

The Sun

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The Man Who Made Mexico.

From 1867 to 1877 PORFIRIO DIAZ was a rebel; and a rebel not of the Washington type, but rather of the Villa pattern.

Where chaos had been, the strong hand of DIAZ brought order. Furthermore, and perhaps more difficult, he convinced Europe that order had come to stay.

Succeeded in 1880 by GONZALEZ, he saw and his people saw threat of reversion. The constitutional single term clause was erased, and from 1884 to 1911 DIAZ was "Dictator."

In his exile PORFIRIO DIAZ was not forgotten, and many a Mexican, hearkening amid the ruins, must have longed for such a dictator to take the little fiefdomists by the nape of the neck.

Against attacks by such demented creatures no man can be effectively guarded, although precautions which Mr. Morgan did not take are possible.

President Wilson and Secretary DANIELS have properly refused to grant the requests of twenty officers of the navy who lately asked permission to resign from the service.

What THORNE had to say, and he had a great deal to say, can be belted down to the following extract from his statement:

provement is intended to evoke from public authority the response that additions and betterments cannot be made out of earnings but must come out of capital which must be procured from investors.

What the Thornes refuse to concede is that under proper supervision railroad appropriations from earnings adequate to permit expenditure for additions and betterments enable the carriers to keep down the accumulation of capital charges, which is the whole crux of the problem of railroad finance.

In the second place, the Thorne opposition to freight rate advances profoundly ignores the investor, who has been steadily alienated from railroad enterprise in the last few years by the evidence that public regulation and control were depriving railroad investment of sufficient protection.

Mr. Morgan's assailant, whose attempt at murder yesterday was marked by every indication of premeditation and desperation, but was apparently lacking in careful design.

Mr. Morgan did not take are possible. To them all men are exposed. The fact that the public attention bestowed on crimes of this character is in direct proportion to the prominence of the victim frequently causes us to overlook the number of inconspicuous persons who suffer at the hands of fanatics, men with a mission, and lunatics possessed by a fixed idea of world betterment or divine appointment.

The excited volatility of this would-be assassin appears to stamp him as a man of unbalanced intellect, whose malignant purpose was inspired by the recent activities of Mr. Morgan in the prosecution of his large business.

This is No Time for Naval Officers to Quit the Service. President Wilson and Secretary DANIELS have properly refused to grant the requests of twenty officers of the navy who lately asked permission to resign from the service.

We can conceive of no time more inappropriate than the present for the voluntary withdrawal from the United States naval establishment of men trained to command its ships.

The officers who have sought to retire to private life in the circumstances now existing cannot have given to their impulse the serious thought it deserves.

their own boundaries. Money was easy; easy to make and easy to get by plausible swindlers. St. Clair county decided it must have this Neosho-Tebo line and voted \$240,000 for the purpose.

Under a statute that became effective in Iowa to-day, thirty days in jail or a fine of \$25 is the penalty for giving or receiving a bribe, be it only a nickel.

Ex-Mayor Low has a plan under which the city would adopt laws and the Legislature nullify them, if it chose, which he urges to replace the present system, under which the Legislature enacts the laws and the city refuses to enforce them.

The harvest season has brought some unusual items out of Kansas. One is the offer by the farmers to have reverted to the pre-prohibition longing for beer kegs.

Cardinal Gibbons on Woman, the Queen of the World. The letter on woman suffrage by Cardinal Gibbons, and the accompanying statement by which he enlarges and enforces it, represent the conservative, some might say "the medieval" view, the old and long religious view.

The Attempt at Glen Cove. Mr. Morgan's assailant, whose attempt at murder yesterday was marked by every indication of premeditation and desperation, but was apparently lacking in careful design.

La Becker Now a Pawn of Politics? No man can blame CHARLES BECKER for fighting for his life with every weapon he can command.

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Amen. American ships show increase in number.—The Evening Post.

reduced to the offensive conditions in which cheap living plays so large a factor.

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A STATISTICAL 4TH OF JULY. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Recent publication of the "Statistical Abstract of the United States for 1914" enables this preparation of a statistical Fourth of July, evidencing the enormous financial and economic strength of our great country as an official ascertained:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Includes National wealth, Wealth per capita, Total public debt, Total bank deposits, etc.

IL PESCEBALLO. James Russell Lowell's Part in the Ballad's History. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Among my books I find a copy of "Il Pesceballo, an Opera in One Act, Italian Words by Francesco Maria Chiavetta, English Version by James Russell Lowell," published by the Caxton Club of Chicago in 1899, an issue of 210 copies.

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IMMORTALITY. A Question of Fact to Be Discussed on Grounds of Common Sense. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: What interests me most in the communications addressed to you on the subject of human immortality is the seeming reluctance of a majority of the writers to approach the question from the point of view of plain, ordinary common sense.

The question involved is purely one of fact. Inasmuch as there can be no demonstration of the latter, one way or the other, all that can be done is to weigh the evidence pro and con, drawing therefrom as much as we diffidently may, an estimate of probabilities.

To start with, it cannot be denied that the supposition that we survive after death is the most remarkable, one might even say the most astounding theory ever formed by the human mind. It may be that we do so survive; to deny that fact would be unreasonable. But viewing the matter in the light of dispassionate judgment, and eliminating hopes which have no bearing upon the problem, it must be acknowledged that probabilities seem adverse.

No living man to-day has ever known of an instance where a human being or animal has survived his or its own death. Consequently, it must be held, in honest reason, that the burden of proof rests upon those who affirm that we do survive.

Belief, if it is to deserve respect, must rest upon evidence. Belief without evidence is what we term credulity. The wise man needs not be credulous; first he must have adequate evidence; and then he believes.

People often say, "The universal acceptance of a belief in human immortality is evidence in its own right." Such a statement is absurd. Here, blind belief in anything can never in reason be accepted as evidence; and the bare fact that in this country, and in many other lands, with a universal belief in immortality, the wish not to die, is enough to warrant us in being suspicious of it.

Further, it is easy to account for the universal belief in immortality, and the universality of the wish not to die, on wholly common grounds. We know how readily, in the human individual, wishes of any kind are converted into facts, and how ready he is to die the prime human instinct. It represents the strongest and most enduring of all human impulses.

What is the real reason, then, that it should have become so universalized into an expectation of indefinite survival somehow and somewhere?

We are told that, although the body dies, the soul survives. What is it that is meant by the soul? Is it anything that is in the least intelligible? Or is it the mind. But, so far as we are able to perceive, the very existence of mind depends upon the brain. Even a small injury to the brain, and it often does, at every instant of functioning, it at all events incapable of rendering service to the mind, and the mind ceases to exist.

What, one may inquire, has man done to deserve the gift of immortality, denied, as we are told, to all other creatures? Surely, a great misfortune that ever happened to the world was the advent of the human race upon it. Man is to-day, just as he anciently was, the most successful of all beasts of prey. Before he came the birds, and now the forests and grassy plains were filled with multitudes of beautiful animals, enjoying a happiness of their own. Innumerable birds, and a few mammals, were to be seen in the air, and a tuneful song filled the air. We have become of these animals and birds? Man has destroyed nearly all of them. Death was no more a punishment reserved upon other living creatures than being a law of nature. But there was no such thing as immortality, and the word, Man originated; and he became the inventor of unhappiness.

6,000 AT COLUMBIA SUMMER SESSION. Courses Covering Six Weeks. Columbia University's summer session opens next Tuesday with a registration which promises to exceed 6,000 students.

With the rapid growth in the summer season at Columbia during the last few years, Mounting Heights has become almost inactive a centre of university affairs during the summer as during the regular winter academic session.

KLOPSTOCK OF OTTENSEN. The Poet of the Quiet Town Near the Mouth of the Elbe River. To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: Upon the high embankment of the Elbe, where it leaves behind the port of Altona with its many open sailing vessels, lies Klopstock, a town so small that it had to be incorporated with Altona in 1859.

Two school houses, the fire engine house and the town hall are the most remarkable buildings there shown with pride to the casual visitor who comes for the day from Hamburg or Altona, for Ottensen has neither hotels nor inns to encourage longer stays. These edifices of course do not attract the visitor, neither do the factories; but within the churchyard surrounding the old weather-beaten church, lie beneath a very old lime, the remains of Germany's great poet, Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock, surrounded by the remains of those who were dear to him.

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