The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Senator Stilwell in Court.

Senator STILWELL'S political vindication, attained through the votes of his colleagues, availed him nothing when the judicial investigation of his case was undertaken. That the two tribunals before which he was arraigned should have reached diametrically opposed verdicts is not surprising. In his first ordeal he had every advantage of environment and association. In the second he had the protection our legal system provides for the accused and nothing more.

The result of these two inquiries should impress two facts on the public mind: that the place to try lawbreakers is the criminal courts, and that the law provides adequate machinery for the punishment of the powerful and the high placed. Again it has been demonstrated that vigor and intelligence in administration, not revision and elaboration of statutory enactment, are what is needed for the purification of public life and the punishment of false public servants.

A Friendly Warning.

Governor SULZER and his convention abolishing friends find themselves in society that, to put it mildly, must embarrass them. On Long Island the Hon. JOE CASSIDY, that same Cassidy whose activities in Queens borough astonished and mystified the virtuous, bravely holds aloft the banner of anti-bossism and freedom for the electorate. At the other end of the State the equally Hon. WILLIAM J. CONNERS leads the hosts of righteousness. Between them all the job hunters in the State line up, each proffering his support with one hand and his appetite with the other.

Nobody will censure Governor SULZER for accepting or seeking support from any quarter. His task is to break down the opposition and put his bill through. Yet it is not an unfriendly or ill advised service to warn his less sophisticated adherents to keep a close watch on their political jewelry. They are in mighty mixed company.

Subways as Mail Carriers.

The plan to utilize the Hudson tunnels and the subways of Manhattan and Brooklyn for the transportation of mails appears so simple and sensible that the wonder is it was not put into effect long ago. The congestion and delay in the delivery of mails, particularly of second class matter, in New York has become a public scandal, and we welcome the evidence that Postmaster-General BURLESON is preparing to take energetic steps to remedy matters. It should be a simple matter to attach mail cars to certain of the subway trains and to perfect an organization for the rapid handling and distribution of the bags. If, as seems possible, legislation will be required before the plan can go into effect every effort should be made by the Post Office Department to acquire the necessary authority with as little delay as possible. A committee has been appointed to consider the proposal, and we learn with satisfaction that if no additional legislation is necessary the plan may become operative soon after July 1.

Mr. Sisson on the Treaty Making Power.

Mr. SISSON of Mississippi is to be congratulated upon his moderation in dealing with the treaty making powers of the Government in relation to alien land tenure. He kept faith with the President. Not once did he vow that he was for war with the Emperor of Japan rather than let his people "draw from our soil its riches," and he refrained from pledging "the last drop" of American blood and the resources of the country "for a hundred generations" in the righteous cause of owning our own soil. There was not a word in his second speech that would stir the groundlings in Tokio or call his neighbors in Winona to arms.

There can be no objection to rational discussion about the rights of the States in the light of the power given the President with the advice and consent of the Senate to make treaties which "shall be the supreme law of the land." The only objection is to jingo talk, making the eagle scream, when the question is simply one of interpreting the Constitution, which should be argued dispassionately like that other question so dear to the Democratic understanding, whether protective duties are constitutional.

On his second appearance in the arena Mr. SISSON spoke always like a lawyer with a brief, and not in spots like a politician. If there is soundness in his view of the treaty making power that it is limited to "international questions" and cannot qualify the reserved right of the States to legislate about their domestic concerns, the United States has no business trying to fulfil its destiny and be a world Power. As Mr. MANN of Illinois has said:

"Somewhere there must be lodged in every Government complete sovereignty, and if we insist that a foreign Government has complete sovereignty to grant certain rights in that country, there must be lodged somewhere in the United States complete sovereignty of equal character."

International relations to-day require reciprocity in conduct and privileges in a hundred and one ways if the citizens of two countries are to pass from one to the other or to reside and trade in the alien country. If Mr. SISSON could obtain the sanction of the Supreme Court for his contention it would become imperative to amend the Constitution, as Mr. BARTHOLDT of Missouri proposes, and give Congress "the exclusive power to legislate on questions affecting the rights and privileges of citizens of other countries residing in the United States and the relations of the United States with other countries."

The Normal Child.

The National Congress of Mothers has been enjoying a week of profound erudition in Boston. "The Normal Child" came up for discussion. Dr. G. STANLEY HALL of Clark University threw this illumination on the subject:

"We have one hundred and eleven different types of child welfare institutions, of which more than half are of very recent origin. We are coming more and more to understand the normal child."

Technically speaking, what is the normal child, where is his natural habitat? Does he long for the swimming pool during these accursed examination days as he did before the 111 types got after him? If he lives in the country does he know where the speckled hen has her "stolen nest" away from normal hens? If he lives in the city can he "shinny up" a modern building to where the sparrow lays her numerous eggs? Does the normal child fall out of cherry trees and smoke dried grape leaves? Does he eventually buy a surreptitious copy of "Carl Green the Detective, or the House With Double Doors"? Is he taught a sneaking distaste for "poems" because he is forced to learn some by heart? Dr. G. STANLEY HALL is right in saying that more than half of these types of welfare are of recent origin. As our grandmothers sat by candle light and darned corduroy breeches so that the boys might have them for the morrow to slide down the cellar door they never broke their heads about "types." "Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight; make me a child again just for to-night." Notice that the poet said nothing about being made a normal child.

Foreign psychologists aver that the chief trouble with Americans is their inability to play, to forget themselves even at their pastimes, to cease to be conscious of the normal or abnormal self. There are men who cannot raise a golf stick without being conscious that they are doing something healthful. It was said of the days of Queen ANNE that a man could not drink a cup of tea without a strategy or an intrigue. Cannot Americans raise a child without worrying all the time whether or no he is normal? Is there any surer way of bringing upon a child the Latin people's indictment of self-consciousness than by giving him some of the 111 types of welfare? Is he to be typed and tagged before he has a chance, and his last chance, to be young and natural?

Practical Sympathy.

A recent despatch to THE SUN from Wilkesbarre says that a novel benefit scheme has been initiated by the Susquehanna Coal Company. It has been customary for many years among the miners to suspend work during a funeral of one of their fellows, in order to testify their respect for the deceased. The managers of the colliery company, finding this long existing custom to involve much loss by reason of interruption of the regular operations of the mines, have initiated a plan by which both miners and operators may be benefited. They offered to present the widow of the deceased 20 per cent. of the wages of the men and to add $200 to this sum if the miners would refrain from following the hearse and continue their work. This brilliant stroke of policy illustrates the sensitiveness of "the pocket nerve." The scheme appeals through the pocket nerve of both employer and employee to the practical sympathy with the bereaved which alone may serve to overcome the sentimental promptings of the men.

It were well if the same practical idea actuated the mourning friends of our toilers in the cities who insist upon manifesting their sympathies by following in a funeral cortège furnished at great outlay by the bereaved family. The latter ape the practice of the better situated in this matter. It is to be hoped that the custom will die out among them as it is gradually doing among the others. Most of the male mourners abandon their work in store, factory and elsewhere; the women abandon their necessary household work in order to add to the outward manifestation of their sincere grief for the deceased. The bereaved family, overwhelmed by distress and sorrow, not rarely falls an easy prey to designing undertakers who eagerly incite their patrons' affectionate pride to emulation. Handsome "caskets" are offered, together with columns of carriages, and they are usually accepted under these favoring conditions without reflection on their cost. Physicians who have come in contact with such conditions have long regarded these unnecessary and costly tributes of respect and love with regretful concern, but they are powerless to accomplish a change in so delicate a matter.

It would appear to be a more congenial task for the clergymen to whom these unfortunate people look for sympathy and consolation to advise them not to add to the heavy burdens already incurred for doctors' bills, nurses and medicines the needless outlay for the trappings of woe. Often the mourning family incurs burdensome indebtedness for these tributes. Here the minister may delicately inculcate restraint. While it is the proper function of the clergyman to enforce the lessons of his faith at funeral exercises, it may not detract from the solemnity of the occasion nor from the lesson that "in the midst of life we are in death" to caution with delicate emphasis against the unwisdom, inutility and tawdriness of these extravagant outlays for display, and to suggest that only the immediate family attend the services at the cemetery.

Great and often irreparable waste may be abolished in this manner without infringement upon the sentimental aspect of the subject.

St. John's Chapel.

Last year it seemed that the efforts of enlightened citizens to save the portico of St. John's Chapel, in spite of the widening of Varick street, had been successful; but now the attempt to demolish the portico has been renewed in a manner more threatening than before. Mr. MCANENY, who in such matters has so persistently shown himself to be a friend of civilization, is now upon the side of the Philistines, at least to the extent that he is more intent upon emphasizing the difficulties in the way of keeping the historic monument than upon attenuating them.

The straight line which it is proposed shall be "hewed to" in the widening of Varick street, let "the chips" fall where or be what they may, has been drawn, as Mr. E. R. SMITH, the librarian of the Avery Library, has been remarking in print, "with the usual brutality of city engineers," so as to cut off the portico and the tower. This saves trouble for the engineer. But if the engineer were in sympathy with the civilized demand for the retention of the monument he would have taken the trouble to deflect his straight line at that point. Mr. SMITH suggests that the portico could be saved either by running the sidewalk under it, or still better, by cutting lanes on either side of the church into St. John's lane in the rear.

The first of these plans is that which was urged last year, and the adoption of which has until just now been supposed to be secured. It would be a pity, of course, to sacrifice even the "perron." But if that cannot be helped the portico is well worth saving, and if suitably underpinned with an arcaded wall would not lose very much of its due effect. This portico is entitled to preservation both on "scenic" and "historic" grounds. No church has been erected since which shows so great an advance on existing churches in elaboration and costliness. The portico is the earliest example, not only in the city but in the country, of the exterior employment of a Corinthian order in cut stone on any considerable scale. When THOMAS JEFFERSON imported the design of the Maison Carrée at Nismes for the capitol of Virginia he records that he had reluctantly to acquiesce in the change of the order from the Corinthian to the Ionic "on account of the expense." It would be a shame to allow the demolition of the portico of St. John's for any less urgent reason than a clear public necessity, and no such necessity has been shown.

The "intrusion" of some five feet and a half by the portico on the roadway is amply compensated by the sidewalk on the opposite side of Varick street. That sidewalk should be eleven feet and a half wide, but the railroad which owns the freight station has squatted on the sidewalk, paved it with cobblestones and used it as part of the roadway. With the extrusion of the railway and the restoration to the public of its rights in the sidewalk the total width at this point would be six feet greater than at any other, notwithstanding the "intrusion" of the portico. The most discouraging thing about the present situation is that Mr. MCANENY has apparently grown weary in well doing.

The violent phrases affected by WILLIAM D. HAYWOOD of the Industrial Workers of the World have not even the small merit of originality.

According to news reports they are having trouble with their spelling out in Chicago. We read that "the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Education select and adopt a speller that offers possibilities of better results." If a speller can be found that will teach Cook county how to spell accurately it will be sold "from China to Peru." But no such speller exists, for the simple reason that the science or art of spelling is an innate gift resulting from direct inspiration and nothing else. It is said that a crow can be taught to count up to five, but after that the bird gets tired and quits. Just so it is with unhappy souls who must write through this life with a vest pocket dictionary always at their thumb tips. They can spell up to a certain kind of word and then they balk and finger the dictionary.

It is one of the most curious facts in the psychology of spelling that he who hesitates is lost. If poor spellers write right along and "bluff it out" the chances are that the correct form will appear, but the moment they stop to think, to argue and test their reasons why an "i" should come before or after an "e" except before a "c," then there is no hope, and the accursed word is written down wrong seven times out of seven.

To those born with a physical incapacity to spell correctly these words will not sound trite or ridiculous. Ask a poor speller how to spell an ordinarily easy and common word and he falls and fails immediately. You might as well hand him a German flute and tell him to play a sonata. Like a stammerer, who hesitates instead of flowing on, he must begin all over again. He must go to the dictionary as a cocaine fiend to his drug, or he must use a totally different word to express himself. A poor speller is a mental stammerer, that's all. It is a matter of instinct, not of education. He is born that way, no matter whether he lives in Chicago or in Biddeford Pool.

Moreover, the modern poor speller is far more sensitive than in former ages. Spelling like bathing has become a matter of fashion. Our ancestors did not concern themselves deeply about either. The Elizabethans spelled as they happened to feel at the moment, as they did with most things in life; spelling with them was a matter of mood, and poor SHAKESPEARE has become the classic example of a man who did not know enough to spell his own name twice the same way.

The ninety pounds of roe contributed by a stryed sturgeon to a Long Island fisherman will soon appear as a product of the Czar's dominions.

The Hon. HERBERT S. HADLEY of Missouri is a youngster, but he is old enough to recognize the dangers of a premature Presidential boom. He stands acquitted of responsibility for the activities of his "friends" now in Washington.

Official Sea Lingo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Rear Admiral Winslow "regards the change (from 'port' and 'starboard' to 'left' and right') as likely to lead to serious confusion * * * especially in a strong breeze."

The change certainly appeared to be the result of theory rather than of experience to any one accustomed to shout orders. THE SUN'S musical critic recently pointed out apropos of opera in English that "Is she fickle?" is a poor line to sing if the word "fickle" is to be sounded in prolonged swelling notes. "Left" is equally bad. On the other hand the words "port" and "starboard" are such grand words to shout that when the change was decided upon I, for one, assumed that our boats were now so thoroughly wired for systems of telegraphy and a multitude of other signals that any argument based on sound and hearing would be out of place.

Now comes one of our ablest Admirals, a practical man doing sea duty, and tells us that on his ship "an order for the steersman was misunderstood." It is true that the same news item tells us that Captain Wilson of the North Dakota "found that inexperienced men learned to steer the ship much more easily and rapidly with the new designations," but this evidently refers to another feature of the order, namely, using "right" and "left" to indicate the direction desired for the ship, i. e., eliminating the helm from consideration.

This is a subject entirely distinct from the wisdom of changing "port" into "left." The order calls for both changes to be made simultaneously. I offer no comment at this time upon the elimination of the helm from consideration, but as to the other I have yet to meet the first sailor who would rather shout "left" than "port" or "right" than "starb'd." RICHARD WELLING.

NEW YORK, May 24.

The Babe That Bawls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The amusing "Babe That Bawls" is easily explained. It is the child of an inefficient mother, one too ignorant—or too lazy—to teach the little one good behavior at home. Unfortunately "the woods are full" of such mothers and such children, and the correctly brought up, well mannered, respectful to their elders children a rarity. Hence, I fear, the enormous increase in young criminals; the natural result of children not taught wholesome restraint and—most important—obedience.

Having successfully raised two of my own children and one of a relative, with none of the three ever giving me cause to blush in public, I am not speaking theoretically but practically. The average modern mother is too ignorant or too lazy either to bring up her children or manage her house. Hence the decreasing wedding rate. Everything in woman but a capable home keeper and mother can be obtained cheaper than by marriage. ANNA CHAMBERS.

NEW YORK, May 25.

The Census of Woman Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: As a regular reader of your paper as well as a suffragette I think I have the right to protest against the figures which you published purporting to refer to the percentage of women in the Washington Heights district of this city for woman suffrage, against and not caring about it.

Since that report was published I have seen at least three women of this district, none of whom were even aware of the fact(?) that you had made any such canvass.

In the interest of the women of Washington Heights

GERTRUDE BROWNELL.

NEW YORK, May 25.

Takes Bryan Only 3 Minutes to Dress.

Washington correspondence Boston Advertiser.

William J. Bryan, the Secretary of State, has travelled so much that he has become an expert in how to travel. In his many campaigns he has acquired the habit of being able to sleep between stations, but he never could sleep unless he went to bed with his everyday clothes off, so that he had to hurry to put them on when the next station where he was to speak arrived.

The Secretary gave a good exhibition of his celerity on this score, according to a traveller, as he came back to Washington last week from New York, where he had made an address. He had spent the night in a railroad car berth. As he neared Washington he sprang out of his berth, and it was noticed that he was fully dressed three minutes after that, to the great surprise and admiration of those occupying the car with him.

"Comin' Through the Rye."

From the Kenisville Chronicle.

Probably very few persons understand the expression "Comin' Through the Rye." There is in Scotland a small stream called the Rye. The girls forded it going to church, school and to market, and as the water was a foot or two deep they had to hold their skirts up. The boys would meet them in midstream and kiss them without any difficulty, as the girls couldn't drop their skirts to make any resistance. That's what the poet meant when he wrote "Comin' Through the Rye," but most people think he meant a field of rye.

Tempting the Buyer.

From the Modern Miller.

"Advertising flour from 'selected' wheat in order to tempt the public is a good deal like the colored man's hot pies," says a miller in commenting on a bargain flour advertisement. "The colored man shouted, 'Hot pies! Hot pies!' And a hungry colored brother who bought one found it stone cold. In answer to his complaint the seller said: 'Why, dat's de name of de pie.'"

Kentucky Fisherman's Luck.

From the Winchester News.

I want to thank the thief that entered my room Friday night and stole my purse. It contained one five dollar bill, four coppers, one button, and some sinkers. My wife found the purse out in the back yard Sunday morning minus the money. The action of that thief in leaving me the sinkers is worthy of consideration, and I take this public method of extending to him my thanks.

R. R. PERRY.

A Great Public Character Excites Envy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: And I beg leave to ask who in (season to suit taste) conferred upon him the distinction of "Manhattan Philosopher," when I, an inveterate friend of THE SUN, cannot feel assured of recognition even as a plain bonehead? J. W. E.

NEW YORK, May 25.

Representative Art.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The headline of an editorial in THE SUN inquires "Are Legislatures Whiter Than They Are Painted?" May I inquire if Legislatures are painted at all? Aren't they merely whitewashed?

NEW YORK, May 24. P. B. PUBLICO.

Pet of an Alabama Office.

From the Lucerne Journal.

A horned frog that walks upright, is flat in shape and has a tail was the curiosity at the *Journal* office Wednesday morning. Where it came from and what its presence means is a mystery to all who have seen it.

DIRECT PRIMARIES.

Criticism of Governor Sulzer's Bill by a Friend of Election Reform.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: At various times during my term as a member of the State Senate you were kind enough to refer pleasantly to my familiarity with the election law and to recognize my sincerity in advocating the cause of direct primaries and my work on behalf of direct primaries. Indeed I worked and voted for every direct primary bill except two machine bills and the Cobb compromise bill.

I still am a sincere advocate of direct primaries. At the same time I am strongly opposed to the Governor's bill. It is not a good bill, but a bad bill. Some of its provisions, in my opinion, are positively wicked.

The Governor has proclaimed that he will compel the Legislature to enact this bill of his without the crossing of a "t" or the dotting of an "i," and he has repeatedly threatened to use his executive power to coerce the members of the Legislature through fear and favor. Without commenting on this attitude I wish to contend, as one who has fought in a real fight for direct primaries, that without far more radical amendment than that suggested by the Governor his bill should be unhesitatingly defeated.

From the glittering generalities spoken in favor of the bill I assume that one might at least be expected to glean the thought that the Governor's bill is a primary bill. Yet it is not. It contains some amendments to the primary law, but it is, as by its title appears, "An act to amend the election law generally," and relates to almost every chapter of the election law, including definitions, enrolment, procedure for lost blanks, registration, canvass of votes, State committees, party council, boards of election, ballots at general elections, time of closing the polls at general elections, and so on. It contains no less than ninety-nine sections printed on 170 pages, and at least one-half of its provisions are taken bodily from Senator Blauvelt's bill which the Governor twice vetoed as a fraud and a makeshift, although the Blauvelt bill would reduce the cost of elections a million dollars a year.

In a letter I cannot, of course, attempt a detailed analysis of the Governor's bill, but if you have space for a few facts respecting its provisions I will proceed briefly to substantiate my statement that some provisions in the Governor's bill are unwise and not a few wicked.

It was Charles E. Hughes who wrote the committee designation into the Hinman-Green direct primary bill. Under Governor Hughes's system, which is now a part of our law, party committees themselves previously elected at primaries make designations for nomination of candidates. Then other party members (anti-machine members) are given five days in which to examine the committee or machine designations, and if they please make contesting designations by petition. Then the voters at primaries choose the party nominees from among the candidates so designated. Since the enactment of this five day provision the claim has been repeatedly made that five days are not enough and that the interval between the filing of committee and contesting designations should be further extended so as to give the anti-machine petitioners a greater opportunity to examine the machine designations and to secure signatures for their contesting petitions. The Blauvelt bill met this demand and increased this period of opportunity from five days to ten days. What does the Governor's bill do? It takes away from the anti-machine voter even the five days that he has to-day! All designations are to be by petition and all may be filed at the same moment. The machine prepares its petition in darkness and files it at the sixtieth minute of the last hour. The anti-machine voter has no opportunity whatever of knowing what the machine is going to do, and no opportunity of making any intelligent contest. Do I exaggerate when I urge that no provision could be more wicked?

The Governor's bill abolishes all emblems on the primary ballot. The provision may be constitutional, I am not prepared to say, but it clearly flies in the face of precedent and flagrantly violates the rights of the more uneducated people so dear to the Governor's heart. As the Court of Appeals has recently declared: "Emblems are necessary at primaries the same as at regular elections so as to enable the voter to avoid mistakes and vote intelligently."

The Governor's bill, leaving far afield the subject of direct primaries, also repeals provisions of the existing law safeguarding independent nominations for general elections. Most voters remember the enormous ballots at general elections prior to 1911, as, for instance, the Gaynor-Bannard-Hearst ballot of 1909, which contained no less than nineteen columns, with Mayor Gaynor's name standing at the head of eight and Mr. Bannard's at the head of three. The reason for those long ballots was the presence thereon of indorsing or mushroom columns purporting to contain independent nominations, but merely repeating the names of candidates already nominated, and the reason for the presence of these mushroom columns was that it was the easiest thing in the world to manufacture fraudulent independent nominating certificates. Indeed, under the law as it stood in 1909 there was no reason why the Mayor's name should not have stood at the head of eighty columns and Mr. Bannard's at the head of seventy-nine. Since 1909 the Legislature cured that abuse by providing that signers of independent nominating certificates must be or become registered, and prohibiting any party man from signing an independent certificate which merely increases his own party candidates. He may bolt his ticket, but he can no longer sign indorsing certificates. The Court of Appeals has held that both provisions are reasonable and constitutional. The one, it says, "doubtless tends to prevent fraud and to make more certain the good faith of the persons seeking to present to the voters independent candidates for office," and the other "tends to prevent a wrongful use of independent nominations." The Governor's bill repeals both provisions, provides nothing in their place, and welcomes back to the municipal election of 1913 an eighteen foot ballot made up of four or five honest nominations and fifteen or twenty fraudulent mushroom columns repeating the names in the other columns.

The Governor's bill abolishes the State convention both to nominate the State ticket and to draw the party platform. My impression is that on a referendum four out of every five voters would vote to retain the State convention. I think most citizens realize that with the large and complex population and the varying conditions of life throughout this Empire State better State tickets can be nominated by conference at convention than by haphazard designation. Moreover, no candidate could make a campaign for nomination to any State office, from Governor to Engineer, and including Judges of the Court of Appeals, without expensive organization in every county of the State, and what chance would any such temporary organization ordinarily have against the machine's organization which is making shoes every day in the year?

Mandatory units of representation:

This is a technical point, but important. Ever since the first primary bill was adopted, in 1909 or thereabout, the selection of the unit or district of representation to conventions and committees has been left to the rules and regulations of the various parties. This is obviously fair and proper because of the varying conditions throughout the State and the varying historical considerations of the different parties. The Governor's bill, however, takes all discretion away from the parties and provides for various mandatory units, wholly regardless of varying conditions. If I were debating with him I should be tempted to ask him how he reconciles this kind of legislation with his advocacy of home rule, or I might even ask him why in selecting the various units he did not select a single one of the units of the party which made him Governor.

There are other provisions of the bill which I believe to be most ill advised, but possibly the examples which I have given will serve the purpose which I have in mind. It has been said of judicial decisions that big cases make bad law, and in respect to matters legislative it sometimes happens that the importance of a principle results in the enactment of bad law. I am in sympathy with any campaign for workable direct primaries, but the Governor's campaign wholly ignores the terms of his bill, which if enacted into law would ruthlessly defeat the very object which those interested in election reform are constantly working to accomplish. JOHN G. SAXE.

NEW YORK, May 23.

NOVELS OF TWO NATIONS.

The Rooted French Love for the Family and the Household.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Mr. Aaron Rachofsky, speaking of the relative popularity of French and German literature in this country, makes one statement that I must answer. If he is right in saying that there is less demand in the public libraries for French than for German books it is not surprising that it is so, for the German immigration to this country must outnumber the French by many hundreds of thousands. I believe myself that in a strictly Anglo-American neighborhood Victor Hugo's works are read as often as Goethe's. But this is beside my point.

Mr. Rachofsky mentions the erotic literature of France as being "largely responsible for the want of respect for home and motherhood" in France. This is a serious subject for ignorant remarks. The "foyer" is the heart of France. In our language we have no word to express its exact meaning. Perhaps the "hearth," taken as the centre of family life, is our nearest approach to a translation. To preserve his "foyer" is the dearest wish of a Frenchman. He preserves it sometimes at the expense of his self-respect: for an erring wife is often forgiven that the "foyer" may not be broken up. I speak, of course, of the "haute bourgeoisie," the fine middle class which is the backbone, the soul of France, as of every other country.

If his "foyer" is dear to the Frenchman, his mother is no less so. Does Mr. Rachofsky know any French people, has he heard them speak of motherhood without respect? I know of no country where a mother's wishes carry so great weight as in France, or where the influence of the mother is so long or so keenly felt by her grown children. In France a man cherishes and cares for his mother before even his wife.

When Mr. Rachofsky speaks of the "lack of respect of home and motherhood" in France he speaks from ignorance, from a mind poisoned by the idle writings of malicious and careless magazine writers. One who though no Frenchman holds dear the honor of France must answer him.

NEW YORK, May 25. H. G. ARNOLD.

The Difference.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The difference between German and French novels is like that between beer and champagne. F. M.

NEW YORK, May 24.

A Book of Sudermann's.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Has your correspondent Mr. Aaron Rachofsky, who is so sure of the moral purity of German novels, ever read a certain notorious novel of Sudermann? COLUMBIA.

NEW YORK, May 25.

The Reason.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Of course there are more translations from German than French. The French have style. F. U. R.

BOSTON, May 24.

Bishop Doane's Father.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The death of Bishop Doane of Albany recalls to me the memory of his father, the Rev. George W. Doane, the second Episcopal Bishop of New Jersey, whose death occurred in Burlington prior to the civil war. As a young man I attended his funeral, which was a notable one, and of the half hundred clergymen in surplices who walked in the funeral procession through the streets of staid old Burlington I wonder how many survive.

The elder Bishop Doane was well known and I had often seen him. He wrote a hymn at the time of the unsuccessful laying of the Atlantic cable in 1858. I think the first line of the hymn began thus, "Fling out the banner," which was suggested by seeing the American flag on the steeple of one of the Episcopal churches in New York. The flag was placed on a church steeple which had a cross, I think. Can any of your readers give me the name of the church? EDWARD K. DRAKE.

ELIZABETH, N. J., May 25.

Amber as a Medicine.

From the Family Doctor.

The ancients employed amber as a medicine, and it is still prescribed by physicians in France, Germany and Italy. Several chemists in Paris keep it constantly in stock. It has been worn by ladies and children from time immemorial as an amulet, sometimes carved into "amphorae," and has been pronounced of service either taken internally or worn around the neck. Callistratus gave the name of chryselektron to amber of a clear golden color, which, worn around the neck, cured ague; ground up with honey and rose oil it was a specific for deafness, and with Attic honey for dimness of sight. But to come to more recent times. Perera says in the third edition of his "Materia Medica," published in 1853, that amber was not even then employed as a medicine in this country, but that "it was formerly used in chronic catarrhs, amenorrhœa, hysteria, &c., and was given either in the form of a powder, in doses of ten grains to a drachm, or in that of a tincture, a formula for both of which is contained in some of the European formularies."

Austrian Censorship on Stage.

From the London Chronicle.

The Austrian censor used to play strange tricks with the plays produced under his auspices. When Schiller's "Maid of Orleans" was produced at Vienna in 1802 the title was deemed too flippant and was replaced by that of "Joan of Arc." Agnes Sorel figured as the wife of Charles VII. instead of his mistress, and Queen Ysabeau was transformed into that monarch's sister in order to save him from bigamy. Until 1842 mésalliances were prohibited on the Vienna stage. When the Burgtheater wished to stage one of Freytag's plays in which Count Waldemar marries a gardener's daughter the censor put his foot down. "These incidents," he said, "may unfortunately occur in real life, but they must not be seen on the stage."

Palmetto State Man's Sure Cure.

From the Spartanburg Herald.

Major A. H. Kirby is as free from superstition or magic as any practical, level headed man of affairs can be, but following an example that was set long before he was born, the Major sometimes carries an Irish potato in his trousers pocket to ward off rheumatism. He is having a touch of the pains now and said yesterday he was going to look up a potato when he went home. "There's no doubt about it," said the Major, "a potato will certainly keep the rheumatism off. Of course I can't give you the ifs and ands, in technical terms like a student of materia medica, but just try it for yourself."

Primrose for Memory.

From the London Chronicle.

The primrose of old was credited with a medicinal as well as a superstitious value. Even now in some country parts a decoction of primrose leaves is supposed to restore a failing memory, and in 1651, when Culpeper wrote his "London Dispensatory," the primrose was regarded as an almost universal panacea, curing "convulsions, falling sickness, palsies, &c.," and strengthening "the brain, senses and memory exceedingly." And even the healthy did not disdain to eat it, for primrose pasty was once a popular Lancashire delicacy.

Making Over China.

From the China Republican.

In harmony with the spirit of the times, the Governor at Nanking has modernized the front entrance to his yamen. All these large conspicuous outside gates to the right and left have been torn down and the outside court has been cleared of all the old time fixtures. In the place of the three front entrances a modern front has been erected and all come and go through the one door, regardless of rank or position.

FOLKS DENOUNCES CRITICAL SENATOR

Secretary of Sulzer Health Commission Calls Brown Inaccurate.

DENIES ADDED EXPENSE

Defends Proposed Law to Reorganize State Department of Health.

Homer Folks, who was secretary of the special public health commission appointed by Gov. Sulzer and who drafted a law for the reorganization of the State Department of Health, issued a statement yesterday denouncing the criticism levelled at the law by Senator Elon R. Brown of Watertown. He charges the Senator with inaccuracy in his criticism and with a lack of understanding of the public health needs of the State.

One of the inaccuracies is the Senator's statement that the State Health Commissioner is to receive $8,000 a year instead of $3,500 and is to have a deputy at a salary of $5,000. Mr. Folks points out that the salary of the State Health Commissioner has been fixed at $6,000 for several years and that contrary to the inference in the statement of the Senator he has long been assisted by a deputy.

Mr. Folks asserts that Senator Brown's statement that the new law divides the Health Department into nine new divisions is also inaccurate, because there are already six of these divisions in existence and the three additional divisions are a necessity if effective work is to be done. Misrepresentation of the duties of the sanitary supervisors of these divisions is charged because the Senator is alleged to have selected two of their least important functions as indicative of the work that the law maps out for them. It is also averred that this machinery for guarding the public health will not cost at least $250,000 a year over the present expenses, as the Senator alleged, because the new law actually added less than half that amount to the appropriation bill. Continuing his attack upon the criticism of Senator Brown Mr. Folks says:

"It would be difficult to frame a statement which contains more inaccuracies than the following one taken from your article:

"'The law was prepared by what is known as the (Homer) Folks commission. He is a resident of the city of New York and was the moving spirit on the commission for the preparation of the law. These were other members from the city of New York and from some up-State cities. It is understood that the commission and the council are to be made up largely of New York city physicians. The strange thing about it is that it does not apply at all to the city of New York, which is expressly exempted from its operation.'

"The truth as to some of these matters is as follows:

"I am not a resident of New York city, but live in Yonkers.

"Two members of the commission are from New York city, but six are from up the State, namely, Dr. Otis of Poughkeepsie, Dr. Milbank of Alabny, Mr. Kingsbury of Yonkers, Dr. Baldwin of Saranac Lake, Mr. Wilcox of Buffalo and myself of Yonkers.

"I should deem it an honor to have the commission which drew this bill known as the '(Homer) Folks commission,' but your statement contains the first reference of the kind which has come to my attention.

"I know of no understanding that the council is to be made up largely of New York city physicians, and I think I would know of it if it were true.

"There is nothing strange about the exemption of New York city to one who understands the situation. New York city's Health Department has a staff of some 600 employees, spends more than $2,000,000 a year in its public health work and is in every way superior to the Health Department of the State, hampered as it has been by inadequate appropriations and failure of legislators to appreciate the value and importance of public health work. To have included New York city in the provisions of the State law would have hampered the work of both departments."

"PIN THE CANDIDATE DOWN."

Municipal Researchers Urge Taxpayers to Say What They Want.

The Bureau of Municipal Research made another appeal to taxpayers yesterday specifying the kind of work they want city officials to do. The bureau thinks there can be no increased efficiency in municipal government if taxpayers don't know or say what they want.

The bureau wants to exact a promise from each candidate that if elected he will use certain standards in getting supplies for the city and in carrying out municipal contracts; that he will insist on regularity in ordering and receiving and paying for supplies, and that he'll take steps to guarantee that no more money will be spent than is necessary. The circular of the bureau says:

"This is easy to say; it is impossible to do it, for example, when thinking of new expenditures such as the proposed court house, we talk only about the architect's picture. Several things are infinitely more important than the architect's picture: (a) The architect's estimate of cost; (b) the details of the architect's drawings; (c) the details of the specifications upon which contractors are asked to bid; (d) the details of the contract which formulates an agreement to carry out the specifications as to materials, workmanship, time, &c.; (e) the current supervision by the architect and by the city's engineers, which shows day by day whether the contract is being lived up to and the city protected."

NEW BULL MOOSE TEXT BOOK.

Platform and Comment to Be Issued in Four Languages.

What is described by those responsible for it as "a sort of Bull Moose political Bible" is to make its appearance presently. It is a complete edition of the platform of the Progressive party with notes, explanations, comment and admonishment for all simon pure Progressives. In addition to this its projectors say that it will explain all the unexplained features of that remarkable political document that caused all the trouble last year.

It is being arranged under the supervision of the Bureau of Education of the Progressive National Service, and every expert upon whom the bureau has been able to call for assistance is to lend a hand in perfecting an explanation of such planks as may fall within his especial political or economic field. "This monumental work," the plans for which are described as having "all the characteristics of a prospectus of a new encyclopedia" is to be ready for distribution in September and will be issued in at least three languages besides English.