The Sun.

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Can Fact So Outstrip Fiction?

Outside a New York office building a crowd of idle, morbid men and women taxing the activities of a squad of mounted police to keep open a passage for pedestrians and vehicles; inside, three peace officers in civilian dress, watching patiently a lawyer methodically clearing his desk in preparation for a long absence; a warrant for the lawyer's arrest accusing him of murder by means so unusual as to be almost unprecedented; what an amazing climax in the mysterious drama that had its beginning with the death of ROSA MENSCHIK SZABO two months ago!

In motive and in method the story told in the allegations of the prosecution matches the most ingenious productions of the novelist's imagination. A foreigner, possessed of a little estate, about to return to her native land; a will bequeathing her property to her mother; then comes death by "accident," now declared design, and the probate of the testament, with the necessary documents affecting the heir. Here intervention by the dead woman's consul; proof that the heir under the will had died two years before her daughter; inquiry, suspicion, and formal accusation. Meantime the suspect, fortified either by consciousness of innocence or courage impenetrable and callous, continues his daily life with no sign of dismay, apparently confident of eventual vindication. A strong man, at worst.

The prosecutor says that death resulted from a blow which made its victim incapable of drawing breath, subsequent to which she was immersed in the water to sustain the pretence that she was drowned. The magistrate receives such a theory coolly. The medical witness explains it in detail. The Judge still hesitates. Then, that doubt may be removed, the proponent of the explanation seizes the Judge's throat and chokes him into speechlessness. The warrant issues. The court's distrust of a fantastical suggestion is dispelled. "Ah!" exclaims the amateur detective, "the accused will say her throat may have been, or was, crushed on the gunwale of the boat as she fell." But what does the accused say? Here are his words:

"There was certainly no struggle between us in the boat and there was never any time when I had my hands on her throat. She did not strike the side of the boat when she fell overboard. That is absolutely certain."

So the amateur detective may devise another defence for this prisoner who calmly and deliberately discards one obvious and possibly easily sustained. What are the facts? Is GIBSON an unfortunate born to deadly fortune, or a monster of surpassing cunning and resource? The trial must tell. Certainly he is the central figure of such a tale as GABORIAU might have written had he not been restrained by the limitations of mere imagination.

The Country of Religious and Racial Tolerance.

To give anything more than select readings in the strange and curious history of every day is more than the newspaper can hope to do; and every day slays yesterday's news. Still, we shall dare to tamper for once with the machinery of Time and terrene revolution of THE SUN and reprint from yesterday this which contains the promise of many nobler to-morrows:

"The Rev. Father TIMOTHY A. HICKEY of St. Brendan's Catholic Church, Avenue O and East Twelfth street, Sheepshead Bay, has given the Jews of his neighborhood permission to hold their New Year services to-day in St. Brendan's Hall in Coney Island avenue. The Jews say that but for the priest's generosity they might not have been able to hold the services.

"Nearly 400 Hebrews live in the vicinity of the church. For some time they have been unable to hire a hall big enough for their holiday observances.

"A committee headed by PHILIP OVBERG called on the priest and explained the dilemma. Father HICKEY at once placed the parish hall at their disposal and said no rent would be charged for it.

"The priest said last night that there was nothing unusual in his action. History teaches, he said, that the Catholics have always been friendly with the Jews. He added that he was very glad to be of service to his neighbors."

We admire Father HICKEY'S charity, if we do not agree with his history. Unless we are grievously mistaken the Catholics have not always been friendly with the Jews; they are not always friendly with them now in Europe. Difference of religious belief, hatreds or prejudices of "race," considerations of politics, competitions of commerce, old surviving causeless hatreds, fierce contemporary competitions and envies of business, in several countries of Europe many reasons and unreasons combine to set Jews and Catholics, "Roman" or "Greek," against one another; and not Jew and Catholic alone.

If Father HICKEY will look at Austria-Hungary or the Balkan States he will see ancient enmities of "race" or religion perpetuated miserably into the days of airships.

The United States has faults enough; in spite of the venerable and once well founded notion of American "swagger," is it not too eager to pounce on them, too ready to see black? And in the matter of religious and racial tolerance, what other nation can be put beside it? Where else can Cardinal and Jew, men of every religion and origin, work together for the good of the State and every generous purpose of charity and humanity?

With nothing but contempt for Pharisaism, always an insidious danger, or for a blind Chauvinism, are we wrong in thinking that the racial and religious tolerance prevailing in the United States would be a strength incalculable in more than one European State? And we don't have to stop at Europe.

The Horned and Hoofed Mystery.

On Wednesday THE SUN, not wholly unaccustomed to this world of topsy-turvy, took the liberty of doubting if the great crops predicted by the Agricultural Department, especially those of corn, oats and hay, whose high cost has so long been given as one reason of the high cost of meat, would lower the price of that singular commodity, necessary or luxury.

On Thursday our Chicago despatches reported beef as sold on that same Wednesday in the stock yards "fifteen cents higher than the high market" of Tuesday, momentarily a "record."

One load of steers at $10.90; stock yard prophets foresaw "the $11 steer."

Why was the horned Devil portrayed as a goat? Why not as the steer he was and is?

The Omen.

The Hon. HIRAM JOHNSON sat in his Chicago hotel smoking a pipe of war; and all the noise reminded him of his party, and the waters of Lake Michigan of the pure aims of his Colonel.

The train which was to have had the happiness of bearing him to Milwaukee waited for him as he smoked and gazed and thought. His special car, the sure conveyer of HIRAM and his fortunes, that special car which social justice will bring within the reach of every hater of privilege and at the expense of the railroads, so long the milch cow of the Colonel, that special car yearned for the ample presence of its HIRAM.

He came not. The special car went not. The train went.

Left!

The Recognition of Mexican Rebels as Belligerents.

One of the newest members of the Senate, the Hon. A. B. FALL of New Mexico, proposes and advises that the United States recognize the rebels in Mexico as belligerents, including obviously the Zapatistas as well as the guerrillas of Sonora. Mr. FALL as a student of the messages of several Presidents dealing with the expediency of recognizing the Cubans as belligerents during the insurrections of 1868-78 and 1895-98, when they had the deepest sympathy and the good will of the American people, ought to be aware that the rebels in Mexico have made out no case for recognition.

If PASCUAL OROZCO, Jr., had repulsed the Federal army of General HUERTA and retained possession of the city and State of Chihuahua a plausible plea for belligerent rights could have been made in behalf of his organized forces and the fabric of a government that had been set up, but still his title would not have been clear. When OROZCO lost the city and was driven out of the State, had to evacuate Juarez with its seat of customs and could continue to oppose the Federal Government only as a guerrilla leader in the waste places of Sonora, the contention for belligerent rights had not a leg to stand on. No American President stated the objections to according such rights to the Cubans in a more convincing way than General GRANT did in his special message of June 13, 1870:

"The insurgents hold no town or city, have no established seat of government; they have no prize courts; no organization for the receiving and collecting of revenue; no seaport to which a prize may be carried or through which access can be had by a foreign Power to the limited interior territory and mountain fastnesses which they occupy. The existence of a legislature representing any popular constituency is more than doubtful. * * * It is a well established principle of public law that a recognition by a foreign State of belligerent rights to insurgents under such circumstances as now exist in Cuba, if not justified by necessity, is a gratuitous demonstration of moral support to the rebellion. Such necessity may yet hereafter arrive, but it has not yet arrived, nor is its probability clearly to be seen."

President CLEVELAND during the "insurrection [1895] in some respects more active than the last preceding revolt" declined to consider recognition, and even as late as December, 1897, President MCKINLEY, commending a second message of General GRANT on the subject in 1875, decided that to recognize the belligerency of the Cubans would be "unwise and therefore inadmissible." The conclusion come to by General GRANT in 1875 is peculiarly pertinent to the present status of the rebel forces in Mexico:

"Apart from any question of theoretical right, I am satisfied that while the accordance of belligerent rights to the insurgents in Cuba might give them a hope and an inducement to protract the struggle, it would be but a delusive hope, and would not remove the evils which the Government and its people are experiencing, but would draw the United States into complications which it has waited long and already suffered much to avoid."

As Senator FALL very well knows, the recognition of the Mexican rebels as belligerents would release the Madero Government from responsibility for whatever might be done by the insurgents or not done by the Federal Government in localities to which the insurgent power extends; and recognition would have the effect of material as well as moral support of the insurgents, for they could then obtain loans and munitions of war from citizens of the United States, enlist men in this country, issue commissions, collect revenue and acquire a quasi-political status before the world. On the other hand, the Madero Government could declare blockades and search American ships for contraband, and it would be impossible for the United States Government to avoid complications and in the end war with Mexico. Nothing would be gained and a great deal would be risked, including vast amounts of American capital, by according belligerent rights to the rebels.

Senator FALL does not add to his usefulness as an American Senator by urging such a policy, and his proposal does not come with the best of grace from a member of the sub-committee of the Senate charged to investigate the activity of American citizens in promoting the insurrection.

Fear for Aya Sophia.

The news from Constantinople that the shock of the recent earthquake has endangered the stability of the most famous of Moslem churches will be received with deep regret by all lovers of great monuments of the past. Whether regarded as a piece of architecture or as a historical landmark, the temple mistakenly called Saint Sophia is one of the great places of the earth. It should be preserved.

The correct name of this old church is Hagia Sophia, the Divine Wisdom. The Turks have modified this into Aya Sophia, which does not mean St. Sophia. It is the successor of one of three basilicas dedicated by CONSTANTINE to the glory and adoration of the wisdom of the Creator. It is to-day, as it was at its birth, the proudest monument of Byzantine architecture. It occupies the same position among the relics of the Byzantine art as the Parthenon does among those of the Greek.

The lamentable condition of the Parthenon, racked and torn as it was by the martial occupations of Venetians and Turks, should warn the Ottoman authorities of what may chance to befall their architectural pride. The sight of the matchless columns of the glorious Doric basilica on the Acropolis lying prone where they fell after some of the bombardments or explosions of the old wars, though some of them at least could have been restored without much expenditure, is enough to bring tears to the eyes of any lover of the beautiful.

One look at the majestic sweep of the grand central dome of Aya Sophia, at the mighty curves of its huge pendentives, at the almost magical combination of immense size with the illusion of lightness and moderation, is enough to satisfy the stranger within the walls designed by TRALLES and ISIDORUS that he is in the presence of a conception of real genius. If the walls of this structure bulge there is danger from the nature of the Byzantine design, with the tremendous downward and outward thrust of the dome, that the entire building must collapse. Such an outcome would be an irreparable loss to the world. Perhaps the Turkish Ministers will withdraw their minds from their political difficulties long enough to give this matter serious consideration.

Is the Syracuse State fair going to degenerate into an annual exhibition of Democratic statesmen?

The recent rumors of an alliance between France and Spain probably has little further warrant than the approach of a friendly settlement of the disputes between the two countries over Morocco. ALFONSO is shortly to make a visit to Paris, and probably just before that visit the formal treaty dividing the Shereefian Empire will be published. The French and Spanish press has been bitterly antagonistic in recent months, but the situation in both nations demands friendly relations rather than hostility. Spain needs French capital particularly for her railroad building, and France has every reason to desire a friendly neighbor who will not have to be watched by one or two army corps along the Pyrenees in the event of another Franco-German war.

Despite the sad forecasts of the Hon. WILLIAM SULZER we venture the guess that the Germans will wait until they have finished the Bagdad railroad before they begin the Nicaraguan Canal.

The Detroit "fan" who threw a "pop" bottle at an unsatisfactory umpire is doubtless a confirmed partisan of the Recall of Judges.

Colonel BRYAN following "on the heels" of Colonel ROOSEVELT may remind the ungodly of the "clown athlete" who tries to imitate the trained gymnast of the circus.

The decision of the British War Office to suspend the use of monoplanes, because they have cost four army officers their lives in one week and because biplanes are more stable, will surely excite the scorn of M. JULES VÉDRINES, who calls the biplane fliers "caged chickens." However, it is better to be a caged chicken than a dead cock in the pit. The British War Office can justify its ruling by pointing out that if speed is the prime essential in a military aeroplane, as the French declare, the Cody biplane recently adopted by England is fast enough, for it attains a speed of nearly seventy-five miles an hour.

If Connecticut has ever had a Governor fitter for the post than the Hon. SIMEON EBEN BALDWIN she has been wonderfully fortunate. And in renominating him yesterday the Nutmeg Democrats showed a genuine enthusiasm, such as a wise, judicious and highly competent Governor does not often get from his party.

The Dornock suffragettes seem to have forestalled the Tories in upsetting the Asquith Ministry. Why doesn't the Hon. A. BONAR LAW retire in favor of the Hon. MARY HOWIE?

Shell Oatts's Straw.

From the Monticello Outlook.

A crowd of town boys accidentally, or on purpose, burned a straw stack belonging to Shell Oatts Monday.

THE OLDEST MAN.

Who Was He Among the Moderns and Did His Years Equal Methuselah's?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having taken considerable interest for many years in centenarianism, it has occurred to me that it would be interesting if it could be decided who is entitled to receive the verdict for length of days, within, say, the last 500 years, which is about the period that covers anything like authentic records.

The papers recently reported the death of Jones Calvario in Mexico at the reputed age of 168 years, and the *Weekly Scotsman* states his age is only excelled by one man since the days of the patriarchs, Peter Tortin or Zorten of Hungary, who is reputed to have died at about the same age, although in THE SUN some years ago Peter Czartan, a notorious glutton, doubtless the same individual, is only credited with a century and a half.

The *Scotsman* goes on to say that the oldest man before Tortin was Henry Jenkins of Yorkshire (169), whose predecessor in the distinction was Thomas Parr of Shropshire, 152. I take exception to this—as to Parr—as some years ago THE SUN in an interesting editorial honored me by mentioning Thomas Cam (207) and William Edwards (168), and no one can successfuly dispute their authenticity. Again, the *Deutsche Volksblatt* recently announced the death of Marie Polanioff, a peasant woman of Tornovo, at 188. And then Betsy Trantham is said to have died in Tennessee in 1834 at 154, which if correct beats Parr, to say nothing of Cam, Edwards and Polanioff.

My own belief is that unless registers or tombstones are tampered with—and the chances are less with the latter—many of these extraordinary persons lived the ages assigned to them. Cam's case stands on a parish register, and in the absence of proof to the contrary I claim that he is the modern Methuselah. Edwards's age appears on his tomb, as does Jenkins's, and there may be and doubtless are in addition register entries to back them up.

I should like to know your opinion and that of your readers as to how Cam's years, based on the Roman calendar, really compare with those of Methuselah of the Bible (969), as the latter's great length of days appears to be so much in excess of the age of man declared by God in Genesis (120), and later by the Psalmist, 70-80.

It may be interesting to state that among other American "ancients" besides Betsy Trantham, Solomon Nabit of South Carolina is said to have died in 1820 at 143 and Henry Francesco of Whitehall, N. Y., "cashed in" at 134

W. FENWICK.

ARLINGTON, N. J., September 12.

THEODORE'S HATCHET.

The Cherry Tree Legend Revised and Expanded.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From the advance sheets of "Anecdotes about ME and Washington and Lincoln" I am able to send you the "Anecdote of Theodore and the Cherry Tree."

Theodore having been presented by his father with a hatchet showed his gratitude by chopping down a favorite cherry tree of his father's. His father, having witnessed the act, said: "Theodore, you have ruined my favorite tree." Theodore, who even in early youth wished to do all the talking himself, at once interrupted. "Father," said he, "you are various kinds of an objectionable liar. I am now on my way to the post office to mail a letter written to myself this morning. For the purposes of the record I dated it early last month. In this letter I say that cherries are the food of the plain people, and I instruct myself never to injure a cherry tree. I further directed myself in case I should have cut one down before receiving the letter to restore it to its original condition. No honest man can question my absolute sincerity in this matter. I have never done anything wrong. Any one suspecting me only betrays his own infinite baseness as well as that of his sisters and his cousins and his aunts." Theodore's father turned away sadly, and Theodore producing the hatchet from under his jacket, and addressing the reporters, said: "My hatchet knows no father. I simply slugged them over the ropes."

Moral—Theodore never had any morals.

BOSTON, September 12. PARSON W.

666.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Colonel Roosevelt's familiarity with the Apocalypse is his undoing. Granted that "we stand at Armageddon," we want some better authority than his as to the side for which he fights. Fortunately we have the highest authority. Read Revelation xvi., 13 to 16. In Revelation xiii., 18, we find: "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is six hundred three score and six." Now it is a well known principle that to find the number of a man we must translate the man's name into the vernacular, from the sentence thus obtained take the first letter of the first word, the second letter of the second word, the third letter of the third word, &c., bearing in mind always that in those days the letter "s" in the middle of a word was made like an "f." Substitute for each letter thus obtained, written in succession, the numeral indicating its place in the alphabet and we have the number sought. To apply for the Colonel: The High Dutch "Roosevelt" means in our simple tongue "field of roses"; mark the intermediate "s," separate and substitute as required, and we have "fff" or "666," the number of Roosevelt's name, six hundred three score and six. Ergo, Roosevelt is the beast. He stands at Armageddon and fights against the Lord. Can you beat it?

PHILADELPHIA, September 12. G. G. H.

He That Ruleth His Spirit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A letter in THE SUN signed "Middle Aged" on the advisability discovered by the writer of keeping his temper so closely spelled my own case that I am moved to remark on it. My turning point was reached in a tussle with pneumonia several years ago. Before that I was a regular "Indian" for "scrapping." I'd bicker with the car window fiend, the "end seat hog" and all the rest of them. My special quarry was the out of order smoker, and though a smoker myself I fought him tooth and nail. I used to feel that this daily run of exciting incident was rather essential to my well being, rather bracing, as it were. But as I say, the change came; the doctor talked warningly of an "erratic heart," and here I am, if not a back number, a seeker of peace and quiet. I sometimes seem to miss the stimulant of my old time "temper cocktail," but in the average I am happier; and I don't so often have to call myself a fool.

NEW YORK, September 12. J. W. E.

The Police.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A correspondent asks in to-day's SUN why Governor DIX does not suspend the police force and detail sufficient militia to take entire charge of the police business of the city.

Were the Governor to carry out your correspondent's suggestion the militia would soon be as bad as the police because of our system of wire pulling or favoritism and making laws (to salve our conscience) which cannot be enforced. We the public are really to blame for all the corruption which exists.

CANDIDE.

NEW YORK, September 11.

HIGH COST OF LIVING.

Why a Middleman Advocates Price Fixing by the Government.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I comment upon the letter in THE SUN signed "A Woman Farmer" and dated from Canaan, N. Y.? After reading her letter a young man came to see me to ask the price of potatoes and we discussed her case. Two years ago that same young man was on a farm near the New Jersey seacoast and could not make it pay for the same reason the woman farmer gives for her failure. Now the young man is a consumer and a customer of farmers. He says that the present political issues mean nothing to him, because as a wage earner he can hardly afford to pay the prices that made him quit as a farmer.

With all the Philadelphia newspapers talking about the high cost of living and saying that methods of transportation by water are inadequate, we really have plenty of boats and nothing for them to do. We have boats that will stow 10,000 baskets at one load. From Paulsboro to Philadelphia by water is only an hour and a half's journey. With Philadelphia complaining about the high cost of living that city gets all it can pay for. Thousands of baskets daily go from its produce stores to the surrounding towns of Pennsylvania, while in one product, tomatoes, the canners consume four times as much as she consumes.

We have the same trouble here that the woman farmer in New York complains of, only in a lesser degree. The best results cannot be attained by the average farmer, because when he attempts to produce in line with what his knowledge teaches him he finds himself up against the stone wall of overproduction, caused by the terrible money poverty of the average wage earner.

We cannot apparently have a sufficient volume of currency without fearing inflation, and for that reason I say that we shall have to come to regulation of prices by the Government. Buying daily necessities the wage earner soon spends his daily wage, while thousands are yet waiting, like the woman farmer, to sell him their goods, but his money is already spent. We haven't half enough railroads, nor boats either, if our needs could be gauged by our energy or desires instead of an out of date method of exchanging products.

The woman farmer is only one of hundreds of thousands who have something to sell which the people need and are unable to have the use of because they as wage earners do not earn enough money.

The great issue to be discussed and thought about is money. We are poor in no other way, and to ignore it is folly. B. LODGE.

PAULSBORO, N. J., September 12.

THE ANTIQUARIAN.

Indorsement of the Proposal to Resurrect the Federal Constitution.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am heartily in favor of the proposal of "W. S. J." that every newspaper, not only those in favor of the reelection of President Taft, publish each week a copy of the Constitution of the United States.

The average citizen has about as much knowledge of that document as the average church member has of the Bible. The church member takes the word of his minister that the Bible says so and so. The citizen has taken the word of some court as to what the Constitution says. The consequence is that both are apt to have their faith in these authorities shattered when they consult the originals.

Should the idea of "W. S. J." be put in practice I trust that particular attention will be given to the presentation of those sections covering the duties of the judiciary and the method of amending the Constitution.

One of the principal causes of the lack of faith in our courts of justice is that practically every important amendment to the Constitution has been read into it by the Judges of our Supreme Court under the semblance but "without due process of law."

W. J. HARRIS.

METUCHEN, N. J., September 12.

NIGHT'S MELODIOUS NOISES.

Valuable Advice and Directions in Rhyme to a Snorer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:*

I pity the sorrow of him self-styled "Stertor,"
For naught in my life has done me more hurt or
More rasped the temper of those, sore embarrassed,
Who, shut in with me, have been raucously harassed.

The bonds of my feeling are like triple brass
For him who is racked with this ailment, alas.
So here is the substance of help, which will break it—
A cure never failing, let him patiently take it.

At night say your prayers, kiss the youngsters and wife,
But first cut a strip with scissors or knife
Of the pink or white plaster, called court, as you know,
Then, ready for slumber, apply as below:

You moisten the sliver; and then close the mouth:
Place the plaster securely, next, please, north and south,
On the outside, of course, and the same for a season
Of ten nights or more, which is not out of reason.

For genuine surcease of woe and deriding,
A way to sweet dreams and friendships abiding—
All this is yours, sir, from glad hand, and free
(My learned M. D. got four dollars from me).

HARTFORD, Conn., September 12. A. C. D.

Pickles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have a rod in pickle, or rather pickles, for those who boast their skill in condiments. You can't make pickles out here. I give you all the credit for your seasonings, your spices, your relishes, your onions, your garlic, but when it comes to pickles something is wanting. Your grocer will acknowledge it, your delicatessen man will not deny it. I tackled my own grocery man with the bitter impeachment the other day. He turned away, gave a sigh and said nothing, but in his eye I saw as plainly as possible the words: "'Tis true 'tis pity, pity 'tis 'tis true."

Why have I to pay 25 and 35 cents for a bottle of piccalili, erroneously called "chow chow," of foreign make, when I ought to be able to get the same condiment for 10 cents? I am sure it isn't the fault of the pickles themselves, so the blame must therefore fall on the vinegar. Goodness knows we have enough sweets to eat. Why not be gastronomically pessimistic and cultivate the sour? There is no meal so appetizing, so divine as cold beef, pickles, cheese and a glass of beer, but where can I get the proper pickles, and echo answers "Where?" TWANG.

NEW YORK, September 12.

Voyage of the Rainbow.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If "G. A. W." of Monticello will turn back the pages of his records or his memory about fast clippers in the Pacific trade possibly he may refresh his memory and find that the ship Rainbow, belonging to Howland & Aspinwall, arrived in April, 1846, from Canton seventy-five days after she cleared.

This was very remarkable, as in doing this she made two complete voyages to and from Canton in the space of fourteen months, which has never been done before or since by any clipper.

I remember this well, as it was told to me by an old time friend and sailor, William Blackwell, who was an A. B. on board the United States brig Somers when young Spencer, son of the then Secretary of War, was hanged at the yardarm for mutiny. EX-CADET.

NEW YORK, September 12.

Phonetic Spelling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a puzzle for the coming long winter evenings this phonetic spelling is to be welcomed. Here is another one found on a weatherbeaten stone uncarthed on the heights of Montmartre. It bears this cryptic inscription and baffled the combined learning of the Academy of Inscriptions for some time. Read this straight along:

CE. STI. CI. LEC. HEM. IND. ESAN. ES.

and you have "C'est ici le chemin des ânes," which being translated means "This is the road for donkeys." Now apply it to phonetic spelling.

NEW YORK, September 11. ORTHOGRAPHY.

An Orderly Man.

Bluebeard's wife looked in the forbidden chamber.

"All in a row," she cried. "I like to see a man so orderly about the house."

SET A CAT TO CATCH LOTI.

Then No Disguise Can Hide L'Ami des Chats.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to a special despatch from Paris to THE SUN in which it is said that secrecy surrounds the coming visit of Loti in the United States and that he hopes to dodge New York reporters, let me assure you that your representatives would not search a long time for the author of "The Daughter of Heaven" if following either of these suggestions:

The first is that when they go on board the steamship in which they suspect Loti is concealed they should pick up a cat on the way. Once on board, all that the reporter has to do is to let him loose and Tom will soon discover "L'Ami des Chats," who it is said at a time when in Constantinople had on his ship as daily and even nightly visitors most of the philosophers of the Pera back streets. But if THE SUN reporter can't find a cat elsewhere he might buy a drink for the ship's butcher and incidentally inquire if he has any Persians in charge. If so the reporter has only to watch the cats' stateroom, where Loti would certainly be caught calling on the friends whose glittering pupils had, as he recognized himself, inspired and helped him to write some of his best pages.

To this I should like to add concerning the title of the latest book of Anatole France that M. Whidden Graham is very right when mentioning that the best translation of "Les Dieux ont Soif" is that of Thomas Carlyle in his history of the French Revolution, "The Gods are Athirst." In translating it by "The Thirsty Gods" the literary monthly in question has printed if not an absurdity at least a lack of the French knowledge. HENRI DE LAFITOLE.

NEW YORK, September 12.

CAR WINDOW ETHICS.

Simple Rules Based on the Traveller's Bulk.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If you want the car window nearest you open, open it and keep it so until some one makes you put it down.

If you want your neighbor's window closed, close it—if he is smaller than you are. C.

NEW YORK, September 12.

Foreign and Domestic Customs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Peripatetic" says that the authority for opening and closing windows in cars rests solely with the conductor and is a peculiarity of this country that is always amusing and annoying to a foreigner.

He must have been a stranger to travel both in this country and abroad. I never have seen the least tendency shown by a conductor here to open or close a window, even when asked to do so, while any one who has been abroad knows that it is a law that no two windows shall be opened at the same time on opposite sides of a carriage so as to create a draft. If a man opens his window or the window on his side of the compartment that makes a draft on you, you may call the guard at once and have it closed, but no one ever refuses, because he knows he is subject to arrest.

The same law should be here and undoubtedly will as other European customs have been imported from time to time. P.

NEW YORK, September 11.

How the New Haven Solves the Problem.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Most people have at some time or other had reason to wonder who ought to have the "say" as to whether a window should be open or shut. The perplexity is usually obviated for travellers on the Boston and Maine and the Consolidated, the windows sticking fast with a pertinacity that would baffle Colonel Roosevelt on his "bulliest" days. This condition neatly provides for Mr. Hayes's problem, but it has its disadvantages.

While Mr. Hayes is studying the subject of car windows he might find it interesting and profitable to inquire why car windows are almost invariably so constructed that when, in rare instances, they are raised, the wooden sash cuts off the view. This question is of merely academic interest to the very tall or the very short, but to most of us it is of practical importance. B. R.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., September 11.

In Union Is Strength.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The rights of the man next to the car window, like all other problems of masculine existence, are determined by the application of an informal referendum. I doubt if it would be proper in the case of a woman at least not until they get equal rights.

Returning to my suburban home one bitter cold windy night last January, the only real drunk in the smoking car opened his window. Loud and violent protests from all sober passengers suggested the referendum. The lone drunk, being a minority of one, had no rights.

The brakeman at the request of many closed the window. Minority opened it. Brakeman closed it. Drunk opened it. Again, Once more. Then the man in front rising to the occasion said, "Let's freeze him out," and opened his own window. All the other window seat passengers did the same, and how that zero wind did blow! Drunk got out at next station. All windows were closed, everybody happy, and as a by-product of the row the car was more free of germs than it had been since it came out of the shop. C. R. CARTER.

ELIZABETH, N. J., September 12.

Accursed Fresh Air.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When one is up against a high stone wall with no ladder to climb over, no good comes from kicking at the wall. If a car window is open, move to another seat. VICTIM.

NEW YORK, September 12.

The Strategist on His Travels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The man has an undoubted right to leave his window open if he wants to. Now then, assuming that he has his window open, the wind, cinders and dust blowing—it is just as true that the man sitting in the seat behind has exactly as good a right to read his newspaper, holding it as he pleases and where he pleases, provided he keeps the paper within the area of space between the seats. To have proper light on the paper and hold it easily leave the paper folded square, held by one hand against the side of the car just in front of your own window.

The wind rushing in the open window is deflected by the paper, against the neck of the man in front who has opened the window, with all the cinders and dust going down his collar, and it will be but a few minutes before he will turn around to see what is going on, when the man behind can be refolding the paper to read the other side.

Try it. I have seen it successfully done, and the most pachydermatous cuss will relieve the situation by either closing the window or seeking some other seat. WILLIAM BROWN.

BOSTON, September 12.

Literature in Philadelphia.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As an example of "English as she is spoke" (or written) is not this notice, conspicuously displayed in Philadelphia's City Hall, worthy of record:

"No one Allowed in basement but Employee's. Trespassers will be Arrested without written Order of Ass't Sup't of City Hall."

SIDNEY DICKINSON.

PHILADELPHIA, September 12.

Reckoning Time in Kansas.

Augusta correspondence Topeka Capital.

Old settlers' day brought large crowds from all parts of the county. The question of who is an old settler became a very interesting proposition for discussion by the large gathering. It was finally settled that those who settled here before the grasshopper year of 1874 should be known as pioneers. Those who came after 1874 should be known as old settlers, provided they had resided in the State for a quarter of a century.

Bumper Grain Crops.

The corn crop grows
By leaps and jumps
Till it bids fair
To bump the bumps.

The wheat crop yields
Its ripened gold
To make a pile
Of wealth untold.

Of oats and rye
And all such stuff
We know we'll have
More than enough.

Prosperity
Will be immense
Can we but grow
Some grains of sense.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

MANY NEW SUGGESTIONS FOR B. R. T. SUBWAY LINE

Property Owners Want Express Station for Twenty-third Street.

NASSAU ROUTE ALL RIGHT

Brooklyn Folk Ask for Stop at Forty-ninth and Fifty-fourth Streets.

The Public Service Commission yesterday held a public hearing on the list of proposed stations for the subway routes to be operated by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit. The room was packed by property holders who had kicks or suggestions.

Chairman Willcox did not realize when he set yesterday as the date for the first hearing that it would be a Jewish holiday. So in spite of the jam he decided that not enough voices were present. The commission will hold another hearing on Monday afternoon at 2:30.

First, the New York routes were placed forward for discussion. The Nassau street subway, with stations at the Brooklyn Bridge, Fulton and John streets, and Beaver and Wall street, brought forth not one protest.

When Chairman Willcox announced that the Broadway-Fifty-ninth street line was under discussion there was a surging forward of more than half of those present.

All the members of the Public Service Commission except Commissioner Cram were present to attend this most important meeting. With them sat Chief Engineer Alfred Craven.

Walter C. Maynard, a representative of the Twenty-third Street Improvement Association, was first heard. He had a plea that Twenty-third street be made an express station.

"The district affected by this station is the largest retail district in the city," said Mr. Maynard, "and it is rapidly becoming the largest loft and wholesale district too. Large buildings, which each do immense business in a day, are near by.

"If there is any kick about the closeness of express stations at Fourteenth and Twenty-third streets, look at the Seventh avenue subway, where it is proposed to place an express station at Thirty-fourth street and another at Forty-second street, a distance of eight blocks, which is exactly the distance between Fourteenth and Twenty-third streets."

A petition for a station at Eighteenth street was handed to the commission by Joseph S. Kean, representing the Central Mercantile Association.

Mr. Kean was followed by H. R. Limburg of the Broadway Improvement Association, who was backed up by James S. Metcalfe of the Life Publishing Company; Owen H. Mannes of the Grand Rapids Furniture Company, Coulter D. Huyler of Huyler's, and August Janssen of the Hofbrau Haus, who compose the association's executive committee.

Mr. Limburg had in mind two things which he wanted righted—an entrance at the Thirty-fourth street station which would extend to Thirty-second street, and one at Times Square which would extend north as far as it could.

Thomas W. Slocum of the Dry Goods Centre Association said that the dry goods district has been showing a lamentable tendency to scatter lately, and that a subway station in the heart of the wholesale district would have a tendency to cement the district together again. He asked for a station either at Worth street or Leonard street, preferring Worth street.

There was no discussion of the Canal street line and the hearing then had to do with new routes in Brooklyn, arguments on the Fourteenth street and eastern district lines being first heard. There was but one suggestion made—that an additional station be placed between First avenue and Ainslie street.

For the Montague street line there was but one suggestion, which was that there be a station somewhere below Court street, preferably near the Hotel Bossert. There was no discussion on the St. Felix street and Flatbush avenue line, but when the New Utrecht avenue line was announced a group of men, each wearing a button in his lapel which read "Me for the Forty-ninth street station," stepped forth.

"President Williams of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit," said Maxwell S. Harris, "said that the reason Forty-ninth street has been overlooked was a desire to get uniform distances between stations. Put a station at Forty-second street, one at Forty-ninth street, and one at Fifty-fourth street, instead of one at Fort Hamilton avenue, and one at Fifty-fourth street. This would require the addition of but one station and would satisfy thousands of inhabitants of Borough Park."

John J. Gordon, representing 15,000 inhabitants of Borough Park, said he knew why the B. R. T. didn't want a station at Forty-ninth street.

"It's because they have the people down there," he said, "and want to make them use the antiquated trolley services as feeders for the Fifth avenue elevated."

It was learned yesterday that the bids sent in so far for construction work in Brooklyn are far below the estimates given by the commission's own engineers, and it is probable that the commission will have lots of money left after all the bids are accepted.

This afternoon at 2:30 the commission will hear arguments on the proposed stations of the Interborough's projections.

The Public Service Commission yesterday opened bids for the construction of two sections of the Fourth avenue subway in Brooklyn. The first of these sections runs from Fortieth street to Sixty-first street and the second section runs from Sixty-first street to Eighty-ninth street.

The lowest bidder for the first section was the Degnon Contracting Company, the offer of which was $1,925,000. The same firm also put in the lowest offer for the second section, the price named being $1,905,000. The highest bid for the first section was $2,730,000 and the highest for the second section $2,800,000.

NAMES CONSERVATION MEN.

Dix Appoints Delegates for State at Fourth National Congress.

ALBANY, Sept. 12.—In addition to the conservation commissioners and their heads of bureaus, Gov. Dix has appointed the following as delegates to the fourth National Conservation Congress to be held in Indianapolis, October 1:

Seymour Van Santvoord, Troy; William Church Osborn, Garrison; Liberty Bailey, Ithaca; George Foster Peabody, Lake George; Cornelius F. Burns, Troy; Louis C. Fuhrmann, Buffalo; E. Prentiss Bailey, Utica; John W. Hogan, Syracuse; A. C. Kessinger, Rome; F. A. Emerick, Oswego; Walter H. Woodworth, New York; W. Irving Grifling, Glens Falls; John J. Irbing, Binghamton; Frederick Howe, New York; Charles B. Hart, Albion; Milford W. Childs, Medina; Frederick T. Chormann, Niagara Falls; Egbert Dexter Corson, Lockport; Edgar A. Newall, Ogdensburg; H. Jason Knapp, Tonawanda; George B. Burd, Buffalo; E. R. Taylor, Penn Yan; Richard W. Sherman, Utica; George H. P. Gould, Lyons Falls; C. Louis Duval and George F. Underwood, New York city; Frank M. Collin, Penn Yan; O. U. Kellogg, Cortland, and Clark H. Hammond, Buffalo