniers is more picturesque than a desolate plain, but let us be thankful that the vicious picture is only a remembrance and the virtuous commonplaces the reality of to-day.

And yet the time of the "virtuous commonplaces" in which Holmes wrote was the time of the "vicious picture" through which the Senator was looking. Some of the most famous Cambridge sauterella is in here. G. RICHMAN.

A Petition to the Publishers.

Very little fiction will be published this spring. Publishers' note. With feelings of extreme surprise we are advised that all the bookmen say, or nearly all. The output of light fiction is to be quite small.

Those rights of fancy we're accustomed to, Whom we have never had in doubt, This spring to our chagrin we'll have to do without.

How shall we live without the problem sale? The story of the broken marriage tale? And should the evergreen triangle fall We'd die.

If, horrors! no best seller be the rage, No prize, no medal, no crime we'll all resign; So, prithee, make this happy hour a Contest! LA TOUCHE HALLCOCK.

PUBLIC MARKETS.

ARE THEIR PRICES HIGHER THAN THOSE OF OTHER DEALERS?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I doubt if the cost of living is to be reduced in any marked degree by the present movement, which might be denominated "Back to the Markets." I know something about Washington Market at any rate. When I lived in New Jersey I bought there frequently and secured rather better quality and a lower price, enough difference, so I considered, to pay me for "toting" my plunder home. When I moved to Westchester I called at Washington Market occasionally, but soon found that I was paying the same as, or in some cases more than, for the same goods of equal quality or better delivered at my door. The huckster was responsible and made good unsatisfactory sales. A "kicker" in the market was welcomed for the amusement he created but not for the reason that he was a "kicker." There was much talk in the market when I last went there regularly about poor business there. There will be no "kicker" in the Jersey tube was blamed. It was more likely the greater cost of the articles sold there.

If the merchants in the public markets would not make their prices right the people would not have to be "kicked." One of the reasons for the high prices of the market is that the merchants are not buying in bulk. There was much talk in the market when I last went there regularly about poor business there. There will be no "kicker" in the Jersey tube was blamed. It was more likely the greater cost of the articles sold there.

The public markets do not afford it in my opinion. Possibly I am wrong and have been misled by what I have seen elsewhere. However, I have enough ground for my belief to buy at my front door or at the nearest street market. Here the goods are at the present high prices till we have a parcel post to bring the producer and consumer together.

NEW YORK, April 9.

THE ELIMINATION OF SEX.

A CURIOUS THEORY OF SOME WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I am constrained to ask once more for space in which to reply to the naturally indignant letter of "R. L." in THE SUN of April 5. As I knew and said, I felt sure that suffragists generally will make the mistake of taking one of their number from whose letter I briefly quoted, but as "R. L." seems to have confused me with the writer of that letter I must ask her to reconsider her temperate strictures and to remember that I am not a "kicker" in the market. I have found that any woman should print such a political expedient as did the suffragist Mrs. ——. Of course I cannot give her name, that is obvious, but the letter is so full of errors and misstatements that I feel it my duty to set them right in the course of an epistolary discussion of "woman suffrage."

The "elimination of sex" is a large undertaking in politics or anything else. Elimination is impossible, and therefore not to be attempted. Here the gentle sex is called upon to help. Here it is a matter of a square meal for months.

The ladies here are parties to assist these strikers who are offered the same pay as the strikers, who by reason of violence and force have lost their jobs. Do not these latter children need food? Do not these parents who long have had work? NEW YORK, April 9.

Standpat Neophobia