The Sun.

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Not Exactly Moribund.

The subjoined question is propounded to the atmosphere by our next door neighbor the New York *World*. The italics appear in the original package:

"Shall the Democratic party die?"

If our memory is good the same question has been asked with regard to various causes, ideas and persons, including the late Sir JONATHAN TRELAWNY. It has been asked many times about the Democratic party, in roman, in italics and even in large black capitals. The general point of view of the inquirer, as appears to be the case now with our neighbor, is that if the Democratic party does not do or does not leave undone the particular thing which he wants done or left undone, the death taps are sounding at the window pane.

In the present instance our neighbor "asserts"—"asserts" is its own word—"that the nomination of WOODROW WILSON is the one sure road to Democratic salvation."

We should say, as a disinterested observer of events at Baltimore, that the Democracy has on hand a considerable number of available candidates well able to contribute to its continued existence. There is UNDERWOOD, there is GAYNOR, there is MARSHALL, there is CHAMP CLARK, there is HARMON, and there is Blank, for example. Why, with everybody out but Blank (and his name is legion) we are willing to underwrite the life of American Democracy at very attractive rates, even if the *World's* only sure road to salvation should be closed by the political annihilation of Dr. WOODROW WILSON or his unexpected retirement on a Standard Oil pension.

The Democratic party has been condemned to death by others and by itself on a good many occasions. At the present moment it seems to be very much alive and very actively engaged in its legitimate business. It may not do what the *World* wants, its conclusions and experiences may not be precisely what THE SUN would like them to be for the sake of the country, but we expect it to go on blundering and doing great things alternately, sinning and winning by turns, for an indefinite number of years and without the slightest reference to the participation or non-participation of Dr. WOODROW WILSON in its high councils. Our neighbor's excitement about its prospects of life and future usefulness seems unnecessary. It may blunder again, but it isn't going to die.

The Blease-Jones Duel for Office.

About this time of the year when a primary campaign for Governor is going on in South Carolina, expect tragic portents but not tragedies. There is no reason to believe that former Chief Justice IRA B. JONES, or any of his friends, will take the life of the raven haired Governor the Hon. COLEMAN LIVINGSTON BLEASE because there are horrific rumors to that effect in Spartanburg. Of course these favorite sons of Newberry almost came to blows at a political meeting recently.

Candidates for Governor in South Carolina always almost come to blows, and the police have to intervene to keep them from tearing each other limb from limb. No aspirant to the Governorship in the Palmetto State is worth his salt unless he is threatened with bodily injury or sudden death as the campaign progresses. In the good old Woolhat days the Hon. BENJAMIN R. TILLMAN and General MATTHEW C. BUTLER, whose Senatorial seat Mr. TILLMAN wanted, never encountered each other on a railroad train but the whole police power of the vicinage was exerted, and always successfully, to avert bloodshed. Mr. TILLMAN walked in the shadow of assassination that happily never came. Bloodcurdling were the portents of that campaign, but both candidates survived it in fairly robust condition. Now the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a man full of law and years, has received his warning. It seems that he insulted the Governor of South Carolina at a recent political meeting. No man in America has been so sorely insulted, and so often, as the Hon. COLE BLEASE. He serves notice that if at future political meetings "he [JONES] insults me personally I shall hold him strictly to an account off the platform, where no others will be in danger."

This awful threat will probably not deter Mr. JONES from freeing his mind about the Governor of South Carolina, so that the Hon. COLE BLEASE is sure to be insulted again. Will it be necessary to bind him over to keep the peace? No, it will not even be necessary to search him when he mounts the platform. There will be nothing more deadly about his person than a roll of manuscript.

For the former ornament of the Supreme Court it may be said with confidence that he will never harm a single hair of the crowning glory of the Hon. COLE BLEASE. There is no other such head of hair in the entire South. Chief Justice JONES resigned from the bench last year to devote himself to the political extinction of the Governor, who had "got on his nerves." The Governor similarly afflicts a great many other people in South Carolina who take him seriously and who reserve their admiration for gentlemen of the old school like the late WADE HAMPTON. It will not be easy to "down" the present Governor, although the air is thick and oppressive with charges that ought to sink his administration to unplumbed depths if they are true; but no one prays for the preservation of COLE BLEASE until primary day more devoutly than the former Chief Justice. He has undertaken to drive the Governor from public life and is aching for the consummation.

Is the Japanese Army Deteriorating?

Many admirers of the Japanese were loath to believe that Lieutenant-Colonel CHARLES E. WOODRUFF, Medical Corps, U. S. A., was right when he charged the Japanese soldiers with habitual "sake" drunkenness at the front during the war in Manchuria, and when he declared that the superior sanitary arrangements of the Japanese and their effective care of the sick and wounded were mythical. That the Japanese as a people were excessively intemperate he had learned, he said, from personal observation, and in Japan he was told that the soldiers had indulged freely in "sake" during the war, as the Russians had always maintained. In regard to the treatment of sick and wounded in the Manchurian campaign he presented incomplete statistics to show that the percentage of losses in the Russian camps was considerably less than the percentage on the Japanese side. From Japan now comes a story that the officers of the army are not living the simple life, indeed are departing sadly from the old Samurai ideals. In a recent issue the *Japan Weekly Mail* says:

"An anonymous General writes in the columns of the *Nippon* in a strain of considerable indignation against the luxurious habits into which army officers are beginning to fall. While, on the one hand, ordinary individuals are complaining of the high price of rice and of the difficulty of making ends meet, young officers are living luxuriously, spending freely and running recklessly into debt. A subaltern when he emerges from the Military College comes into immediate receipt of 40 yen a month, and forthwith rents a house and takes to himself a wife. Very soon he finds himself falling into arrears with tradesmen, but about that he gives himself very little concern. Then ensues a process of moral degradation which soon tells on the military capacity of the officer."

Let no one assume, however, that the Japanese officer is sunk in sloth and degenerateness because he does not always pay his debts. If it is moral degradation to neglect a creditor the British and the Continental armies must be in a constant state of deterioration. The indignation of the "anonymous General" is not impressive; in fact, the indictment of Japanese officers for recklessly running into debt on forty dollars a month with wives to support suggests anything but luxury and dissipation. As for the addiction of the Japanese soldiers to "sake" in war time, it will remind the judicious of Mr. LINCOLN'S remarks about General GRANT'S whiskey.

An Old Friend in Straits.

If there was time to take notice of much of anything in this rapid planet, a few of us, more than a few perhaps, would stop to regret that an ancient landmark of religious journalism, the New York *Observer*, seems to be less fortunate of late than it has always been deserving. Light of our fathers', of our fathers' fathers' eyes, we would not see it go out. A pillar of the undoubting faith of earlier and simpler days, it has come down to us through long generations of MORSES and PRIMES.

In the dark backward and abysm of time our grandmothers, with their beautiful caps on their kind old heads—that was before old ladies became extinct—their gold bowed spectacles pushed up on their foreheads, blinked and dozed over the New York *Observer* in the summer afternoons. It was a kind of palladium. It was as safe as a bank and as respectable as a Bishop. If we never read it, on that very account it did us good. It lingers in the memory with the deliberate slow stroke of the grandfather's clock, the winding up on a Sunday night of that ruler of the hours. It was the temperate pulse of quiet lives, the visible exemplar of antique, austere moralities.

What, if anything, is the matter with it? Did it pay too much attention to religion? Was it too heedless of swelling the subscription list? Did it lack dexterity? Shaking off the name and suggestion of *Christian Union*, the *Outlook* has made friends with the mammon of unrighteousness by becoming a religious journal whose religion is the Contributing Editor.

The Appropriation Bills.

The situation in which the Government finds itself with regard to the payment of its expenses after June 30 results from the failure of Congress to pass the appropriation bills to provide for the expenses of the various departments during the fiscal year beginning on July 1. Of these bills, fifteen in number, only three, the Urgent Deficiency bill, the Diplomatic and Consular bill and the Fortifications bill, have passed the House and Senate and received the President's approval. The Army bill passed both houses, but was vetoed by President TAFT because it contained legislation ousting General LEONARD WOOD from office as Chief of Staff. The President is also expected to veto the Legislative, Executive and Judicial bill, now in conference, if it goes to him without provision for continuing the Commerce Court.

Of the other bills the conference report on that affecting the District of Columbia was agreed to in the House on June 19. The Department of Agriculture bill, Pensions bill and Rivers and Harbors bill are in conference. The Indian bill passed the House on April 9 and was reported in the Senate on May 29, the Post Office bill passed the House on May 2, the Military Academy bill, which passed the House on May 10, was reported in the Senate on June 1; the Naval bill, passed by the House on May 28, was reported in the Senate on June 7, and the Sundry Civil bill, passed by the House on June 21, has not yet been reported to the Senate. The General Deficiency bill has still to come from the House committee.

Much of the delay in these bills is directly due to the acts of the Democratic House in putting riders on them for the purpose of effecting general legislation under the cover of making essential appropriations. This practice is prohibited by the rules of the House, but the rules can be altered at any time by a majority vote.

The condition which the United States Government must face is likely to prove embarrassing, but will have no serious effect except as it inconveniences individuals. The army and navy will continue to perform their duties, Congress will not long deprive its members of their salaries. The Federal authority will be maintained, and as soon as the Democratic convention is over the Representatives and Senators will take up their work and authorize the expenditures that must be made.

Votes That Count Needed.

Mr. BRYAN'S boast that he is the mouthpiece of 6,000,000 Democrats sounds impressive until it is analyzed, but the fact is that only 1,775,459 votes of the grand total came from States in which he received a majority of the votes cast. Of the grand total of 6,393,182 no less than 4,617,723 came from States that declared against Mr. BRYAN and his policies. Contrast these figures with those which the Presidential election of 1892 afford. The triumphant Democratic candidate received 3,793,546 votes from States in which the Democratic party obtained majorities, and the States it failed to carry gave him 1,759,596 votes, which was about the number polled for Mr. BRYAN in the States that yielded him unavailing votes in the electoral college.

Evidently what the Democratic convention in Baltimore must do is to nominate a candidate for President who can poll seven million and odd votes that will produce a majority in the electoral college. Of Mr. BRYAN'S total of 6,393,182 votes in 1908 the great bulk, 4,617,723, might just as well have not been cast at all. If the Democratic party expects to win in 1912 it must not waste millions of votes. They serve only to pad the credentials account of a losing candidate.

A Pennsylvania farmer has a brood of chickens which can run the musical scale.—*Baltimore American.*

Any farmer who has music in his soul and needs it every hour will raise guinea hens. What the commuter pines for, and especially if he is henless, is a brood of hens that can't run the fence.

Is Reporter BRYAN, his typewriter or electric perfidy guilty of this crime against one of the most hallowed of Lone Star institutions:

"Mr. JOHNSON of Texas has gone out, and CALEB SELLS has taken his place."

The Nebraska Reporter does not lack gall to make oppression bitter. The Hon. CATO SELLS is the most famous living Texan since the retirement of the Hon. CYCLONE DAVIS, the father and grandfather of the initiative and referendum. To call him "CALEB" is as absurd or intentionally insulting as to speak of REGINALD SHAKESPEARE or GABE SLUPSKY. There smiles on us at the moment of this sin against nomenclature a most sweet hymn by CONE JOHNSON BAILEY of Houston dedicated to the new committeeman:

"Drone, ye bagpipes, swing, ye bells
(CATO! CATO!)
While the joy of Texas wells
From her loving heart that swells
Proudly for the honor done
To her most prized, mightiest son
(CATO! CATO!)
Heap up flowers of odorous smells,
Such as grow in Eden's dells
(CATO! CATO!)
Pour the whiskey! Pound the bells!
Fingers three for CATO SELLS!
Cheers and peals for CATO SELLS!"

And so on. "CALEB"! Marry come up!

Let the commencement of this convention be such a convention.—*Former Boy Orator of the Platte.*

Commencement oratory seems to be played out.

According to the president of the Ohio University, conversation is "a lost art." It is superfluous. It has been supplanted by monologue.

We will make them sit up and take notice. The Progressive party is the party of the people, and the people will rule.—GEORGE W. PERKINS.

A great deal of money will be needed for organization. Who is going to supply it?

Echoes From the Land of Spirits.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* IN THE SUN of May 30 the shade of Burr with inimitable art discussed de haut en bas the Field of Roses. Now the spook of Bumble is intent on starving the poor. "Too much meat: meat, Mrs. Sowerberry; you overfeed them." Do not let this spook worry: the bill of fare looks well; but there is no danger of these old fellows getting too much meat for all that. HOUSEKEEPER BEDWIN (Wraith.)

MAYWOOD, W. Va., June 25.

"Tell It to Sweeney."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What is the origin of the expression of incredulity "Tell it to Sweeney"? Or is it "Sweeny"? I do not know the spelling. How did "Sweeney" or "Sweeny" become equivalent to "the marines"? Besides, "Sweeney" or "Sweeny" is a Celt, I take it; the men who use the expression in my hearing oftenest are of German birth or descent.

NEW YORK, June 26. FRANK HILTON.

Price of Australian Meat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to Mr. W. W. Williams's letter concerning the proposition of the Australian visitor to reduce the price of mutton to 10 cents and sirloin beef to 12 cents if an export tax was put on provisions, why is it that the Australian doesn't reduce the price of the above in England?

NEW YORK, June 26. C. G. ALLEN.

WILL THERE BE A THIRD PARTY?

Mr. F. M. Murphy of Arizona Expects to See the Roosevelt Bolt Gradually and Easily Go to a Patriotic Death.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am thoroughly satisfied with the outcome at Chicago, as I am quite sure Republicans should be. A worthy man, who stands for law and order, upright, courageous and possessing rare executive ability, better equipped than any other man in the party to insure to all fair treatment and general prosperity, has been nominated. What more do the Republican party, the business interests, the wage earner and the farmer want? Certainly no man desirous of upholding the integrity, dignity and morals of our country can justly find fault with President Taft, what he has accomplished and what he stands for, as forcefully proclaimed by his recent declarations and numerous others throughout his political career.

Now let the Democrats nominate a good man, adopt a platform seriously intended for the good of the people, not a vote catching platform without substance, and we shall have a campaign instructive and helpful, the result of which no American citizen need be ashamed of. Whichever side wins we will be content, business will be good, wage earners and all correspondingly happy.

There will be no third party. Not such a party as is deserving of a name or worthy of much consideration. Just now some of the delegates to the convention are sore. Naturally Roosevelt is mad all through, but he will recover, and doubtless unless he has lost all of his recognized shrewdness as a politician and intends to abandon all of the principles of the Republican party for which he has heretofore stood he will cool off, drop the new party idea, with all its impossibilities, and try to shape to his advantage in some more practicable way the results and consequences that have grown out of his mistakes.

The task is a difficult one, to be sure. The many delegates and personal and financial supporters that cast their lot with him before and in the convention, with few exceptions, will not feel bound to follow him further. They will encounter sobering influences as they pass from under the spell, and while they may admire him as much as ever, and watch for a chance to render him assistance politically and otherwise as opportunity offers, along sensible lines, they are Republicans, irrespective of minor differences, and are not going to lend their influence to any movement calculated to destroy business and work general hardship throughout the country.

I expect to see the third party idea, born in anger, disappointment and unjustified enthusiasm, gradually die out, and most of those who are at the moment feeling hurt and sore back in the ranks of the Republican party where they belong, supported by many conservative Democrats, doing all they can to elect Taft; and I believe they will succeed.

FRANK M. MURPHY.

NEW YORK, June 26.

THE ALABAMA.

Not a "Pirate Ship" or a Privateer, but a Regular Man-of-war.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "R. J." says that the Alabama was a "pirate ship" because her prizes were not brought into court. He also says that because the prizes were burned at sea "by universal law this ranked him [Semmes] as a pirate and entitled him to be hanged at the yardarm. The American privateers brought their prizes into port for adjudication."

I am at a loss to know where the gentleman got his law and facts. The statement is both inaccurate and beside the question. The Alabama was not a privateer, nor did she carry letters of marque. She was a properly commissioned man-of-war. Moreover, there is no "universal law," and the only thing a man accused of piracy is "entitled to" is a fair trial before the proper authorities. Mr. Semmes held a commission from the Confederacy, and was directed to destroy Northern commerce, and it must be admitted that he did a good job. It was a legitimate act of war.

American and other privateers brought prizes into court that they might be condemned and sold as lawful prizes of war. Men engage in privateering to get money, and a nasty way it is.

No one ever attempted to indict Mr. Semmes for piracy.

Mr. Semmes got his commission from the same source that Mr. Tatnall and Mr. Buchanan got theirs. He did as he was ordered by his superiors, and by his skill drove the American flag from the seas. He should get credit for doing a legitimate act of war in a thorough manner.

As for the crew of the Alabama, Mr. Kell, her executive officer, is authority for the statement that it was made up from all the seafaring nations of the globe, with a large sprinkling of Yankee tars, among whom are to be found the best sailors, and with a nucleus of Southern "kids" and seamen from the ports of Savannah, Charleston and New Orleans.

EDWIN W. THOMAS.

NEW YORK, June 26.

Trout.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent Mr. Fenwick speaks with lightness of a four pound brook trout and prates of an English "brook trout" weighing fifteen pounds. Mr. Fenwick is not "up" on trout. Mark the following facts: that English trout was not a brook trout, having been neither taken in a brook nor so called, even popularly. It was doubtless a salmo fario or brown trout, which species grows to a larger size than our salvelinus fontinalis or brook trout, the kind really found in brooks as well as in larger waters, where, as in Maine, it has attained to the weight of a dozen pounds.

But if Mr. Fenwick means to imply that English trout are bigger than ours he is very much mistaken, for our great charr, the gray lake trout, has been taken up to 100 pounds, and that is by no means the limit, while thirty pounders have been common.

This fable teaches that a man should be "pretty well eddicated up" before he "butts into" a controversy.

UNCLE NED BUCKSHAW.

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, N. S., June 23.

Herod and Hiram.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your suggestion of Mr. Heney for Vice-President on the "Pi-Pi" ticket is good, and a vigorous second to this would kill off Hiram Johnson's enthusiasm very quickly. Mr. Hiram Johnson has a fine job in San Diego to clean up, and he should have done this before he left for the Chicago convention.

I am personally acquainted with Mr. Heney, for whom I have great admiration, but I have no sympathy with his wild ideas in Chicago. Governor Johnson deserves better treatment than his actions at Chicago would indicate, but if Mr. Heney can be suggested as a candidate for Vice-President with Roosevelt I feel sure that Mr. Johnson would quickly lose all interest.

BOSTON, June 26. J. AMES.

Headcloth of the Bossboss.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Don't you think Roosevelt ought to be perfectly honest with the people and blot out all the white and blue spots in his red bandanna handkerchief? C. B. GUDERNOD.

POTTSTOWN, Pa., June 26.

The Latest Discovery.

Say, Ichabod, through all the years
You've slept beneath the sod
They've wondered if you ever had
No name but Ichabod.
No longer do they wonder now,
Nor into archives prod;
The thing's been settled, and your name
Is T. R. Ichabod.

W. J. LAMPTON.

T. HIBERNICUS.

How Came to Be, if He Is, Forester of Silva Gadelica?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The discussion between "Philo-Celt" and Father O'Flanagan about Mr. Roosevelt's Gaelic status is very interesting. Is T. Hibernicus president of a Gaelic society newly born in the middle of his political campaign? And if so, how did he get elected or selected? Father O'Flanagan surely can give a plain answer to "Philo-Celt."

Gaelic Leaguers nowadays seem to be in the hollow of Father O'Flanagan's hands. And now when we thought he was about to go home has he manufactured a brand new instrument to search us and put the terrible Teddy on our trail? Help! Help!

My impression is that Teddy really knew nothing about it and should not be blamed as a "Gaelic faker." Did Father O'Flanagan not see the advertising value of Teddy's name to float a new project into the papers? Hitch your wagon to a star, says Emerson, and here was a star of the first magnitude at hand. That Teddy has turned out to be a falling star is another story.

His reverence is the only one who can solve these questions, and to him "Philo-Celt" should apply. But "Philo-Celt" is surely safe in saying that T. Hibernicus has not been elected recently to the presidency of any Gaelic society; and the blanket resolution which Father O'Flanagan had passed to cover his acts scarcely covers this case of raising the dust by using the name of the great whirling political acrobat.

NEW YORK, June 26. GAEL.

SHRINES OF PETTY JUSTICE.

More Strictures on the Methods and Spirit of the Municipal Courts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letters appearing in to-day's SUN calling attention to the peculiar conditions governing the conduct of some of our Magistrates, courts and the absence from duty of a number of Municipal Court Judges at political conventions are extremely pertinent. The writers should be commended for bringing these matters into the light so that many of our people, fortunate as they are in not being brought into contact with these institutions, should nevertheless know of the abuses and understand how their money paid in taxes is being used.

I have had two experiences in Magistrates' courts, each time as complainant, and although the circumstances were such in each case that it was impossible for the Judge to do anything but decide in my favor, I left the court room on each occasion feeling like a criminal. Every employee in the place seems to regard himself as a minister of correction, and the people as simply subjects to be corrected.

In the Municipal courts, where one would say that fine points of law such as might be looked for in the Appellate Division would not be necessary, and no action can be brought for more than $300, you would naturally expect to find the law of common sense and a little mixture of shrewdness and charity. This does not seem to be the judicial view, however, and the ordinary layman involved in a case soon finds that unless he pays a lawyer to stand up and make the statement which he could do more briefly and to the point he has no chance. Not only that, but the court treats people who come before him defending an action without lawyers as if they were condemned criminals, and prejudges their case before he knows the facts. I have seen this in a dozen instances in the few visits I have of necessity made to these courts.

I am led to understand now that several Brooklyn courts are about to close for three months to give the Municipal Judges and the Magistrates an opportunity to rest from their "arduous labors." In the meantime the salaries of all the court attendants, clerks, stenographers, officers and Judges go on, but the people's business must wait. What a wretched travesty on justice!

NEW YORK, June 26. NON-JUSTITIA.

Prosperous Irish Banks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let me add a word or two by way of information to the news story on the Ulster banks printed in THE SUN of Sunday. The same tale of prosperity can be related of the South of Ireland banks. The Munster and Leinster Bank has paid 10 per cent. dividends to its stockholders for several years, and during the last few years the dividends have climbed to 14 per cent. exclusive of income tax.

In earning power the Royal Ulster Bank is ahead of all others in Ireland. I recall a dividend of 24 per cent. being paid by the northern institution. In other respects the Munster and Leinster Bank is conducted like the Ulster.

No industrious farmer or tradesman is turned from its doors when in need, and several cooperative societies after having exhausted all their capital in buildings and machinery secured their working capital in this useful house.

All its buildings are fine, substantial houses, part residence and part business. A branch of the Munster and Leinster Bank is found in every town in the south. The managers are supposed to know everybody and red tape is carefully avoided.

NEW YORK, June 26. P. L. QUINLAN.

Two Ideas of a Taxpayer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* On the question of "pushcart men" THE SUN prints the result as per investigation of the State Food Investigation Committee. Could not the committee appointed by the Mayor to find means to derive more revenue for the city learn to advantage, possibly, that if stores were rented instead of stands licensed realty values could be sustained thereby?

Second, THE SUN speaks of the inroad to be made on properties to permit broader sidewalks. It would seem to many that the broader policy would mean to leave the oppressed real estate sufferer free from further onerous abuse and to aid in securing tenants to fill his quarters rather than lessening the available rental space at present existing. A TAXPAYER.

NEW YORK, June 26.

Africa and the Arctic.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN this morning suggests the Hon. Herod Heney or the Hon. Hiram Johnson as "the fittest and most congenial candidate for Vice-President" on the Colonel's "spite ticket." Has THE SUN overlooked the obvious claims of Dr. Frederick A. Cook to the distinction? J. M. B.

NEW BLOOMFIELD, Pa., June 24.

A Canadian Protest.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a Canadian I protest against the use of the "Bull Moose" as a Roosevelt emblem.

The bull moose keeps to the seclusion of his native woods, and in his proud and silent dignity commands the respect of all true sportsmen. JANE FRASER.

NEW YORK, June 26.

This Illogical World.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A London despatch in THE SUN, referring to the release of Mrs. Emeline Pankhurst and other militant suffragettes under the pretence that as they refused the Holloway delicatessen they might die of hunger, makes me think once more how this world is illogical, absurd, in fact made up of non-senses.

Can you tell by example why so many people are allowed to die of hunger in the streets, parks, &c., nobody bothering about them, when others in jail for having tried to imitate the "pétroleuses" of the French Commune must absolutely be fed even with the help of a pump? Is it by respect for freedom?

Not prisons but lunatic asylums would be the right place for many a martyr to be taken care of. HENRI DE LAFITOLE.

NEW YORK, June 26.

Is Short Selling Immoral?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is not short selling of stocks in Wall Street a violation of the principles of morality? Is it not the selling of another's property without the owner's consent? Can this, ethically speaking, be right?

MOUNT VERNON, June 26. A. E. S.

Virginian Templars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Coxe and Cocke, lawyers, Roanoke, Va., will make the feathers fly before you will succeed in keeping 'em out of the back yard of the Temple.

SCRANTON, Pa., June 26. J. L.

THE "CROSS OF GOLD" SPEECH.

How Far Was Bryan's Nomination in 1896 Due to His Oratory?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN indirectly gives new expression to the legend that Mr. Bryan's speech at the Democratic convention of 1896 unsettled the judgment of the delegates in a frenzy of enthusiasm, the intimation being that they were thus induced to do what they otherwise would not have done. Other morning papers contain similar comments and make it clear that there is a general impression that the "cross of gold" speech profoundly influenced the votes of the delegates by the mere power of oratory. To dispute this is probably a vain task, for nothing is so immutable as a legend. Nevertheless it may interest some of your readers who were not present at that convention to state the truth of the matter.

The compelling charm of Mr. Bryan's elocution and the beauty of the metaphor with which he closed his speech undoubtedly excited general admiration not only among those who shared his monetary views, but those also who dissented. The other speakers, Russell, Hill, Vilas and others, lamentably failed because they thought it necessary in that great auditorium to scream in order to be heard, and thus it became painful to listen to the unnecessary torture of the vocal cords.

When Mr. Bryan took the platform to advocate the silver plank he pitched his voice in the middle register, spoke with ease and grace, and the melody of his voice, at that time unworn by incessant use, was in striking and pleasant contrast to the strained tones of other speakers.

Never before and never since has Mr. Bryan reached the same height of impassioned oratory.

Freely conceding this, the fact is that his oratory did not change a vote, and the legend that the delegates were swept off their feet by the mere power of words is as untrue as most legends. Every delegate who had gone to the convention to vote for free silver voted for it, and the lines of the so-called Gold Democrats remained unbroken. The speech did not even disarm the opposition of the Gold Democrats or lessen the bitterness of their opposition.

Nor is it true that the speech in and by itself won for Mr. Bryan his nomination. It was a contributing but secondary cause. The fact is that few in the convention of 1896 believed for one moment that the ticket that they were about to nominate could possibly be elected. The issue was not the candidate but the platform, and the latter represented the struggle for control between a radical and a conservative Democracy.

When the struggle for the platform was over the interest in the nominee was exceedingly small. There were two leading candidates, and when through the operation of the two-thirds rule it became apparent that neither of these could be nominated, the convention, to break the deadlock and in sheer weariness of spirit, selected the young orator as the nominee. Unquestionably the admiration which his speech inspired caused him to be selected to end the deadlock, but the proximate cause, to use a legal phrase, was the deadlock between the two leading candidates, each of whom polled a considerable vote on the first ballot, without reference to the "cross of gold" speech.

The fact is that then, as now, politicians were too hard headed and practical to be swept away by oratory. Contrary to the general impression, Mr. Bryan's speech at yesterday's session of the Baltimore convention probably had more influence in changing the votes of delegates than his great speech of 1896. In the former case the issue was so sharply defined and the preferences of the delegates, before the convention commenced, had so completely crystallized that few if any votes were affected, while in Baltimore the issue as to the temporary chairmanship came with comparative suddenness, and it is possible, if not probable, that the minds of some of the delegates were open to debate and persuasion.

A more serious question which the two recent conventions suggest is whether some practical movement cannot be started to supersede the "howling dervish" method of electing a President. I refer not to the speeches of delegates but to the turbulent demonstrations of the galleries. The editorial comments of European newspapers which have been cabled during the last ten days fairly evidence the contempt with which other nations regard, and justly regard, the hippodrome method of a Presidential nomination. Indeed, the average circus would be disgraced by the clumsy artifices used in an American convention to confer the highest honor in the gift of the American people. The framers of the Constitution sought to avoid this unwise and unseemly spectacle by their scheme of an electoral college, that scheme being based upon the conclave of Cardinals, which, as occasion requires, selects a Pope. Between the conclave of Cardinals, meeting without gallery or audience and deliberating with the solemnity of purpose worthy of so great a task, and the howling mob of an American convention, there is, unfortunately, a most painful contrast. While I, in common with many others, question whether a direct Presidential primary will not weaken our institutions, yet such a system seems preferable to the unseemly spectacle of a President nominated in the presence of a mob, by a convention whose delegates cannot make themselves heard even through a megaphone, by reason of the disorder in the galleries. If we were not so accustomed to this outrageous travesty on a republican form of government which is growing worse as the years pass by, we would no longer tolerate a repetition of such a spectacle as that of the Chicago convention.

Remembering the power of the Presidential office, no official gathering of Americans should be more important than the convention of a great party, which puts a man in nomination for the most important position in our governmental system, and adopts a platform of party principles; and yet a session of the Stock Exchange or even a prizefight is surrounded with more decorum and order than these conventions. It is true, as I have intimated, that the delegates are little affected either by the demonstrations of the galleries or by the impassioned utterances of professional orators, but the whole thing is inexpressibly absurd, and the thoughtful citizen when he reflects upon this disgraceful feature of our national life can only say in the words of *Hamlet*, "Reform it altogether." JAMES M. BECK.

NEW YORK, June 26.

Quiet Uptown.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was very much interested in the letter of "L. B. S." complaining of the terrible nuisance in the vicinity of 149th street and St. Nicholas avenue, in what used to be a most desirable section of quiet and delightful homes. Now all is changed, and many buildings thereabout are marked "For Sale" or "To Let." Loud blasting, shaking our houses to their foundation and breaking our windows, is going on up to nearly midnight, and all night long heavy work with wood and iron is being carried on, together with the noisy handling of heavy stones and material from the tunnel, making restful sleep impossible.

Since these tunnel contractors had the Mayor all togged up in a sou'wester suit, firing blasts up in the Highlands of the Hudson, he seems to be utterly oblivious of the fact that all this devilitry is going on here. Just now while the Mayor is trying to smile and look pleasant, as his ears are being tickled with Presidential talk, it would likely be useless to make an appeal to him for relief. JOHN F. BAXTER.

NEW YORK, June 26.

The Great "Rebellion" in Cuba.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a perfect example of the ridiculous exaggerations emanating from Cuba in regard to the revolt most of the newspapers recently reported that "thousands of white residents" were fleeing in terror from El Cobre. It is only necessary to look at a map to realize the relative importance of this hamlet tucked away in the broken foothills of the Santiago mountains. Of the tiny handful of its residents quite a large proportion are black. Better send marines to New York to suppress the gangsters of Black Hand bombs, which recently damaged thirty houses in one month.

ARLINGTON, N. J., June 26. H. S. STAUNTON.

PLAN TO TIDE THE GOVERNMENT OVER

Effort to Be Made in Congress To-day to Extend Existing Appropriations.

SPEAKER CLARK GETS BUSY

Navy Department Will Close the Navy Yards Unless Congress Acts.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—To prevent the threatened shutdown of Government operations next Monday because of the failure of Congress to pass the necessary appropriation bills, an effort is to be made to-morrow to pass a joint resolution extending existing appropriations through the first two weeks of the fiscal year.

When Speaker Clark to-day came to a realization of the serious embarrassment that is impending on July 1 he began to get into communication with his leaders to arrange for action in the House to-morrow. Similar efforts are being made in the Senate.

On the other hand, though both House and Senate are to meet to-morrow for the last time before July 1, it is stoutly maintained in some quarters at the Capitol that such a resolution as is sought cannot be passed before Monday. Majority Leader Underwood to-day declared that the terms of the gentlemen's agreement by which no business is being done by either house this week preclude the passage of any resolution extending appropriations. Other Democrats insist that this view is correct and that the Government machinery must wait on the Democratic convention and the gentlemen's agreement.

At the Navy Department, however, all preparations were made to-day for the closing of the navy yards from the Atlantic coast to the Philippines. More than 20,000 men will be without work Monday morning unless Congress acts. None but officers will be legally employed at the Navy Department on that day with the exception of a dozen or more civilians exempted by statute from the necessity of ceasing work in the absence of an appropriation. All the men laid off will be taken back the minute Congress provides for their payment.

At the Capitol some of the lawmaker, ask angrily why the departments should stick at the law for a day or two. "Let the civilians keep at work," these solons say. "It will be only for a day or two and then Congress will pass the necessary measures."

The departments reply that it is not for them to overlook the law of Congress for a day or two just because the national legislators have failed to provide the wherewithal for the maintenance of Government activities. Then the reply is made from the House that it is the fault of the Senate that Uncle Sam is going to be dead broke Monday morning; that the Senate has been mulling over the appropriations so long that no wonder they did not get passed before the Democratic convention. Also in the House they are disposed to accuse department heads of using the present situation for political purposes by telling the country that the Democratic majority is foregetting its duties and responsibilities to go to a political convention, leaving the Government unprovided for.

Meanwhile 3,000 employees at the Washington navy yard and gun factory are due to lose at least one day's pay unless Congress acts before Saturday night. When the retail merchants of Washington learn of this it is expected there will be a tremendous wail go up from them at the prospects of losing that that much trade.

WILL MOVE THE MARKET.

But Mayor Had Hard Work to Silence One Objector.

The plan for moving West Washington Market to a new site so as to allow the building of two piers was adopted yesterday by the Sinking Fund Commission, but not until Mayor Gaynor had threatened with ejection from the room one of the speakers who opposed the scheme. P. P. Cappel, representing the West Side Taxpayers Association, was the individual who angered the Mayor. He insisted that the removal of the market would cost the city $20,000,000, although Dock Commissioner Tomkins had stated that the cost would be not more than $8,000,000.

After Mr. Cappel had spoken several times he was called to order by the Mayor, but he refused to obey the gavel and insisted on shouting his objections to the plan, whereupon the Mayor remarked:

"If you don't come to order when you are called to order I'll have to have you put out."

Even this threat didn't silence the speaker. Lieut. Kennel, the Mayor's aid, moved toward him and he quickly subsided with the remark:

"You don't have to put me out, I can quit."

ITALY HONORS PENNELL.

Buys American's Lithographs for Modern Gallery.

PHILADELPHIA, June 26.—Joseph Pennell, the American etcher, who is staying at the Art Club, received word from Italy to-day that the Italian Minister of the Fine Arts has purchased for the Italian Government a number of lithographs executed by Mr. Pennell and exhibited by him at the Biennal International Exhibition in Venice. The lithographs will go to enrich the great collection of the Modern Gallery in Rome.

"American artists ought to send their works to European exhibitions," said Mr. Pennell, when asked about this latest recognition of his work abroad, "for if the things are bought, it gives the artist an international reputation. The happenings in the art world over there get to be known here.

"Prizes in this country should be thrown open to the whole world and Europe. It is so in Pittsburg, but in none of the other American exhibitions. In Europe you feel that you are competing with the world. The honor is the thing. The prizes in mere financial value mean nothing."

OCEAN WEATHER SERVICE.

Wireless Conference at London Adopts Prof. Willis Moore's Plan.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—A cable message from Prof. Willis Moore, chief of the United States Weather Bureau, delegate to the International Radio Telegraph Conference at London, announces that the conference has appro