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Three Modern Presidential Interpretations of the Monroe Doctrine.

With his usual sense of the opportune and readiness to be of service Mr. TAFT comes forward in the *Independent* bearing to-morrow's date to add to our collection of characterizations of the Monroe Doctrine by men now living who have held the office of President of the United States.

This remarkable collection is now complete. It gains in interest from the circumstance that the three definitions have been almost simultaneously uttered, and in respect of brevity they are nearly equivalent.

First, THEODORE ROOSEVELT in the *Outlook* of Saturday, March 14. The doctrine, he says, is:

"Merely that there shall not be territorial aggrandizement by Old World Powers in America."

Next, WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT in the *Independent* of Monday, March 16:

"The maintenance of the traditional attitude concerning American questions commonly described as the Monroe Doctrine."

And thirdly, WOODROW WILSON, in conversation at Washington on Thursday, March 12, was reported as saying "with a smile":

"There is much discussion but no doubt as to what the Monroe Doctrine means."

Ambassador PAGE, it appears, undertook to ingraft President WILSON'S Monroe Doctrine smile upon ex-President ROOSEVELT'S Monroe Doctrine phraseology. The result was not felicitous. To diplomats and other public officials in places short of supreme responsibility who feel themselves impelled to construe and expound the Monroe Doctrine for the instruction of foreign auditors we earnestly commend either Mr. TAFT'S or Mr. WILSON'S formula in preference to Colonel ROOSEVELT'S attempt at more precise definition. For, whatever may be said or written about what Mr. TAFT styles this nation's "traditional attitude concerning American questions," the fact remains, as President WILSON comprehensively remarks, that there is no doubt as to what it really means.

Four and Twenty Bootjacks.

A New York hotel of luxury has shown its resolution to live up to the demands of all sorts and conditions of "guests" in this town, the inn of nations, many raced, myriad tongued. It has added to its furnishings twenty-four capable bootjacks. Henceforth the stranger within its gates who happens to encase his lower legs and feet in boots will be able to divest himself thereof without aid from supercilious and purple menials, intolerant in matters of dress.

How many children of this town would know a bootjack if they saw one? A foot stove such as our great-grandmothers used to take to the church with them; nay, perhaps a bed key would not be a stranger to the pampered little folks of to-day. How comic *Josh Whitcomb's* yearning for a bootjack in "The Old Homestead" used to seem to spectators, the fathers of many of whom used that honest implement every night of their lives, and sometimes hurled it madly of a midnight at some serenade of Tom and Tabby. How vastly superior some folks are, to be sure, and what a patronizing tolerance they show to persons, almost invariably ascribed to the West and Southwest, that cling to those absurd survivals boots! Boots under the trousers, of course; not the rude energetic receptacles into which trousers are tucked by miners, some farmers (the majority of this race wear [illegible] leather shoes, some sociologists [illegible]), even by [illegible] stress of weather love to play that they are facing a tremendous cataclysm of nature in sea boots or hunting boots, often plain rubber boots.

Honor to the bluff and hearty souls—none others will wear boots trousers shadowed—that keep up the fine traditions of the land. Every creak of their boots, if boots dare creak in this decorous varnished age, speaks of stumps and underbrush and swamp and snakes, of the times of clearing, of log houses, moccasins, flapjacks, jeans, raisin's, courtin's, fiddlin's, gougin's, turkey shoots, barbecues, pumpelo, blackstrap and W. I. and Medford rum.

Even when RUFUS KING of this State, last of the Romans, last wearer of smalls and stockings, disappeared from the Senate in 1825 our elder and middle statesmen were booted. Presidents, Commodores, Generals, authors tugged night and morning at the boots, or in the generous oblivion of Madeira slept peacefully in that casing armor. WEBSTER, CLAY and CALHOUN stood on the tribune or platform or hopped off it with both boots. In boots JOHN RANDOLPH went out of his way to kick a protected sheep. Into what colossal, clumsy, honest boots must Honest ABE have thrust those interminable legs and feet! In short, boots were the wear of most Americans, not copper colored, for the generations from small clothes to shoes. They have been worn by millions. They may be worn by millions now. And in the perpetual recurrence of fashions they are sure to be fashionable again, slashed, tasselled, laced, with falling top and brilliant lining; who knows? And who knows with what loftier boot or buskin the Ruling Sex will stamp upon the Vanishing?

At eventide, welcome to the bootjack; and may no boot wearer die in his boots before the close of his green century. And let the aged among us search in the attics of house or memory for the early ornaments of their youth, the boots with high red or blue tops, and the boots with copper toes!

Who Is Right?

Either Senator MORRIS SHEPPARD or Governor COLQUITT is wrong about the attitude of the people of Texas toward President WILSON'S Mexican policy. Neither can be half right. If it is true, as the Governor declared in his elaborate letter to Secretary BRYAN on March 3, that "the monetary losses to the people of Texas will run into millions, the lives of our citizens are taken and the murderers find a safe retreat on the west bank of the Rio Grande," then it is inconceivable that the people of Texas are pleased with Mr. WILSON'S policy. On the other hand, what are we to make of this statement of Mr. SHEPPARD to the Senate last Monday?

"I think it due the Senate and the country to say that the people of Texas are almost unanimously in sympathy with WOODROW WILSON and WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN in the course they have pursued as to Mexico. They are not in sympathy with the Governor of Texas on this question."

It has been Mr. SHEPPARD'S almost daily custom since he made his speech upon Mexico to read telegrams from his constituents lauding the Senator's course and approving of Mr. WILSON'S policy. These telegrams have hitherto been few in number but most emphatic. "Fully nine-tenths of the people of Texas approve the policy of the Wilson Administration in Mexico without qualification," is a specimen testimonial from Rockport. "Every one here is with you," is the word from Tyler. "Texans are with you," wires Wichita Falls. Eleven citizens of Greenville assure the Senator that he has "voiced the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of the citizenship of Texas."

These asseverations are not conclusive, the Hon. MORRIS SHEPPARD being a very popular young tribune; but one cannot help thinking that there is a note of exaggeration in the Governor's vehement calculations of the losses in life and property which Texas has sustained because of the insurrection. It has even been said that Texans talk less than New Yorkers about it.

The Earliest English Newspapers.

Through a chance order for a leaflet described in a bookseller's catalogue Mr. CHARLES FELEKY of this city became possessed last year of what was then supposed to be the only extant copy of the first newspaper ever published in the English language. It was captioned the "Corant or Weekly Newes, from Italy, Germany, Hungaria, Polonia, Bohemia, France and the Low Countries," and it bore date of "October the 11th, 1621." The publication of this sheet was known through a mention of it by JOHN NICHOLS in "Literary Anecdotes," but the Encyclopædia Britannica in its last edition asserted that no copy of it was known to survive.

The history of the newspapers in the English tongue is now carried ten months further back into the past by the announcement of Mr. J. B. WILLIAMS, the historian of British journalism, that a volume of twenty-five "Corantos" acquired by the British Museum in November, 1912, completely revolutionizes the evidence on the subject and places it beyond doubt that "English periodicals were commenced in the year 1620 and in Amsterdam as the enterprise of Dutch printers and booksellers." This wonderful find consists of news sheets extending from December 2, 1620, to the close of the year 1621. It appears further that toward the end of the latter year the sheets were being printed, or perhaps reprinted, in England by "N. B.," who may have been either NICHOLAS BOURNE or NATHANIEL BUTTER, both of whom were publishers, associated with the very earliest struggles of English periodicals. Mr. WILLIAMS favors the BOURNE attribution.

Differing from Mr. FELEKY'S prize, the first of the British Museum corantos—the word, also spelled "corant," "currant" and "current," comes from the [illegible] vives to-day in "courant," the title of our esteemed Hartford contemporary and perhaps many other newspapers—the first British Museum coranto, we say, was without any title. It is from the dates in the colophon only that we have assurance of the periodical status of the collection. The first number of all is dated "The 2 of Decemember [sic], 1620." The next is of December 23, a lapse of just three weeks, seeming to indicate that two numbers have been lost. Then there is a skip to January 21, showing a change in the day of publication. But in these numbers and those following a title has been adopted. They are headed "Corrant out of Italy, Germany, &c.," and this is said to be the first though not by any means the only instance where the sign "&c." has figured in the title of a newspaper.

There is no way of proving absolutely that this sheet of December 2, 1620, was the first newspaper ever printed in English. It is assuredly, however, the first extant, and from its lack of title and from other circumstances there is good reason to believe that it was indeed the first. The date carries one back to a troubled period in the world's history. The seeds of the Cromwellian revolution were already germinating in England and the Pilgrim Fathers were drawing close to the American coast, whereon they landed at Plymouth Rock only nine days after the coranto's first appearance. The Thirty Years war was on, and it was the first great battle thereof that gave occasion for the coranto's publication.

FREDERICK the Elector Palatine was enjoying toward the close of 1620 the brief reign at Prague which brought to him and his fair and sprightly spouse, "The Queen of Hearts" as the English called her, the sobriquet of the "Winter King and Queen." The Queen was ELIZABETH of England, daughter of JAMES I. and grandmother of GEORGE I., and her fortunes and those of her husband were of thrilling interest to the English people. As the coranto of December was prepared for the press news came dribbling into Amsterdam of conditions in Austria and Bohemia. There are letters "Out of Weenan [Vienna], the 6 November"; "Out of Prage, the 5 of November," and from sundry other places, telling in quaint English but excellent typography, on both sides of the ten by six inch sheet, of the gathering of the Emperor's forces and those of his ally, MAXIMILIAN, Duke of Bavaria, to crush the usurper FREDERICK. Finally "Out of Ceulen the 24 of November" came the dire tidings that "there had beene a very great Battel by Prage, between the King and the Duke of Beyeren, & many 1000 slaine on both sides." This was the battle of Weissenberg, fought November 8, 1620, which sent FREDERICK and his English wife as fugitives to the Netherlands with the "ban of the Empire" upon them.

Now this very first English newspaper, containing this disastrous news item, at once excited the wrath of the English King and his Government. JAMES was at this time angling for a Spanish wife for his son; and to please Spain, which soon overran FREDERICK'S dominions in the Palatinate, he was basely abandoning his daughter and her husband to their fate. His greatest desire was to conceal their disaster from the English people so that no home pressure might be exercised upon him to assist them. Therefore the sheet that told the news of Weissenberg drew from the crown a proclamation denouncing the teller of the unwelcome truth in terms which have since become proverbial. Affairs of state, it is laid down, are "no Theames or subjects fit for vulgar persons" and "Our loving subjects" are commanded from the highest to the lowest "to take heede how they intermeddle by Penne or speech with causes of State and secrets of Empire."

The King must have been placated, since the corantos not only continued to be printed in Holland but soon in London. However, in 1632 the Government was aroused to real action and for six years all printed periodicals containing news were rigidly suppressed. It was only in 1638 that BUTTER and BOURNE became by letters patent purveyors of foreign news. From their day to the present time newspapers, despite many restrictions in their early days, have flourished and prospered wherever the English language is understood.

The Fool Killer Should Visit Ellis Island.

Surely the freaks of our Ellis Island authorities have reached a climax in the detention of Mrs. FLORA ANNIE STEELE, one of the most distinguished among present day English writers. Her principal works, "The Potter's Thumb" and "On the Face of the Waters," admirable portrayals of Anglo-Indian life, are known to a majority of intelligent people and might have served her as passports with any whose minds were less aloof from the ordinary common sense type than the ultra zealous guardians of our gates.

Not to waste words, the case is inexcusable. Mrs. STEELE is vigorous in body and extraordinarily alert in mind. She had a hundred pounds in her possession and she was only touching here on her way to Jamaica. It is preposterous that white hair and 67 years should so weigh against all rational considerations as to cause such an outrage.

This is only one of a series of stupid blunders that have disgraced our immigration inspection at this port in the last six months. It is high time that the Department of Commerce made an inquiry into the cause of such incidents with a view to energetic measures to secure reform.

Walt Whitman in the Stock Yards.

In the March number of *Poetry*, the endowed Chicago shelter and refuge of bards, CARL SANDBURG'S "Chicago [illegible] lifelong admirers, like THE SUN, of that dynamic, artistic and public spirited town. The ghost of WALT WHITMAN haunts *Poetry* and most of the younger quire too insistently. It may be the fault of everlasting imitations and parodies, but the good gray poet's poetic brats are more likely to bore than to delight. These unassorted and unrhymed lengths, these words without music look more mechanical than any formality of rhyme could make them. It is the peculiarity of some "free verse" to be more constrained and collar bound than the most artificial product of any eighteenth century pentameter makers. But the capital of HINKY DINK and Bath House JOHN, himself a singer, awaits in all the magic garment of capital letters:

"Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders."

City of the Brown Fedora, beerful, brazen, sprawling Panhandler; Chevalier FULLER'S and the Fra LORADO'S coin maker, stacker of chips; boss Hustler of the World! But hear CARL SANDBURG answer those who tell him that Chicago is wicked and crooked, and answer those, presumably of St. Louis, who sneer at her:

"Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning,
Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the little soft cities;
Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning as a savage pitted against the wilderness,
Bareheaded,
Shoveling,
Wrecking."

This is a conventional picture of Chicago, doing justice to her strength and rudeness, the latter quality perhaps rather legendary than real; it remembers all the obvious and splendid struggle and brutality and force of great cities, but what is there in it of the finer nature and aspirations of the town? No doubt Chicago has been flinging curses, since neither the White Sox nor the Cubs can grab a championship, but what is a "magnetic" curse? One that fascinates him who is cursed thereby? But leave considering curiously and take the defiance of the last stanza, including the repetition of the first:

"Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has never lost a battle,
Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse, and under his ribs the heart of the people,
Laughing!

"Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of Youth, half naked, sweating, proud to be Hog Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and Freight Handler to the Nation."

This is well done of the kind and the manner, but is it not the raw materials of poetry rather than the finished work? A railroad time table or the egg market record could be put up satisfactorily in this form.

In the projected feminist "Church of the New Ideal" men are to be admitted to but some of the services. At the majority only women will be present. This shows a kindly and maternal spirit on the part of our future overladies. It is an appropriate and strictly up to date variation of the principle upon which the passing lords of creation shut the women out from "stags" and "smokers."

The cable despatches regarding the British reception of Mr. PAGE'S little speech seem to show that despite years of education by Ambassadors and others Britons have not yet mastered the mechanism of American humor. The State Department should command its representatives to supplement their discourses on British soil with copious epexegetical notes.

"They order these things better in France." Or is it only differently? For more than five years the income tax proposal of M. CAILLAUX has been pending in the Parliament and even yet daily despatches show that it is being painstakingly studied section by section in the Senate, our own rapid fire experiment being used for illumination according to the views of the speakers. Withal it is generally conceded that the bill has no chance whatever of passing before the next general election. Slow, but perhaps sure!

President MENOCAL proves his moral courage by asking Congress to abolish the Cuban national lottery. As it brings in a considerable revenue, although of a negative kind, his proposal is not likely to have smooth sailing. That it is made in a message to Congress shows that President MENOCAL is winning support for his Administration among the people.

Senator MARTINE'S effort to celebrate Vice-President MARSHALL'S sixtieth birthday by presenting him with a walking stick bought with contributions from Senators was an amazing indiscretion. The man has no tact at all.

The failure in the House of Representatives in Massachusetts of the resolution protesting against the bill to repeal free Panama tolls will be a great blow to the Hon. MARTIN LOMASNEY.

Travels of a Spouter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A headline in this morning's SUN reads: "Bryan Goes Away to Talk." Was he ever known to go away for any other purpose? E. T. W.

NEW YORK, March 13.

To Cure "Hard Up" Insomnia.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Troubled by financial matters, I had lain awake nights thinking of my troubles. Finally I started telling myself nightly a story of a fortune that was coming to me; and I have found this method effective in overcoming sleeplessness induced by such a cause, though I did make a little mistake at the start.

I made the fortune too big, became more excited by it than I had previously been disturbed by total lack of fortune; but that was a defect in the plan that it was easy to remedy. I cut that imaginary fortune down to enough to pay my debts and to make me comfortable.

Nightly now when I hit the feathers I start telling myself that revised story of the little fortune on its way to me, and it soothes me to sleep very pleasantly.

[illegible]

Justice to Mike Lyons's Good Restaurant.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the report in THE SUN of Thursday of the hearing before the Mayor's committee on all night licenses you make me say: "An old friend of mine, Mike Lyons, had a place in the Bowery, and they closed him up because of a fight."

What I did say was that "Mike Lyons, an old friend of mine, kept a nice restaurant in the Bowery for over thirty years, open night and day, and just as decent as any on Fifth avenue or Broadway."

In fact, I never heard that his place was closed because of a fight. He retired from business, and I was sorry to see it, because Mr. Lyons kept a decent restaurant, although it was on the Bowery.

He served nice, good meals from 30 cents up. Yes, indeed, New York to-day needs more places like Mr. Lyons's.

JOHN HENRY SMITH.

NEW YORK, March 13.

INSIDE BASEBALL.

Some of the Fine Points of the National Sport Made Clear.

Inside baseball is played by magnates, caterers and real estate agents of altruistic disposition for the benefit of newspapers and humorists who have passed the mother-in-law jest and are working through the office-boy-dead-kinsman period.

It is played in the cold months on hotel cafe tables with cocktails highballs, champagne and cigars.

Inside baseball has contributed greatly to the cause of domestic economy. Its caterers have taught the world how thin ham may be sliced and still retain its standing as a filler for sandwiches. Less ham is used in baseball sandwiches in New York than in any other city of the known world.

The magnates of inside baseball are among the foremost philanthropists of their time. They have spent great sums of money this winter merely to prevent certain misguided men from investing their cash in professional baseball, simply to save these enthusiastic but ill informed persons from suffering depletion of the pocketbook.

Magnates engage in inside baseball purely from love of the sport, and sell the fences in their ball parks to advertising agencies in order that the art education of the public shall not be neglected.

A baseball magnate cares no more for profits from the game than Charley Whitman does for real evidence against a Democratic grafter.

Real estate agents in inside baseball display their generous dispositions by leasing to magnates baseball fields in sections where other real estate agents manage residential property, thus affording to their competitors' tenants the advantage of hearing the games for nothing.

Baseball magnates allow politicians to throw the first ball in their parks in order that the politicians may thus make plain their oneness with the common people.

If baseball were made too easily accessible to the poor, many men might neglect their work. To prevent this the baseball magnates abolish the twenty-five cent stands, thereby eliminating from the attendance a considerable proportion of the public.

Baseball magnates are painfully jealous of the reputation of their game. They will not tolerate among their number any magnate whose conduct has been such as to reduce the receipts of his club to a point not reasonably profitable to them.

BASEBALL REPORTING.

Opinion of One Who Likes the Style of English Writers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The great American people interested in baseball, writers, players and public, may with profit take a leaf from the English sportsman in regard to reports of sporting writers of games, behavior of players during the game and the attitude of spectators. *Sporting Life*, a newspaper devoted exclusively to sports in Great Britain, published an account of the baseball game played in England at which the King was present.

The account itself was clear and notably free from the offensive slang which seems to be the especial stock in trade of so many sporting writers. Odd as the game was to the mass of spectators and to the reporter, there was not the slightest attempt to belittle the game as a sport, and comparisons made with the national game of cricket were fairly and honestly made without flamboyant laudation of the British game.

Criticism of the coachers was much milder than it might have been. The writer contented himself with a statement that the British sports loving public could not understand methods which might serve to put the other fellow off his best game.

Reading generally through the columns of the English sporting papers, no matter what the subject may be, one finds a dignified but not the less enthusiastic tone governing the reports.

Bombardier Wells was not a "big dub" or "hog fat." He was "carrying too much flesh," he was in "poor form."

The Americans "hit the ball among the spectators"; they did not "lambaste the pill into the peanut brigade."

I tell you we can learn a lot from our brothers across the water; and don't think I'm one of them for a minute. I'm American to the backbone, one of my ancestors having played at musket ball with the British in '76. R. S. E.

NEW YORK, March 14.

OUR POLICY IN MEXICO.

A Member of the American Colony Frees His Mind About It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From a friend of mine, a prominent American citizen, who has lived in Mexico city for over thirty years and is a leader in the American colony there, I received recently a letter regarding the situation in Mexico. The following is an extract from it:

Referring to our troubles here, I can only say that I am sorry that the United States Government has taken the stand it has in regard to the Mexican situation. As a matter of fact the greatest sufferers by President Wilson's policy, if it may be so called, are us foreigners and the poor people of the country. General Huerta has no intention of abdicating, and if he should do so, what, and who, is to take his place? I am not able to believe that President Wilson could, for a moment, think of replacing him with such outlaws and assassins as Carranza, or Villa, or Zapata, or any of the hordes of so-called Constitutionalists (God save the mark!).

The mass of the people here may not think that Huerta is the only man for the place, but he has demonstrated a greater degree of fitness than any other, and all are asking: "If Huerta steps out, what are we going to do; whom have we to put in his place?" At the present time he is our only hope for a restoration of order; and remember, the deaths of Madero and Suarez cannot be fixed upon him. I am certain that he did not know of them for an hour after they occurred, and had he known that they were contemplated I am sure that he would have intervened. I know General Huerta and I like him personally very much. He is not at all the man he is painted in the newspapers in the States. If President Wilson had let this country alone and given it a chance to work out its own salvation, we would have had peace long ago. I am an American, and under all circumstances and conditions will stand by my country, but I cannot feel that anything like justice has been done to this country by Wilson or Bryan.

It has occurred to me that this opinion of a man on the spot might be of interest. ALFRED MULLER.

NEW YORK, March 14.

[illegible]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems that Deputy Comptroller Harris regrets that Titanic disasters and so on don't occur more often in order to boost the inheritance tax graft.

The revenue would be ample if moneys were not squandered on crooked road construction and too many State employees. Run the State Government as a private concern is run and there wouldn't be deficits.

All hail to Mr. A. R. Gallatin, who shows up the real cause for such a law. WILLIAM EDGAR.

NEW YORK, March 13.

Mistaken Deference to the Middle Aged.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Yesterday a young man got up to give me his seat in a street car. Within a year or two other polite young men have shown me the same courtesy. I wish they wouldn't. I am not yet feeble. ONLY SEVENTY.

NEW YORK, March 14.

THE REFORMER FOR REVENUE ONLY.

A Smooth Accelerator of "Uplift" and a Thrifty Collector.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A curious product of the present day is the reformer who plies his trade for revenue. He is active and plausible and makes more noise than the proverbial grasshopper in a fence corner.

The members of our State Legislature know him well and many of them fear him, especially some of the members from the up-State counties. For he is a blatant and persistent apostle of the "uplift"; keeps in close touch with church societies and often speaks from the pulpit in large towns and small cities.

His efforts are principally directed against Sunday recreation and the liquor traffic, and he never labors save for lucre. Whenever he strikes the rock of public morality streams of revenue gush forth. He is an adept at passing the hat, a past master of the gentle art of coaxing collections from the simple and the gullible. He loves to wrestle with vice in public places and is strong on the hammerlock and half nelson. But he bars the strangle and toe holds; he would not injure his adversary. Vice is his meal ticket. Without it he would have to go to work for a living.

Often he incorporates himself under a pretentious name; maintains well equipped offices; issues pamphlets and bulletins in which he rails against the particular evils whose exploitation he conceives will be the most profitable to him; persuades a few well meaning but credulous citizens to act as vice-presidents of his organization; poses as the confidant and adviser of legislators, most of whom know him only as he has been pointed out to them as an irrepressible nuisance. He haunts the Senate and Assembly chambers, and when the session is over claims that he was instrumental in passing what he calls "good" laws and in defeating what he calls "bad" bills. And all this he does blandly and with a solemn visage like Ah Sin of delightful memory.

A typical pronunciamento of his would read like this: "Dear friends and brothers, if you believe in moral reform, send us a contribution. Don't blame us if vicious legislation is passed! We are fighting tooth and nail, but our ammunition is running low! All is not yet lost, but the foes of righteousness are strongly intrenched; their number is legion, and they have millions of money! Let all Christian men and women and little children hasten to the rescue. Checks, bills, currency and postage stamps accepted."

Do you think he is as harmless as he looks, this adept at moral panhandling? If you do you are mistaken, for he is often able to intimidate and harass a supersensitive legislator who, in seeking to learn the sentiment of his district, has acquired cauliflower ears as a result of keeping them too close to the ground.

It will thus be seen that this bold reformer belongs with the soothsayers, spirit mediums and crystal gazers who obtain money under false pretences; for he would soon be utterly discredited if it were known that his zealous piety flourishes solely upon mammon. Consider the situation. If a liquor dealer declares his opposition to more stringent excise laws, the fact that he is financially interested in the liquor traffic is enough to rob his argument of whatever merit it might otherwise possess. If the proprietor of a baseball park favors a bill permitting the playing of the national game on Sunday, the fact that the enactment of the bill would be of pecuniary benefit to him would be deemed a conclusive answer to anything he might say.

Why, then, should we not weigh the argument of the smooth, sanctimonious reformer by the amount of cash he receives for making it? Whenever he appears before a legislative committee in opposition to a bill, why should not inquiry be made as to how much he has collected for the ostensible purpose of defeating the measure?

I am referring exclusively to the soi-disant reformer who makes a lucrative business of advertising himself as the guardian of "moral laws." He is a thrifty buccaneer sailing the legislative seas in quest of the jolly dollars; his victims are many and his treasure is the envy of less ingenious pretenders.

ALBANY, March 14. SIMON CREEL.

ARMY HORSES AT SHOWS.

They Will Be Seen No More if Congress Withholds Appropriations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is with great regret I perceive that a provision was put into the army appropriation bill by the House which if accepted by the Senate will preclude army officers owning good horses from exhibiting them at our horse shows, unless the officers themselves bear all the expenses. The amendment was offered by Representative Webb of North Carolina, who urged it on the ground that it would reduce expenses. It follows an item allowing $500,000 for army horses, and provides "that hereafter no part of this or any other appropriation shall be expended for defraying the expenses of officers, enlisted men or horses attending or taking part in horse shows."

Now, I think it is well known that few army officers can afford the cost of transporting their horses and paying other expenses in connection with making exhibits. It is also a well known fact that the international contests held at the horse shows have done much to improve the service in equitation and to raise the standard of the army horse. To cut off all Government aid would be to arrest a continuous improvement in the mounted service. JAMES T. HYDE,
Secretary National Horse Show Association of America.

NEW YORK, March 14.

The Unmirthful Beverage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Page incident may lead to the adoption of grape juice as the safest beverage for representatives of the State Department. C. G. CULIN.

NEW YORK, March 14.

"Free Bread."

I met their line. Of Scripture scenes I mused:
The morning manna, see, each day it falls!
Of those that wait not one shall be refused—
So swift sweet charity when hunger calls.
But, as I looked, in me woke secret dread:
Why lack these bread?

And fain I was to pass that drooping line
Where morning manna to their hands descends;
So many, many curious wants were mine,
And where my least begins their utmost ends!
"So many, many foolish wants," I said—
"And they want bread!"

Who, then, did touch me with rebuking touch?
That spindling child with littler child in arms;
That injured workman who for cross bore crutch,
That grandame scarred by eighty winters [illegible]
Who was it spake: "Be ashes on thy head,
That these want bread!"

(I would have passed.) What was it smote my ears
With tones that rose above the clanging street:
"How many moist their crust with drink of tears
While thou in ease of delicates dost eat!
The miracle of loaves hast thou not read?
Yet these want bread!"

I could not pass that drooped and waiting line
Until my vow I made, free bread to sing—
To cry aloud, "The miracle divine
A new fulfilment in the world shall bring."
With bread of life how shall our souls be fed
If these want bread?

EDITH M. THOMAS.

MARKS WOULD MAKE CITY THE BEST PAVED

Borough President Has Plans for Connecting East and West Sides.

MORE OBSTRUCTIONS TO GO

Dr. Katherine B. Davis Urges Need of Employment for Prison Inmates.

What Borough President Marcus M. Marks hopes to do for Manhattan in the next four years was outlined by Mr. Marks yesterday afternoon at the weekly luncheon of the Republican Club.

Connecting the east and west sides of the city received first consideration. The Borough President said that he hoped soon to see the roads across Central Park at Seventy-ninth and Ninety-seventh streets well paved and the routes of stages running from river to river. The bad condition of these roads has caused dangerous congestion at Eighty-sixth street, Mr. Marks declared.

After praising his predecessor in office, George McAneny, Mr. Marks said he would follow him in clearing away sidewalk encumbrances and in endeavoring to make New York one of the best paved cities in the world. To relieve traffic congestion he liked the plan of using alternate streets east and west by all vehicles.

Not all the congestion is on the streets, he added. At certain points there is serious underground crowding of pipes and conduits. Without referring to the recent upheaval at Fifth avenue, Twenty-third street and Broadway, Mr. Marks spoke of Sixth avenue, with six separate gas lines running close together, and the junction of Broadway and Fulton street, where pipes are so close together that there is no room for another manhole. Putting these pipes in galleries is estimated to cost $500,000 a mile, the Borough President said.

"The street cleaners are welcome to the sewers if it will help to remove snow, but many of the sewers need rebuilding," he continued. "There is a growing opinion that the city should assume the cost of sewer reconstruction and lift the burden of assessment from individual owners."

Dr. Katherine B. Davis, Commissioner of Correction, spoke chiefly on the text of a letter she has sent to Assistant Corporation Counsel Edward J. McGoldrick, at Albany to watch out for the interests of the city in pending legislation.

The letter is in opposition to a bill which would restrict greatly employment of the city's prisoners at various trades. Miss Davis says this would be a mistake.

"It will seriously cripple and interfere with all efforts to make our prisons reformatories instead of mere jails," she said. "The bane of our prisons to-day is idleness. This measure would also prevent the prisons from becoming self-supporting."

Robert Adamson spoke about the work of the Fire Department, and Cabot Ward, Park Commissioner, told of his hopes for making Central Park greener. Lewis H. Pounds, Brooklyn Borough President, Douglas Mathewson, Bronx Borough President, and Lewis Nixon were the other principal speakers.

NEW INCOME TAX DECISION.

Partnerships Must Report Ownership of Bonds.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—The Treasury Department made public to-day a decision on the provision of the income tax law which exempts partnerships. It is held that partnerships are required under the law to file certificates of ownership of bonds in order to prevent the withholding of their income at the source. The decision was in part as follows:

"It is held that the income of partnerships per se is not subject to the income tax. The provisions of the law relating to the deduction and payment of the tax at the source of income do not apply to the income of partnerships as such. Taxable members of partnerships will be required to account in their individual returns for their respective shares or interests in the partnership profits, whether the same are divided and distributed or not.

"Partnerships owning bonds and mortgages or deeds of trust and other similar obligations of corporations, joint stock companies or associations and insurance companies shall file certificates of ownership on Form 1001, evidencing the fact of partnership ownership, when presenting for collection or payment coupons or interest orders for interest upon said obligations; and when such certificates are filed the tax on such interest payments to partnerships shall not be withheld.

"The last sentence in Article 14, page 35, and Article 44 of the income tax regulations No. 33 providing for claim by partnerships for deduction for legitimate expense incurred in conducting the business of a partnership are hereby superseded and repealed."

PRESIDENT AIDS THE "WETS."

Issues Statement in Behalf of Tennessee Regular Democrats.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—In a statement issued to-day by President Wilson evidence is given that Mr. Wilson is willing to lend a hand to aid his party in the various States.

Gov. Hooper of Tennessee, a Republican, who wants to succeed himself, has won in that State on two occasions through the assistance of what are known as "Dry Democrats." The regular Democrats of Tennessee, known as the "wets," feared that in the forthcoming campaign they would be beaten unless the drys were brought into line. They took up the case with the President, who issued this statement:

"My judgment is very clear and decided that it is the duty of all Democrats in Tennessee to accommodate any differences they may have had in the past and stand solidly together for the sake of the prestige and success of the party throughout the nation. The nation is now accepting the success of th party as of the highest benefit to it and every Democrat should consider [illegible] contribute to the [illegible] in recent months made the party so effective in the nation.

"As I see the situation, the causes which divided the party in Tennessee no longer exist. The issues which caused the division have been settled."

TEACHERS PLAN LABOR UNION.

Cleveland Club Proposes to Affiliate With A. F. of L.

CLEVELAND, March 14.—Teachers of this city will hold a meeting on Tuesday next to consider the advisability of establishing a labor union and affiliating with the American Federation of Labor.

Miss Marie Claus, president of the City Teachers Club, in making this announcement to-day said that the teachers, who number 1,200, demand a higher wage. The present minimum salary is $900 a year.