The Sun.

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The Flower of Chivalry.

How thin and poor it seems in comparison to-day, that deed and saying of Sir PHILIP SIDNEY, that cup of water that was given first to the dying soldier at Zutphen: "Thy need is greater than mine." The flower of courtesy and darling of courts, the great accomplished gentleman of his time, showed, if the story is true, merely a deference to the weaker. He did not die for or in consequence of his polite little altruism. He survived for nearly a month.

That is the chivalry that children are or used to be taught to marvel at. Compare with it FERDINAND KUEHN giving his life preserver and his life to a woman on the Monroe. No pose, and no consciousness of a gallery of admirers, the tears of patrician ladies, praise by historians and sugared sonneteers. He depreciates his services. Oh, he could get another life preserver. And so, not even letting the woman know that he is doing much of anything for her or imperilling himself, he goes to his death.

Chivalry "in its long annals back to CHARLEMAGNE" cannot show us a braver man, a nobler gentleman.

For those poor, kind, humble black stewards and stewardesses who, careless of danger and having no thought for themselves, helped the passengers and lost their own lives or saved them, as fate chose for them, what words of praise and honor are adequate? Disaster and death were part of their day's work. They did not shun or skimp it. This ready self-sacrifice, this tranquil courage, might never have been known but for those swift calamitous moments. All about us are unsuspected riches of character, "common" folks capable of heroic virtues and expecting no reward. The moral stature of the world is added to; human nature is justified in thinking better of itself when it hears of these obscure and glorious men and women of the Monroe.

A Constitutional Reminder.

There seems to be a limit to the law making power even in these days of the exaltation of Government at the expense of the liberties of the citizen. While the country is hurling itself tumultuously forward into the spacious areas of the new atmosphere a jarring note comes from the skies in the direction of Michigan. The Federal Eastern District Court in the old Badger State has had the temerity to find that the Michigan blue sky law is an unconstitutional exercise of the legislative prerogative.

Decision was rendered in a test case brought by the Investment Bankers Association of America. The Michigan law was sweeping. Among other things it conferred on the State Securities Commission power to hold up sales of bonds for a month, and also authorized it to examine the books of banking houses dealing in securities rather than the accounts of the issuing corporation. The act was altogether an extreme expression of the contemporary delusion that it is the duty and function of Government to eliminate hazard from economic endeavor and to insure citizens against anything resembling a business risk or the vicissitudes of industrial occupation.

The blue sky law craze which has been sweeping over the land is a wide departure from the sane idea of its origin, which was simply to prevent, so far as a State could do so, the swindling operations of promoters of corporations which never had any value or even the most speculative prospect of value. Other State laws of recent enactment are strikingly like the Michigan law, which, according to the admission of the Michigan Attorney-General in open court, would have made it practically impossible to have financed through the sale of securities such a business venture as that of the Ford Automobile Company. The Ford project, however profitable it has become, did at its inception involve a vast element of chance. The blue sky theory of the matter is that it runs against sound public policy to allow such chances to be offered or taken, no matter how honest a proposition and its proponents may be.

The Federal court decision now rendered has an effectual application to blue sky laws in Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Vermont, Oregon, South Dakota, North Dakota and West Virginia. It promises to relieve investment bankers dealing in legitimate securities from an intolerable burden of governmental exactions with which the blue sky law crusade has threatened to afflict them. The unanimous finding of the Michigan District Judges is that the Michigan law is an unwarranted interference with the freedom of interstate commerce and with the freedom of the individual.

That is a shocking conclusion for a court to arrive at in these glorious times of political encroachment on private liberties in the name of freedom. It may turn out to be only an echo of an older day, but if the United States Supreme Court sustains the Michigan jurists, State lawmakers will be in effect notified that the enactment of necessary statutes against fraud does not justify the passage of measures characterized by an extreme paternalism, and that as long as the Federal Constitution is what it is the liberties of the citizen are guaranteed against total extinction by the new freedomites.

The Negro and His Schools.

Word comes from South Carolina that the lower branch of the General Assembly has passed the Fortner bill to prohibit white persons from teaching in negro schools. At first blush this information sounds almost incredible in the light of this day and generation. And it is not too strong to say that if such barbarous legislation becomes a law South Carolina will deserve the degradation that will inevitably fall upon all of her people, for it is axiomatic that a blight cannot fall upon one section of any community, however large, without a blight falling upon the whole. It is impossible to brutalize an inferior without the brutalization of the superior.

The proposition that white teachers are prone to lead negro children "to aspire to social equality and commingling" is not only preposterous but the exact reverse of the truth. Any one who has lived in the South knows full well that such puerile arguments are merely the last resort of an inherent mental obliquity which comes unconsciously into play the moment the race question is broached. The fact is that if there is any method on earth whereby negro children may learn the elements of respect, discrimination and, above all, a decent regard for law and order, it is to be through the medium of white teachers.

There is one noteworthy gleam of light, though, in this mediæval legislation. It is that a newspaper of the character and standing of the Columbia *State* has the sanity, the courage and the humanity to speak out the truth on this Fortner bill. After tearing to shreds the unchristianlike substance of the bill, which it proves to be "indefensible in morals and inexcusable as a device of expediency," the *State* shows how this legislation will drive negroes from South Carolina and thus counteract "a law making the enticing of negroes to leave the State a criminal act." Since when have legislators been noted for logic, reason and consistency?

But the note upon which we particularly like to dwell is contained in these words:

"There will be men to say whenever a newspaper cries 'Justice!' for the negro it is 'negro loving.' In their reeking ignorance the poor blind fools are objects of pity. They shall not deter the *State* from warning the people of South Carolina against entering upon a course at war with the eternal laws of light and holiness."

When journalism in the South can rise to this breadth of view and spirit of charity, legislation like the Fortner bill will die at birth in shame and oblivion.

Round Up the Receivers.

In the case of LOUIS FELDMAN the Merchants Association has demonstrated that a receiver of stolen goods can be convicted in the criminal courts of this county notwithstanding the difficulties that surround the prosecution of such offenders. FELDMAN had money and influential friends, and the case against him was so unpromising that it was thrown out of court when he was arraigned before a magistrate.

With this precedent to guide and encourage them the authorities should be moved to a general campaign against the fences who notoriously carry on their trade almost uninterrupted and unchallenged. Were the means of disposing of stolen goods seriously curtailed in this city certain kinds of larceny would become practically impossible. Dishonest drivers and truck thieves who found it necessary to take their loot to places in New Jersey, Pennsylvania or other States, or even to New York towns outside this city, would have small opportunity to commit the thefts that now burden the mercantile community, and the amount of their stealings would of necessity be greatly reduced.

The commercial associations which have recently united to put an end to various frauds hitherto practised with impunity hereabout may profitably extend the field of their activities to cover this kind of crime, which cannot be committed in the dark and which puts an annual tax of hundreds of thousands of dollars on the reputable merchants of the town.

Did Mr. Burleson Read the Wrong Platform?

Where does Postmaster General BURLESON get his Democratic mandate and authority for the proposition now put forth again in the shape of a report from certain subordinates of his that Congress "declare a public monopoly over all telegraph, telephone and radio communication" and begin the new instalment of Jeffersonian democracy and economy by buying the commercial telephone system? Did anybody who voted for WILSON and MARSHALL electors in 1912 know that he was voting for Federal telephones and telegraphs, for the extension to them of Federal inefficiency and extravagance, for this preposterous megalomania of triumphant bureaucracy?

The Baltimore convention favored "the efficient supervision and rate regulation of * * * telegraph and telephone lines engaged in interstate commerce," and to that end the valuation of such lines by the Interstate Commerce Commission. It favored legislation to prevent such lines "from engaging in business which brings them into competition with their shippers or patrons," legislation to prevent overissue of their securities, legislation to "assure such reduction in rates as conditions will permit," due care being taken not to cause reduced wages, inferior service or "do injustice to legitimate investment." In short, telephones and telegraphs were put in the same box with railroads and express companies, but of buying or controlling them there was no word.

The Socialist national convention, which met at Indianapolis in May, 1912, and gave the Hon. EUGENE DEBS his fourth nomination for President, pledged itself to "the collective ownership and democratic management of railroads, wire and wireless telegraphs and telephones, express services, steamboat lines and all other social means of transportation and communication and all large scale industries."

Has Mr. BURLESON got the Socialist platform mixed up with the Democratic platform? Or does he merely borrow without credit from the Debsian devotees of an all paternal Government?

What Constitutes Demagogy?

Senator JOHN WORTH KERN is a man of long experience in public affairs; he was born in 1849 and is therefore at a time of life which is generally regarded as the age of discretion. He has had extensive practice as a lawyer, and accordingly knows the precise meaning of words. He was twice a Democratic candidate for Governor of Indiana, and in 1908 he was his party's choice for Vice-President. Added to the fact, then, that his legal experience presumably taught him the meaning of words his career as a campaigner and orator must also have given him a wide knowledge of the effect of words upon hearers, the moral and the emotional effect. We say this in an endeavor to account for an extraordinary utterance by Senator KERN made in Indianapolis on Saturday before the convention of the United Mine Workers of America.

Senator KERN is reported thus in a news despatch:

"This is a crucial time for organized labor. Enemies of labor are putting forth greater efforts than ever before to exert influence over members of Congress and the Senate in an attempt to crush trade unionism. It is a time when there should be harmony among yourselves."

When Senator KERN declares that "the enemies of labor are putting forth greater efforts than ever before to exert influence over members of Congress and the Senate in an attempt to crush trade unionism" he should back up his statement with specific facts and documentary evidence. Either it is true or it is hideously false.

It might be supposed that the Hon. JOHN WORTH KERN would want to lend help to the present Democratic Administration in order to bring about an era of industrial peace and business welfare. But who can believe in his endeavors after such words of flaming unrest?

Tagging the Demon Rum.

Much of the alleged whiskey that is sold over bars in this State is rank poison and ought to be so labelled if a way to stop its sale cannot be devised. The gentle art of coloring wood alcohol in imitation of hot and fiery beverages has reached a high stage of development hereabout, and if the Anti-Saloon League's bill providing for a skull and crossbones on each container should effect a lessening in the traffic it would do some good.

But who believes that any thirsty body would be dissuaded by the poison warning from introducing the stuff into his system? Men drink perfumes, hair tonics, and a thousand other liquids not intended as beverages in full knowledge of their poisonous qualities. The patrons of a barrel house are not sticklers for pure food labels on the kegs they empty. The customers of more expensive drinking places generally do not need to be told that alcohol is a "habit forming, irritant, narcotic poison." Common experience and their own observation have informed them pretty fully as to its properties and effects. They daily with it in reckless disregard of their own knowledge, either without thought of its probable consequences, or else in confidence that they can draw the line of indulgence inside the margin of safety.

Compelling the Demon to wear a uniform will not frighten his victims. His is not a hidden or secret menace. Everybody knows how dangerous he is. Can any man who knows that tomorrow will bring him a head like a bushel basket be expected to shy from a bottle because it bears a poison label?

Will the poet who sent us these touching lines marked "Monday in Boston City Hall" not "reveal his identity"? Genius should scorn the masque:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:*
"In deep distress dear Boston sits,
Lamenting of her Honey Fits,
Foreseeing days of hurlyburly
Beneath the sway of Trim JIM CURLEY.
"TAVERN CLUB."

"BOSTON, January 31."

The worst is not so long as we can say this is the worst.

HUERTA is, all in all, the man whom Mexico needs and must have if she is not to be swallowed up by the United States. Let us hope, therefore, that HUERTA will sustain himself and things take such a course that no German blood need be spilled on behalf of German interests.—*Cologne Gazette.*

Here is a curious inversion of an idea. Mexico needs HUERTA, but the Mexican people are not to decide whether he shall continue to rule; HUERTA, if he is the stuff of which dictators are made, is to decide the question for them.

Dr. FIELD states that 25 cents worth of mussels will furnish sufficient food for a meal for ten persons.—*Despatch from Worcester, Mass.*

How soon may we expect to learn that owing to the storms the supply of mussels has been almost exhausted and that therefore they are to be more expensive than caviar, just laid eggs and radium?

A new type of public servant has developed, men whose sole aim is the betterment of all the people.—*Ex-Governor* FORT *of New Jersey.*

Doubtless ABRAHAM LINCOLN would not know what to make of such a public servant.

If the Hon. HARRY LANE of Oregon will consult his natural history he will find that it is not the Wolf but the Hyena that attacks the dead.

Montclair school authorities have issued orders prohibiting the teaching of sex hygiene in the public schools of the town. —*Despatch from Montclair.*

Is this the first backward step toward the common sense of the past?

LIMITING OPPORTUNITY.

Criticism of a Critic's Prescription of More Law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* While heartily subscribing to the strictures of your correspondent Mr. W. W. Niles on the recent supposedly philanthropic act of Mr. Henry Ford, it seems to me that his criticism contains the same fatal error that creeps into many, if not most, of the current discussions of social problems, and that is the invoking of law to prevent future similar wrongs.

As with bodily ills, so with social. Correct diagnosis goes a long way toward, but does not necessarily result in, the proper remedy. Your correspondent opines that the free distribution of Mr. Ford's assets to his employees "has done more to advance the cause of socialism than all the propagandists have been able to accomplish in the last twenty years," and as an antidote forthwith he is inclined toward a law "limiting individual opportunity for acquiring wealth." Is it not held by fair minded opponents of socialism that its fundamental weakness in the last analysis is this "limiting of opportunity"?

With Mr. Niles's prophecy as to the probable results to all concerned of Mr. Ford's ill advised act I see no ground for disagreement. His letter, in my opinion, gauges the effects most accurately. Not only that, but it contains a hint of the really efficacious way of neutralizing the ill consequences of all apparent but really injurious beneficence. He says that discussion of Mr. Ford's heedless, thoughtless, illogical and unreasonable act may deter others from following his example.

Eternal vigilance has been, and while the world and man are constituted as they are will always remain, the price of liberty, and no system or code of laws automatically working can come near being an adequate substitute. Let the discussion proceed to the point where the average individual is brought to realize that the person who approaches him with the biggest handful of gold and with the most engaging smile on his face is not necessarily his best friend but may be actually working him harm, and then the long desired cure for social ills will have been found. Truly, as Franklin says, "Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other," and only in the costly school of experience all but the wise few learn to distinguish real friends from real foes, those who wish them permanent good from those who merely hold up to their dazzled gaze the glittering promise of ephemeral benefits.

HAROLD DELANO.

BROOKLYN, February 1.

FLOWERS OF STATE.

Some Ironical Remarks on Emblems and the New Movement of Infantism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A wider vision of the natural fitness of things perhaps may convince "Reader" of the propriety of the belief of "Teutonic" that America may lay claim to the violet as its floral national emblem without the formality of legislation or a vote of school children. Is that modest flower to go unrecognized in its shrinking effacement? A thousand times no, even if we must call on our tourists abroad or even the school children of Chicago to do it full justice.

That the pupils of the schools of twenty-nine States have chosen the flowers to be used as symbols for their peculiar types of aspiration proves that the new movement of infantism already challenges feminism in its uplifting career. Why cavil because a too general selection of the goldenrod may have resulted in the spread of hay fever? Have not the suffragettes inadvertently committed one or two slight indiscretions in their praiseworthy enthusiasm, and has not man himself occasionally fallen short of perfection in the pursuit of his noblest ideals?

Give the new movement a chance. The poisoned needle of the reactionary must be nipped in the bud lest the wheels of progress be snuffed out in the very dawning of the glorious tide of infant emancipation.

F. L. M.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., January 31.

Why "I Cannot Sing the Old Songs."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:*
I love those dear old stories that they sing in vaudeville,
About "The Country Lassie" and "My Grandma's Spinning Wheel,"
The one that tells of "Other Days" with "Maggie at My Side,"
And how, "At Night" "We Wandered by the River's Flowing Tide";
And, when they tell of "Mother" and her "Little Old Red Shawl,"
The pictures of "Those Happy Days" "Sweet Memories" recall.
And I sit beneath the shadow of the dear "Old Apple Tree";
But yet, to tell the truth, Broadway is good enough for me.
There is one about the country "Where the Dear Old Shannon Flows,"
And another that allures me "Where the Sweet Wild Violet Blows,"
Then comes a fond remembrance of dear "Grandma's Old Armchair,"
And the phantom of a girl who sang "Sweet Spirit, Hear My Prayer";
Then "We Rambled by the Brookside" and "Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still,"
Bring the memory back to "O Ye Tears!" and "Maggie of the Mill."
And "When the Corn Is Waving, Annie Dear," and "Aura Lee";
But yet, to tell the truth, Broadway is good enough for me.
When I'm "Dreaming" "In the Gleaming" of "My Old Kentucky Home,"
I feel that "Though I've Wandered Far, I Care No More to Roam,"
Or perhaps it is the calling of "The Cabin by the Sea"
Down "Beside the Rippling Waters" that again appeals to me;
Or I'm once more with "Juanita," "When the Robins Nest Again,"
And am burbling o'er "Love's Old Sweet Song" and "Love Is Such a Pain";
Or I hear "My Brown Haired Alice" sing "Sweet Bessie of Dundee";
But yet, to tell the truth, Broadway is good enough for me.
"Take Me Back to Dear Old Mother," "In the Good Old Summertime,"
And "The Little Old Brown Chapel," there to hear "The Village Chime,"
While "The Shepherd Boy" is piping to his own "Sweet Annie Moore,"
And the "Nightingale Is Singing" of "The Days That Were of Yore."
There is "Moonlight on the Water" and "The Bloom Is on the Rye,"
And "The Little Old Log Cabin" makes me dream of "home made pie";
But "I Cannot Sing the Old Songs" I sang lang syne to thee,
Because, alas! to-day Broadway is good enough for me.

FREDERIC W. PANGBORN.

NEW YORK, February 1.

A COLD STORAGE BILL.

The Salt and Preserved Fish Interests State the Objections to It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The so-called "McKellar cold storage bill," introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Kenneth D. McKellar of Tennessee, provides that fish, after having been kept in cold storage for two months, shall not be transported in interstate commerce. There being no special provision made for salt and preserved fish, this bill evidently refers also to them.

It is a well known fact, and can be proved by expert testimony very easily, that both salt and preserved fish may be kept in cold storage easily for one year without deteriorating in the very least. The bill, if passed as it now stands, would mean not only a serious hardship to the salt fish interests of this country and all other countries, but it would also mean that a very large part of our population would be deprived of one of the cheapest if not the cheapest and wholesomest food products in the world, salt fish. Most salt fish is preserved during the summer. In northern climates fish can be cured in the open without being kept in cold storage. In our climate it is impossible to cure salt fish without cold storage. If this bill goes through, salt fish cannot be shipped from one State to another, and all this salt fish will have to be consumed in one State after it has been kept in cold storage for two months.

This would be just contrary to the views of the present Administration. It would increase the cost of living, particularly of the poor people, because they consume the largest quantities of salt fish. Salt fish is one of the cheapest and wholesomest of food products, and there can be no earthly reason why its shipment in interstate commerce should be prohibited as long as it is absolutely as good one year after it has been put into cold storage as on the very day when put in. It is evident that Representative McKellar has overlooked this fact, and that when he wrote "fish" in his bill he meant merely fresh fish. Whether it is good policy to limit the storing of fish for two months I am not prepared to say, because I do not know much about it, but I do know enough about salt and preserved fish.

The combined salt fish interests of this city have asked me to appear in Washington before the subcommittee in charge of this McKellar bill and argue this matter for them, and prove to the committee that salt and preserved fish should be exempt from this bill. Most of the large salt fish and preserved fish interests have written me letters in very strong terms, which I shall present to the committee when I appear before it in Washington. If it should appear advisable that a certain time be set for the storing of salt and preserved fish, one year would be just about right. Most of the salt fish and preserved fish is not kept in cold storage for one year, and is disposed of before that time, but before any decision is taken in this matter expert testimony should be had.

GUSTAVE FORGES.

NEW YORK, January 31.

A CARRANZISTA APPEAL.

Raise the Embargo on Arms, and Constitutionalists Will Prevail.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reference to the news printed in THE SUN of January 28 about raising the embargo on the exportation of arms to Mexico I take the liberty of expressing my opinion.

The border of Mexico is extensive and the number of troops guarding it is small. By all legitimate means the United States Government has tried to prevent other nations from providing Huerta with munitions of war; but without success. In Japan there is a commission of Mexican officers, sent by Huerta to examine and receive the 50,000 rifles for which Huerta contracted with a private concern. Less than a month ago the Mexican Government received a cannon to experiment with.

By this it can be seen that Huerta and Carranza have not had equal opportunities to obtain arms and ammunition. But Carranza has in his favor another force, public opinion. There are people who think that if the embargo is raised the revolution will go on indefinitely. This is a great error, for the revolution is one of principle, not personal ambition, and the right will prevail. Carranza has a provisional capital in Hermosillo and a Cabinet. The whole world witnesses the seriousness with which this movement has been carried on. A nation of fourteen millions is awaiting its success, trusting in the justice of the American Government. Raise the embargo!

RICARDO DANTAN.

SOUTH NYACK, January 31.

"THE DECLINE OF LIBERTY."

A Cigarette Maker Finds an Instance in His Factory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Judge Cullen's words in his speech on "The Decline of Liberty" find confirmation in a reply I have just received from Mr. Hammitt, chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

I am advised that no smoking is permitted in any factory or any office connected therewith. My company makes cigarettes. Frequent trial, by smoking of course, is required in preparing the blends and making the cigarettes. Furthermore, our cigarettes are made in a variety of blends of Turkish tobaccos to suit the different tastes of our customers. When a customer calls, and they are few enough these days, he may not try a cigarette in our office without breaking the law and rendering himself and us liable. Our so-called "factory" is an ordinary office room in an ordinary office building. We can take our customer into the next office where teas are sold and there he may smoke. The tea man may not like our trespassing, but I think could soon be brought to see the value of a reciprocal arrangement whereby our customers might try our cigarettes in his office and his try his teas in ours, for surely it will not be long before tea drinking will be forbidden on the premises of tea merchants. We shall soon have to eat raw food and live without heat.

For us cigarette and cigar makers this will be no hardship—we shall have starved. Bear in mind there are hundreds if not some thousand factories of cigars and cigarettes liable to the effect of this law if enforced. I am not aware that court proceedings have been instituted against any one for smoking in a cigarette or cigar factory. I presume that none will be, for the situation is fatally absurd, but why have laws that one must break to live?

M. R. W.

NEW YORK, January 31.

Make the People's Servants Polite.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the people have succeeded in knocking politeness and courtesy into the employees of public service corporations like express companies, railroads, telegraph companies, &c., let them continue the good work and knock politeness into the heads of our public servants, Federal, State and municipal, by insisting upon courteous treatment from them.

HOHOKUS.

HOHOKUS, N. J., January 31.

Mr. Stover's Vacation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Arithmetic" is wrong when he says that since "Mr. Stover's fifteen minutes became sixty days, in the same proportion his two days should become three years and four months."

He ought to go one step higher in his mathematics and then he would find that Mr. Stover's present absence should last only for one year and 335 days.

ALGEBRA.

NEW YORK, February 1.

Sixty Feet of Sons.

From the London Evening Standard.

Mrs. Fowler, widow of the Rev. N. V. Fowler, formerly vicar of Ulting, Essex, who has died at Witham, had ten brothers, all of whom were over six feet high, and her father used to boast of his "sixty feet of sons."

What Houses Are For.

The House That Jack Built was completed.

"Now to mortgage it for a car," he cried.

NEW YORK STATE TAXATION.

Comment on Recent Criticisms by the Commissioner of Corporations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Joseph E. Davies, Commissioner of Corporations, in a special report, part of which was published in THE SUN, criticises certain features of the tax laws of New York. For example, he undertakes to prove that the mortgage tax law discriminates against real estate mortgages in favor of corporation bonds, which are taxed under the secured debt tax law.

The answer to this proposition is plain and easy. Real estate mortgages are held almost exclusively within the State boundaries by savings banks, life insurance companies, trust estates and private owners, the amount held outside the State being no more than a negligible fraction of the whole. Hence they encounter no other tax until they come down to the death taxes, and incidentally to the recently enacted Federal income tax law; whereas the bonds of corporations which pay a like tax to be thereafter free in New York are distributed throughout the civilized world, certainly in every State, more or less freely, of the Union. Where they are liable to taxation and often to multiple taxation, the very bonds that have paid the New York tax to be free there may upon sale and transfer to a resident of another State be taxed again and so on ad infinitum, according to the varying phases of ownership.

In practice, even in New York, no allowance on sale is made for the previous payment of the State tax, and of course no account at all could be taken of it in any market outside of New York State. Moreover, Mr. Davies's comparison is made on the theory that real estate mortgages have a life of approximately three years; while they are drawn usually for terms of five years, three years or even one year, they are impressed commonly by extension agreements or by tacit consent with a much longer life. Savings banks and life insurance companies can show many a real estate mortgage venerable with age; I have experience with mortgages which have run twenty years and may run as many more. So it may be said that the average life of real estate mortgages approximates the average term of life of corporation bonds. Conservative borrowers are prompted by the incidence of the tax, which is a registration tax, to avoid if possible the issuing of a new mortgage.

Mr. Davies's further suggestion that the State may later wish to lay heavier burdens of taxation upon these forms of property, to which purpose the present laws may prove a bar, will fill the minds of tax eaters with joy and the minds of taxpayers with dismay.

J. B. K.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., January 26.

PURPLE SMITH.

Descendants of the Plantagenets and the Tudors.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In writing of the Mississippi Smiths, descendants of the Rev. Jedediah Smith and supposedly allied to Erastus or Deaf Smith of Texas, your correspondent "Another of the Kin" makes a slight error in regard to the Rev. Jedediah's children; being one of the "Children of Israel," as we were wont to term the descendants of his seventh son, permit me to make correction.

The Rev. Jedediah, grandson of Preserved Smith's elder brother, Ebenezer, carried with him to the Natchez district eight sons and two daughters of his twelve children; having left his eldest son, Jedediah, in Massachusetts, and, as one of his great-grandsons was pleased to say, having failed to "raise his Ebenezer." Thus was the Smith family established in Mississippi and the Louisiana Territory, for the other branch of the family came later.

The Rev. Jedediah Smith was a royalist at the outbreak of the Revolution, going south mainly in order to avoid conflict with his relatives who were patriots. His descendants fought for the Confederacy, intermarrying with Jefferson Davis's family, and becoming prominent along many lines. Among the descendants of the Rev. Henry Smith of Wethersfield remaining in the North were Governor John Cotton Smith of Connecticut, Governor Israel Smith of Vermont, Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College, and other well known persons. The family of which the Rev. Henry Smith, the old Puritan divine, was a member claimed descent from the English Plantagenets and from the ancient Princes of Wales through the Tudors.

ONE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

NEW YORK, February 1.

PARADISE, O PARADISE!

The Tar Heel Land of Sunshine, Plenty and Cheap Living.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Charlotte *Observer* copies a letter from THE SUN, written by Mr. W. M. Shoemaker, regarding the opportunities for people living in congestion in the cities to avail themselves of the opportunities in the South. Every word of this I indorse, as I have lived in the city and know whereof I speak.

Any man who is willing to work can live comfortably in this section, where anything will grow to perfection. We are producing $250 worth of tobacco an acre at a cost of $50. Berries net $150 to $200 an acre. We, too, live outdoors practically all the winter, had one little skim of ice so far this winter. To-day the thermometer stands at 72 degrees. Land is plentiful and cheap; cotton, corn, peanuts, tobacco, grapes, fruit, everything to perfection, and a glorious climate; no malaria or mosquitoes. Schools, and I never heard of any stealing or depredations.

The poorest people I ever knew lived in the city, always hard up; whereas, they will never know the independence of a little home of their own; but I do, as I have thirty-six acres, and paid for. No more city life for me.

GEORGE T. KEARSLEY.

PINEVIEW, N. C., January 29.

He Objects to a Literary Villa.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* This is too much. They have trotted out that unspeakable Villa in an olive tinted khaki uniform and pictured him reading a little book, procured from United States army officers, called "The Ethics of International Warfare." Whereupon Villa is made to announce that hereafter civilized warfare would be "adopted by the rebels." Of course the book idea was intended to impress our scholarly President, although we are not told who the author of the quaint volume is or that Villa cannot read a word in Spanish, let alone English.

FRANK GUARD.

NEW YORK, January 31.

Soaking Time.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A correspondent writes to THE SUN about the cleaning of a clock. I can give him a good remedy which I tried on an old eight day alarm clock that refused to go. I got a deep pan, filled it with kerosene oil, removed the case, dropped the works into the oil so that they were completely covered with it. I let the works soak for three days, then let them dry and put them back in the case. The clock is now going as well as when it was new.

READER.

PORTLAND, Ore., January 25.

Sport in the Hall of Fame.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Partridge and the Peacocke who have been appointed Commissioners of Deeds may be somewhat alarmed on learning that a Fox has entered their preserves, but I am sure they will be protected by Commissioner Shotwell.

NEW YORK, January 31. GAME WARDEN.

Saul of Spitalfields.

From the London Standard.

Carter street, Whitechapel, is to be renamed Saul street. There was at one time a weaver in Spitalfields named Saul, concerning whom a gravestone in St. Dunstan's churchyard was inscribed:

"Here lyes the Body of Daniel Saul,
Spitalfields Weaver, and that's all."

Ponderosity Saltant.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have often heard it said—but is it really true?—that fat men make good dancers.

And why should they?

TANGO.

NEW YORK, February 1.

AUTOS KILLED 302 IN CITY STREETS IN 1913

Toll of Lives Taken by Reckless Drivers Shows Big Increase in Year.

POLICE ORDER BLAMED

Highways Society Recommends Immediate Arrest of Guilty Chauffeurs.

According to figures compiled by the National Highways Protective Society from the monthly reports of Coroners 302 persons were killed by automobiles in New York city in 1913, as against 221 in 1912. During the same period 108 were fatally injured by trolley cars and 132 by wagons in the city.

In New York State, outside of this city, the deaths were as follows: By automobiles, 149, compared with 127 in 1912; by trolleys, 79, and by wagons, 32.

The loss of life by vehicular traffic in the entire State was as follows: By automobiles, 451; by trolleys, 187, and by wagons, 164, making a total of 802 persons killed in the streets.

During the years 1913, 1912, 1911 and 1910, in New York city alone, 777 were killed by automobiles, 499 by trolleys and 730 by wagons, or a total of 2,006.

Heavy Toll of Children's Lives.

The percentage of children killed during those four years was: For automobiles, 45 per cent.; trolleys, 31 per cent., and for wagons, 52 per cent.

During the past month forty-four persons, of whom sixteen were children, were killed by vehicular traffic on the streets of New York city. Twenty-eight met death under autos. Of these twelve were children. In the same time only five persons were killed by automobiles in the State outside of the city. The auto death toll for December in New York city was twenty-five, and for January a year ago seventeen.

The society points out in its report that although in 1910 wagon killings outnumbered those due to automobiles, in 1913 automobile fatalities were more than those due to trolleys and wagons combined.

New York city's auto victims, killed or injured sufficiently to require medical attention (of which the society has record) numbered 1,485 for the year. Only sixty-two persons were arrested for these accidents, or about one in every twenty-five accidents.

The society declares that in one accident out of every fifteen the driver of the automobile ran away without giving any aid to the victim or making his identity known. There were 102 such cases in New York city during the year, or about two every week.

Many Guilty Ones Escape.

In regard to automobile fatalities recently followed by the escape of the death dealing car, the report points out that there were 198 such accidents in the State during 1913, and ninety-two in New Jersey. Few of the culprits were caught.

"This is a felony under the State law," the report says, "yet in the few cases where the driver was subsequently caught there is no record of subsequent conviction."

New Jersey's deaths by vehicles for 1913 was as follows: Automobiles, 124, as against 91 in 1912; trolleys, 28, as against 41 in 1912, and wagons, 26, as against 16 in 1912. The total number of persons killed or injured by automobiles in New Jersey last year was 992.

Nine per cent. of the New York auto drivers figuring in accidents ran away, compared with 7 per cent. in New Jersey.

The proportion of accidents in which the owner was driving was one in five, about the same for New York as for New Jersey.

Ten women automobile drivers had accidents in New York city, 14 in New York State and 13 in New Jersey during the year.

Reckless Driving Increases.

George P. LeBrun, secretary of the recently organized Association for the Prevention of Reckless Driving, with headquarters at 29 West Thirty-ninth street, submitted a report to the effect that the organization has a record of 23 persons killed by automobiles, 7 by trolley cars and 7 by wagons during the past month. Mr. LeBrun says these figures indicate no decrease in the slaughter of human beings by the reckless operation of automobiles.

The association is having a motor vehicle law drafted providing for the licensing of all operators of cars, owners and chauffeurs and the revocation or suspension of licenses for cause.

The report of the chief clerk of the Board of Coroners for the Borough of Manhattan during the year 1913 shows that a total of 5,750 deaths were investigated, as against 5,697 in 1912. Of these 3,094 were due to natural causes, leaving 2,656, which were caused by violence, accidents and suicides.

There were 111 homicides during the year, as compared with 114 the previous year.

The Coroners' physicians performed 742 autopsies.

Mercury Killed 21 in Year.

Twenty-one deaths were caused by bichloride of mercury; 15 were suicides and 6 accidental. Forty-five persons were killed by elevators. Deaths by falls from stairs, roofs and windows numbered [illegible]. A total of 125 deaths were caused by accidental inhalation of gas.

The number of "unknown" men and women taken to the morgues was 436, of which 296 were identified.

There were 453 suicides, of which 48 were by shooting, 26 by cutting, 173 by gas, 47 by leaping from windows, roofs, bridges, &c.; 4 by jumping in front of trains, 47 by hanging, 5 by drowning and 65 by poison. A total of 372 deaths were accidental, 5 were by shooting, [illegible] poison and 7 by cutting.

Of 112 who met death by falling from windows 49 were children under [illegible]. Thirty-four children under 14 were killed by tumbling off fire escapes.

Thirty-two men were killed by falling articles while at work in the Lexington avenue subway and the aqueduct.

The report shows that in the Borough of Manhattan 176 persons were killed by automobiles, which is an increase of [illegible] per cent. in the last two years.

"The police order No. 10, issued [illegible] 10, 1910, not to arrest chauffeurs for running over and killing human beings," the report says, "should be [illegible] manded. It is the belief of this office that if the person driving the automobile at the time the accident occurred were arrested the same as any other violator of the law instead of the present system of summoning him to appear in court would be the means of making owners of automobiles and chauffeurs more careful."

ASK $100,000 FOR AUTO DEATH

Case of Harry M. Hayes's Heirs Against Forestburg to Come Up.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Feb. 1.—At the term of the Supreme Court which will convene in Goshen to-morrow a suit will be tried in which the heirs of Harry M. Hayes seek to recover $100,000 from the town of Forestburg, Sullivan county, for the death of Mr. Hayes.

Hayes was killed on the mountain in an automobile accident over a year ago. He was vice-president of the Hayes Hinchman Tanning Company of this city.