The Sun.

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

The Hyphen That Points Two Ways.

We are not aware that the following question, present in many minds, has been put in direct and brief fashion into words:

Why is it that the self-avowed "German-American" of the polemic kind, who glories in preparedness and is strenuous in defence of militarism at the front, or German end, of his hyphen, is so bitterly opposed to preparedness and so terribly afraid of militarism as to the latter, or American end, of the same hyphen?

If, contrary to our knowledge and belief, this question has been plainly asked, we do not think it has been plainly answered.

Warning to a Niagara County Pillar of Virtue.

Reading with that complete trust and confidence which its author's record of rectitude and diligence inspires in our bosom the account of his tribulations given to the press by Niagara county's prize exhibit, we learn that GEORGE F. THOMPSON owes his present unenviable plight to the machinations of the wicked corporationists of this abandoned community.

These degraded creatures, according to the theory put forward by Mr. THOMPSON, foreseeing the ruin of their evil plans that was to flow from his virtuous activities, combined and conspired last spring to bring about the falsification of hotel and restaurant charges approved by him, the debiting of individuals who slept at home with hotel bedrooms they never occupied, the purchase on State account of theatre tickets, and a general indulgence in luxuries at the taxpayers' expense, the exposure of which could have no other effect than to embarrass Mr. THOMPSON and perhaps cut short his conspicuous reformatory career.

Neither Mr. THOMPSON nor anybody else has yet revealed by what devilish cunning this plot was carried into execution. He has not suggested that he was drugged by agents of the wrongdoers and induced to sign the false vouchers when unconscious of his acts. It is not pretended that he was made drunk with wine and in that state cunningly trapped into the indiscretions that now threaten to balk him. The details of this horrid job are still hidden from us, but we look forward with entire assurance to the moment when they shall be unveiled. The plot seems, indeed, to have been most intricate; it required, we are sure, the services of subtle and daring men to carry it to success, and their names Mr. THOMPSON will undoubtedly make public at the proper time.

We do not pretend to understand how this devilish scheme was carried out. We reprehend its authors and urge Mr. THOMPSON to bring about their punishment. But we warn him, though warning should now be unnecessary, to deal with them with care; for, in the phrase his parliamentary service must have made familiar to him, scoundrels able to put one over on GEORGE F. THOMPSON when it comes to the disbursement of State funds in his own behalf are men of deep cunning and amazing resource.

Patent Medicines.

Now that the war declared by Commissioner GOLDWATER against inert or injurious patent medicines is on and the inspectors of the Department of Health are endeavoring to prevent damage to innocent violators of the ordinance, it may be of interest to note that most of the opposition comes from manufacturers of patent or proprietary medicines the ingredients of which are inert and the reputation of which is based entirely upon active propaganda.

The *Journal* of the American Medical Association does not admit into its advertising pages any secret proprietary preparation and is the stanchest opponent and critic of medical journals which admit such preparations into their advertising columns and thus stamp them with pseudo respectability. In a recent issue this journal refers to a bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture which contains a tabulated list of preparations against which the Government's charge that they were falsely or fraudulently labelled was sustained by the Federal courts. One of these medicines, which are often euphemistically described as ethical proprietary compounds but are none the less essentially patent medicines, occupied a half page advertisement in a Southern medical journal. The editor of this journal, oblivious of the fact that this preparation was on the "index expurgatorius," published the latter in full. When his attention was called to it, he apologized editorially for having "inadvertently included in a list that seemed to be under the ban of Government" a preparation advertised in his journal.

This is a striking illustration of the lengths to which some medical journals will go to maintain their advertising patronage.

When the fact is considered that all that is required by the ordinance of the Department of Health is the confidential registration of the contents of the proprietary medicine in the office of the department, or the publication of the formula upon the label, it becomes evident that the struggle against this ordinance arises from its enforced publicity.

The ingenuity of the manufacturers, who pretend to be aggrieved by the Federal law upon which Dr. GOLDWATER based the ordinance of the Department of Health, has recently been illustrated in the avoidance of publishing the ingredients upon the label and in its stead printing it upon a slip contained within the carton. The United States Attorney General is thereby forced to obtain additional legislation to protect the public against this ingenious method of evading the law.

Whatever may contribute to the limitation of the use of these secret remedies must inure to the advantage of the public, not only in saving comfort and health but also in saving money, which is uselessly expended in enormous sums for the purchase of these proprietary medicines.

Borrowed Stevensoniana.

Let politicians bark and bite, the devil's made 'em so; let Europeans growl and fight, for 'tis their nature to. We, who admire old ISAAC WATTS enough to paraphrase his melodious wisdom, "delight to" explore rare and curious ana of literature, even in the dealers' catalogues' faint adumbration of the glories of first editions (frequently, in respect of matter, the poorest), manuscripts (hard to read but preciously unique), autograph letters, prints and curios. STEVENSON is in town now, and his museum is bewilderingly rich. In reviewing its treasures we shall not quote prices, for they are a vexation; they range from a dollar or two for very minor items to $1,500 for the manuscript draft of an answer, "18 ll. and full signature," to a criticism on "The Silverado Squatters," dated "La Solitude, Hyeres, December 15, 1883." The criticism turned upon a reference to a dog, sweating. The "full signature," if it followed the baptismal records, would have to be ROBERT LEWIS. "R. L. S." was christened for his two grandfathers, and it was only those closest to him who did not make him "Louis." And he keeps his "Balfour" in the books of reference.

Here among the manuscripts is one of an unpublished "novel." We derogate typographically the word "novel" because there are but fifty-four sheets of "copy." It was an early attempt: Edinburgh, 1874-75. It has marginal notes of critical suggestion by the elder STEVENSON. Its author described it in a letter to SIDNEY COLVIN: "'When the Devil Was Well.' Scene, Italy, Renaissance; color, purely imaginary—of course, my own unregenerate idea of what Italy then was." An Italian sculptor, Sannazzaro, falls in love with the beautiful Ippolita, wife of the Duke Arsino. The author's friends dissuaded him from publishing this "Devil."

Can men of letters keep accounts? Here is a note book (1884-85), in which STEVENSON undertook both to jot his literary projects and to score his receipts from those perfected. On one page a table of money sums trails off into a pen and ink landscape, a rainstorm retreating before sunshine; perhaps an emblem of his fortunes and his hopes. Among the "projects," some of which were never realized, are "Treasure Island," "Silverado," "Prince Otto," "About the Golden Islands," "The Mate of the Royal Fortune," "Traveller's Tales," "Nursery Verses," "More New Arabian Nights," "The Travelling Companion," "John Nicholson's Predicament," "John Delafield," "The Golden Gardener," "Ludovic Sherland," "Moral Tales." Another note book in his own hand contains drawings, drafts of poems, chess problems and the miscellany of an author's memoranda. In a biographical sketch he wrote:

"Born 1850 at Edinburgh. Pure Scotch blood; descended from the Scotch Lighthouse Engineers, three generations. * * * Marrow of the family was worked out, and he declined into the man of letters. * * * Is of a prodigious lean and hungry air; inspiring no confidence; wherever he goes the police frown upon him, bankers refuse to cash his drafts, and the inn keeper excludes him. * * * His 'New Arabian Nights' gave him his first taste of popularity * * * kept up by the pirate story 'Treasure Island.' His other works pleased the reviewers, but left the public calm. They were, for a guess, too good, and not good enough. Perhaps the others were bad enough?"

In 1893 he was keeping a record of his correspondence: Invitation to J. M. BARRIE; "S. S. McCLURE, conclude pro tem the 'D[avid] B[alfour]' business." To CLEMENT SHORTER, acknowledgment for pictures, inquiry as to date and terms for a short story; "W. B. HOLE, illustrations to 'Wrecker' and 'D. B.' * * * HENRY JAMES, nichtigkeiten; Mr. and Mrs. POULTNEY BIGELOW, blushingly acknowledge taffy. * * * IRA TAYLOR, acknowledging the seeress's larks. * * * A. LANG, nuge." And here is the first stanza of an unpublished drinking song:

"Dunce and boobies, fill your glasses,
And with beaming eye,
To your friends and fellow asses,
Drain the goblets dry.
Dunce and booby, dull and clever,
Humble soul and vain,
We are not yet old, but never
Shall be young again."

To one requesting an interview on The Art of Fiction, he accedes, not very graciously—"I loathe interviews"—and conditionally: "All that is mine, except my opinions on the art of fiction, shall remain private."

These catalogue notes may add something worth while, of definite personality, to the Stevenson of those who, without the ecstasies and the pains of the specialist, read books by and about him, with liking for the man as well as his literature.

As to Climbing Everest.

Professor HERSCHEL C. PARKER, who made several gallant but unsuccessful efforts to reach the pinnacle of McKinley in the Alaskan wilderness, now says that Mount Everest is the "next goal" for him. "I want," he adds, "to reach the top and explore the country about it." There happens to be an agreement between the British Government and the State of Nepal that makes the base of Everest unapproachable by any alien. That greatest of all mountain climbers of this age, or any other, the Duke of the ABRUZZI, could not obtain a permit, and Professor PARKER's old comrade of the trail Dr. FREDERICK COOK of McKinley and north pole deathless notoriety lately sued in vain, as was to be expected. We do not think that his Highness Maharajadhiraja TRIBHUBANA BIR BIKRAM Jung Bahadur Shah Bahadur Shumshere Jung, acting through his Prime Minister, the ruler of Nepal being only ten years old, will make an exception in the case of Professor PARKER.

The Professor, if he were to consult with Dr. HUNTER WORKMAN and his adventurous wife FANNY BULLOCK WORKMAN, who together have done more climbing in the Himalayas than any other mortal pair, might be persuaded to tackle McKinley again instead of knocking at the gate of Nepal for admission. Dr. WORKMAN when he read a paper on the Nun Kun group before the Royal Geographical Society on November 25, 1908, said on the subject of scaling Mount Everest:

"Granting that any one might climb 8,000 feet on Mount Everest from 15,000 feet to 23,000 feet, I think the next 6,000, from 23,000 to 29,000, would be a much more difficult affair, because the air is very much more rare the higher you go, and I doubt whether anybody would breathe and undergo the physical strain necessary to climb that last 6,000 feet, even if he had the strength."

And here is a disturbing picture for any would-be conqueror of isolated, glacier covered Everest (Gaurisankar, Mountain of the Gods):

"Those nights (altitude about 20,000) in camp on the Nun Kuns) are not easily forgotten, when one lay sleepless on the snow in the cold and silence and darkness, struggling for breath and counting the slowly dragging hours with a feeling that the strain could not be endured until daylight. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that even the strongest could not hold out for long against the depressing influence of loss of sleep, combined with the lowering of vital energy due to the scarcity of oxygen at these high altitudes."

It might be added that none of the higher Himalayas can be climbed without the aid of an army of porters, and it would not be physically possible for these men to carry camp loads above 24,000 feet. It is all an unencumbered climber can do to drag still upward one leaden foot after another; only men of powerful build and abnormal stamina could do this, and even they must have youth on their side.

The conquest of K-2, Staircase Peak, or Bride Peak is not for middle aged gentlemen. On this last mountain the Duke of the ABRUZZI reached an altitude of 24,583 feet (the record), but at that point, when he was only 527 feet below the summit, he was stopped by projecting cornices. And from the base Bride Peak had looked like an "easy mountain." Two impassable bergschrunds turned the Duke back at 21,325 feet from the top steps of Staircase, which were several thousand feet above him. K-2 (28,250 feet) in Kashmir, which he could get permission to climb, had been the Italian prince's original "goal," but above 20,000 feet he could make no progress after two months of endeavor. Where Prince LUIGI failed Professor HERSCHEL C. PARKER is not likely to succeed. No man could conquer Everest except in imagination and afterward write a book about it. The little Professor is not that kind of a mountain climber.

Dead in the Streets.

The death roll of New York city from street accidents in 1914 was 659, of whom 510 were males and 106 children under 6, while 184 were between 6 and 16. The injured were 17,366 males and 5,955 females. Of the total number of accidents, 22,540, automobiles were responsible for 4,865, in which 178 persons were killed and 4,830 injured.

These figures, which are displayed in the report made yesterday by the Police Department, disclose the grave dangers that surround not only children, but adults, in the streets, and give support to the intelligent efforts that are making for stricter traffic regulations and more vigorous enforcement thereof. It may be said truthfully that up to the present no complete study of the subject has been made, and Commissioner WOODS's comprehensive analysis of the causes of accidents lays the foundation for systematic attempts to safeguard the public. It is apparent that not only the drivers of vehicles need restraint, but pedestrians also, and in curing their habit of endangering their lives the police will have a task even more difficult than the work of holding motorists, truck drivers and deliverymen to the standard of safety first.

Is Compounding a Felony a Jest?

If the Department of Justice of the Federal Government does its duty every individual who gives shelter and protection to the person who escaped last week from the custody of the United States Marshal in Brooklyn will be arrested, indicted and prosecuted for aiding and abetting him in his flight.

To-day it is openly asserted that responsible persons knew his plans, and refrained from revealing them; know his whereabouts, or possess information that would lead to his discovery, and withhold it from the authorities; and their participation in his exploit is not a cause of shame to them, but incites them to boasts.

We are fully aware of the influence wielded by certain of the conspirators in this attempt to thwart justice, and the means upon which they rely to shield them. We shall await with interest the outcome of the disgraceful affair, to learn whether their confidence in immunity from the penalties attached to compounding a felony is well based.

Any American who comes out for preparedness should go in for hard work.

The President is discovering that the trouble with epigrams is that they so readily become boomerangs.

If MAGNA DOMUS isn't very careful he'll be made honorary colonel of some European regiment.

Scarcely a Saturday passes without bringing to the conspicuous corners of Fifth avenue groups of Boy Scouts and similar youthful organizations of both sexes engaged in one kind or another of mendicancy just now connected most frequently with the various war relief funds. Worthy as the endeavor may be, the purpose of these organizations is not altogether to lend themselves to schemes of solicitation.

We have a man you know, and the Republicans have not. See us is the motto.—GEORGE W. PERKINS.

The Progressives have now dropped the alternative to the Colonel. The other man was always self-excluded or ineligible.

There is something like artistic justice in the present recognition by the so-called Ballet Russe of the great contribution of an American to the art of the dance. In many of the most beautiful achievements of these foreign dancers and mimes the influence of ISADORA DUNCAN is plainly discernible. The obligation which the Russian dancers feel to her has been often expressed. But the most eloquent approval of MISS DUNCAN's principles is to be witnessed in the production of these ballets, which derive much of their beauty from the same principles of the dance which their inventor exhibited last year on the stage of the Century Theatre.

Never have I pursued the phantom of ambition.—*General* FELIX DIAZ.

None better than General DIAZ knows what a phantom is ambition in Mexico.

Sorrow that two retired brokers should fight over Mexico is not incompatible with a certain joy in the detail that the broker who argued against forceful intervention should have been the one to have hurled a "glass ticker top" at the broker who favored force. Gentlemen will at times be so much more human in their practices than in their precepts.

Fourteen negroes were lynched in Georgia last year, and it is a fortunate thing for the United States that none of them happened to be a citizen of Mexico.

A rule recently adopted by the Senate abolishing the non sequitur has greatly improved the quality of debate in that body. Senator WILLIAMS expressed a doubt as to the importance of Senator HITCHCOCK's mail; didn't seem to think it worth going to war about. By way of first aid to the injured Senator SMITH went to Senator HITCHCOCK's rescue with the retort that Senator WILLIAMS is "a cotton planter with no knowledge of business." Senator WILLIAMS refrained from claiming a knowledge of business, and thus it was demonstrated that Senator HITCHCOCK's mail is worth going to war about.

Apparently everybody except the United States authorities had foreknowledge of the plans of a self-confessed spy to escape from custody. Was it quite clubby of him to keep his design secret from the deputy marshal who shared his social excursions?

Seven of the steamship New York's lifeboats were swept overboard in a storm on her last trip to this port. Had the ship become disabled after this story and her life saving equipment been found inadequate, would her owners and master have been guilty of an infraction of the law prescribing the number of boats she should carry?

Among the legitimate ends of government are dividends.

The Geometry of Cheer.

Knicker—Did you have a square meal?
Bocker—No, about triangular.

The Stranger.

Like a gorgeous flower that has forced
Its way through the roof of a crypt,
Like a miraculous lightning flash at the
zenith of Cimmeria,
Like a golden door set in a cloud drowned
wall,
So is the Brain of Man and its daring
Query.

BENJAMIN DE CASSERES.

EXPLORERS' RECESS.

How Study of the World Has Been Temporarily Suspended.

In Africa, where geographical study has of late years been actively prosecuted, no surveys, no maps, no studies of any kind are now in progress. Not an explorer is at work there.

There are only four important exploring parties in the field in any part of the world. These are headed by Stefansson in the American Arctic; by Shackleton in the Antarctic, and if fortune has favored him he is now on his way from Weddell Sea to the south pole and Ross Sea; by Sir Aurel Stein, whose work is chiefly archæological, though last year he rendered great geographical service by carrying the Indian triangulation, south of Chinese Turkestan, to the Tian Shan Mountains north of it; and by Rasmussen, who is supposed to be advancing his fine scientific explorations in North Greenland. The American Museum's work in the Arctic is done, though its party has not yet returned home.

More than half of the periodicals of European geographical societies have suspended publication. All but one or two of the journals devoted to colonial development have had to quit business because they cannot get news from the colonies.

Amundsen's drift across the Arctic Ocean was to begin last year, but had to be postponed. It is now doubtful if the voyage will ever be made. The Austrian and Anglo-Swedish Antarctic expeditions, the latter fully financed and to be commanded by Professor Nordenskjöld, were postponed; and Mr. Stackhouse, who was organizing an expedition to explore King Edward VII. Land, lost his life on the Lusitania.

This is the first time in modern history that war has practically put an end, for a while, to man's study of the world he lives in. Perhaps one constructive and ultimately useful feature has come out of it in Africa. The British have built a railroad, 300 miles long, linking the fine rail system of British South Africa with that of German Southwest Africa. This is a military expedient that will survive in economic usefulness when better times shall come.

ARMS AND THE COLLEGE GIRL.

Letter From Dean Gildersleeve of Barnard.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems to me that Barnard College is somewhat unfairly treated in your editorial article of January 20 entitled "Arms and the Woman Student," concerning what you call the "drill ulcer." Of the history thus in current information about the war and our unwarranted growing over feminine superiority. The test was given at the request of one of your own reporters, who selected the class to be examined and persuaded the professor to oblige her by putting the questions. "It was triumphantly reported from Barnard College," you state, but all the "triumph" was inserted by your own reporter, who wrote up the "story." That is, THE SUN actually did the whole thing—got the class examined and then "crowed" over the comparatively good marks of the students. And now THE SUN calls us "ridiculous" for doing it! Isn't that really rather hard to bear?

The students did not know in advance about the test and prepare for it, as you seem to suggest, but even so, as your correspondent "Vincent Yardum" pointed out, the comparison with the men students was of course not a fair one. The results of the examination were interesting to the persons concerned, but they proved nothing at all about the supposed superiority of either sex over the other. I entirely sympathize with "Vincent Yardum's" protest.

Won't THE SUN absolve us from the charge of undue pretension and assume the responsibility which is rightly its own?

VIRGINIA C. GILDERSLEEVE,
Dean of Barnard College.

NEW YORK, January 21.

THE SUN presents its compliments to one of the most admirable and respected of College Deans, and hastens to say that it absolves and assumes to any extent which Miss Gildersleeve's sense of justice and sense of humor concur in prescribing. At the same time, and solely for her intellectual diversion, it asks the Dean to imagine the feelings of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, for example, if he should receive a bill for corsets and long hosiery misaddressed and properly belonging to somebody in Barnard.

CHITTO HARJO.

How Daniel Bob Told the Death of One of Crazy Snakes Indians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Chitto Harjo was a Creek Indian. He was wounded in the Crazy Snake "rebellion." Though badly wounded he was able to get through the lines, and made his way to the home of a faithful friend, where he died. Crazy Snake was the leader of the "old Indians," upholders of the old traditions, who resisted the plan of the Government to break up the tribal relations. When the order came for the Indians to take their lands in severalty Crazy Snake knew that the knell of the Indians was sounded. He gathered his band and took to the hills, in the spirit of "To your tents, O Israel!" Troops were called out, the Indians lost, as was inevitable.

In making some inquiries recently in regard to the Indians who were with Crazy Snake it was learned that Chitto Harjo had been wounded, as stated, and had died at the home of his friend Daniel Bob, at Smithville. Smithville is the jumping off place. It was not known if a letter would ever reach there, but, nevertheless, one was addressed to Daniel Bob at that place asking for particulars as to Harjo's death. In time it brought this answer, as fine an original thing as I ever read:

DEAR SIR: I received your letter a few days ago.

Than I am giving you an early reply.

There was a man by the name of Chitto Harjo were came over here at my place.

He were stay here while, and he get down in April 5, 1911, and the last few days of his life were spent in bed. One morning in April 11, 1911, at 10 o'cloks his life passed from away.

In this April 5, he get down that with indeed distress as the gun shot wound in his hip, and had died.

Than, we laid him good in my house yard, that where he lie in grave.

This is all about Chitto Harjo death at my place.

"This is all——" You have to go back to the old Sagas for that kind of writing. Many a practised hand would give something for the ability to put things on paper so effectively.

LOGOTHETE.

DOBY WALLS, Okla., January 21.

Fractional Coinage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I never heard that our Government had at any time minted half cents, though it was often advocated. But I have what purports to be a half cent, much heavier than a whole cent is now, date 1853.

Is it just a joke of somebody to stamp a few? Or did we once have them?

ROBERT P. GREEN.

NEW YORK, January 22.

THE MORALS OF R. CRUSOE.

Does This Companion of Youth Corrupt the Young Idea?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In my opinion "Robinson Crusoe" is a most immoral book. I do not know of a book more calculated to corrupt youth.

The hero, Robinson Crusoe, was a moral criminal of the lowest order. He was not apparently possessed of a noble thought and was ten times more of a savage than any he met on his murderous travels. The reason why the book has had such a following is, I believe, because it was published at a time when novels and yellow backed adventures were not allowed to circulate. Under the name of a religious work it had free circulation, and so all that was vicious in human nature revelled in its brutality.

Christianity as expounded and lived by Crusoe is not worthy of the name of religion. His conduct was a disgrace to any religion or any man. Friday and Crusoe were one day comparing their gods. Friday's god's name was Benamuckee, and when he offered a prayer he simply, with outstretched hands and looking to the heavens, his whole being filled with wonder and awe, exclaimed, "Oh, oh, oh!" Said Friday to Crusoe: "But you say your god is so strong, so great; he is not much strong, much might as the devil?" Crusoe said yes. "But," replied Friday, "if God much strong, much might as the devil, why God no kill the devil, so make him no more do wicked?" Crusoe continues: "At first I could not think what to say, so I pretended not to hear him," &c.

Some sailors had mutinied and come on his island for a short stay; he was in no danger whatever. Listen to the Christian: "Well, then," said I, "here are three muskets for you, with powder and ball. I told Friday I thought it was hard venturing anything, but the best method I could think of was to fire on them as they lay asleep, and if any were not killed at the first volley and offered to submit, we might save them, and so put it wholly upon God's providence to direct the shot."

At another time Friday had received his death from an arrow. Crusoe says:

"I was so enraged at the loss of my trusty servant that I immediately ordered five guns to be loaded with small shot, and four with great, and gave them such a broadside as they had never heard of in their lives before. To be sure, three or four of their canoes were overset by one shot only. The ill manners of turning up their backs to us gave us so great offence, therefore, in return I had only resolved to fire four or five guns at them with powder only, which I knew would frighten them sufficiently; but as they had killed my poor Friday I thought myself not only justifiable before God and man, but would have been very glad if I could have overset every canoe there and drown every one of them. I can neither tell how many we killed nor how many we wounded, but sure such a fright and hurry never were seen among such a multitude. There were thirteen or fourteen of their canoes split and overset in all. I suppose that many of them were lost. Our men took up one poor fellow about an hour after. The small shot from our cannon must needs kill and wound a great many. The prisoner (the one they rescued from the water) was so sullen that he would not eat or speak, but I took a way to cure him. I made him believe that they (the sailors) would toss him in the sea again, and they really did throw him into the sea, and then he followed them, for he swam like a cork, at last they took him in again, and then he began to be more tractable."

Crusoe saw some Russian Catholic priests and a few men and women praying and worshipping at the foot of an image; his indignation rose so high that he wished to massacre the entire village. Speaking to another he says:

"Well, I will tell you a story. So I related the story of our men at Madagascar and how they burned and sacked the village there and then killed man, woman and child for their murdering one of our men; and I added that I thought we ought to do so to this village."

He compromised the matter, however, and I give in his own words what this Christian did:

"The first thing we did we knocked at the door, where one of the priests coming to it, we immediately seized upon him, stopped his mouth and tied his hands behind him and led him to the idol, where we gagged him that he might not make a noise, tied his feet also together, and left him on the ground. We knocked again gently, and immediately out came two more, and we served them just in the same manner. Going back we found two more were come out to the door, and a third stood behind them within the door. We seized the two and immediately tied them, when the third, stepping back and crying out, my Scots merchant went in after them and taking out a composition we had made that would only smoke and stink, he set fire to it and threw it in among them. By that time the other boatsman and my man, taking charge of the other men already bound, and tied together also by the arm, led them away to the idol and left them there to see if the idol would relieve them. When the force we had thrown in had filled the hut with so much smoke that they were almost suffocated we then threw in a small leather bag, which flamed like a candle, and following it we found four people. They appeared, in short, frightened to death, sitting trembling and stupid and not able to speak for the smoke.

We took them, bound them as we had done the others; we carried them all together to the idol. We daubed the idol all over with tar and such other stuff as we had, we stopped his eyes and ears and mouth full of gunpowder, then sticking all the combustibles upon him and then set fire to the whole.

And so for hundreds of pages are depicted the disgusting adventures of these Christians, to be read by the youth of our country, and this Robinson Crusoe held up as a Christian hero! In my judgment the less this book is circulated through our public libraries the better.

GEORGE C. BARTLETT.

TOLLAND, Conn., January 20.

The Gus Gardner Boom.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I second the nomination of the Hon. Augustus P. Gardner of Massachusetts for President of the United States.

CHARLES E. JOHNSTON.

COLLEGE POINT, N. Y., January 22.

Waiting for the Third Degree?

1 France: Foch
2 Germany: Fokker.
3 " : ?

The New Reprisal.

Knicker—What is our policy?
Bocker—A wink for an eye and a law for a tooth.

To Be a Lincoln.

Who'd be a Lincoln must be great of soul,
Calm, strong and patient, with a loving heart;
With wide flown vision to embrace the whole;
Not rest too long upon a petty part.

A nation's leader, with a people rent
In factions bitter and by hatred stirred,
Can be like him, our martyred President,
Only if deeds shall march behind his word.

He waited, Lincoln, till the time was born
When it was well that he should strike his blow;
He faced contumely and he endured scorn,
But neither went too fast nor went too slow.

Who'd be a Lincoln must both speak and act:
His hand must do what tongue has left undone;
A Lincoln with his soul must make a pact
To gain from force what kindness has not won.

EDWARD S. VAN ZILE.

THE UNIVERSE HIS WORK.

An Eloquent Discourse to Prove the Existence of God.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The other Sunday evening while in Boston I heard something worth while. I attended in Ford Hall, which is an open arena for friendly, social and semi-religious discussion conducted by a Baptist philanthropy, an address delivered by a well known Boston lawyer, James P. Magenis, who talked eloquently and entertainingly for an hour, and then submitted to a grilling cross-examination on the part of his audience of 1,500 men and women, who evidently came from all walks of life and were of many religious preferences. In his reminiscences Mr. Magenis, himself a Roman Catholic, treated of the value of prayer in a manner that actually made me ashamed of myself.

Well, when the attorney finished and the interrogatories by the audience began, a free thinker stood up and said: "Mr. Magenis, you indorse prayer to God. How do you know there is a God?" This was the lawyer's answer as taken down by a stenographer who sat next to me:

I know there is a God, beyond the teachings of my faith, in the evidence of things to be seen. We know this old earth turns upon its axis once in twenty-four hours. In so doing it proves the expenditure of great energy. Then the sun, whose limitless energy confounds calculation, is to be noted in the heavens. Then, too, we know from observation the earth travels on its orbit, causing the changing seasons, and provides a further demonstration of immeasurable energy. On a starry night the eye searches great distances and there is revealed to us the constellations, the planets and the whole solar system swinging around the sun, to say nothing of the mysteries of the infinite beyond. Truly infinite energy with its effects is plainly visible. To this we should add that the great machine of the universe is working on time, even to the second. Our finest piece of man made mechanism only simulates the rotation of the earth ineffectively in the chronometer which at best is but a slightly defective instrument when compared to the wonderful mechanism of the universe, so infallible, so reliable throughout the years, in fact down through time immemorial. Here we have infinite energy with unvarying precision plainly visible to those who would see, perhaps I should say to those who will see.

Now then, let us analyze what we see. Man has never been able to create a single foot pound of force. With coal and water power, steam and electricity he can transform force, but cannot make it. The power to create force exists above the possibilities of men. It is superhuman. Then, if man in his intelligence cannot create force, not even in the least degree, and there are presented to the eye the visible, undisputed evidences of an infinite force moving the great mechanism of the universe, surely there is an infinite creator of an infinite force. That creator is the great cause of force in its various manifestations. That creator is not only the architect of the universe, but he maintains in marvellous motion and accuracy its infinite machinery. The greatest piece of mechanism, the most stupendous feat of engineering, the sublime mystery of world dynamics alone contravene the empty hypothesis that there is no God.

Coming from a lawyer, this was logical common sense; it was more than that, it was a petition to the appellate court above.

NORMAN RICE.

BOSTON, January 22.

THE DAY.

Unindorsed Theory That "Der Tag" Is the Scriptural Day of Judgment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the world struggle has reached a phase giving evidence of the probable fulfilment of the prediction that "the land of Egypt shall not escape," it may not be amiss to draw attention to the description given in the latter part of the eleventh chapter of Daniel of the devastating power that "at the time of the end" shall occupy the centre of the world stage:

He shall magnify himself above every god—and shall prosper.

He shall not regard the God of his fathers [Christianity?].

He shall honor the god of forces and a god whom his fathers know not shall he honor [probably science].

In the time of the end several kings shall push at him, still he shall invade their countries and pass over.

He shall enter into the glorious land.

The land of Egypt shall not escape.

Then tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him, and although apparently he shall establish himself firmly he shall come to his end and none shall help him. Is it straining credulity to believe that the effect of a policy of attrition is referred to?

May we not parallel the temptation of Christ and that of the German nation? To both there was offered the same world prize: "All the kingdoms of the world." The tempter, notorious for his subtlety, probably tried to prove to Jesus that by following certain methods and tactics he could succeed in the very laudable work of freeing his people, the Jews, from the political yoke of Rome, and then step by step conquer Rome and the world, and do all this in the name of God. This kind of argument is not at all unfamiliar to us in this great day of isms and panaceas and quacks of one kind or another.

Is it far fetched to fancy that to the German nation came the same great tempter with the same specious temptation, saying: "Let science and method subserve you; do this and that and the other thing in this and that way, and inevitably world power is yours"? Is it only our fancy that has pictured Germany actually believing itself to be a nation destined or "called" to lead the world and to regenerate it? Is it far fetched to fancy further that Germany, unwittingly of course, has made a bid for world power at the very time that the real Sovereign himself is to appear, is to take possession of his kingdom, to institute real reforms, real justice and genuine righteousness on earth, along the lines already embarked upon as witnessed by the legislation of the last fifty or sixty years, to be worked out in the form of a real democracy?

Can we be so sure and so wise in our ways as to deny that the great struggle is between the two great rival powers of the universe? Is it folly to believe such simple things? Is it not rather the astonishing phenomenon of these days that in the minds of men, even secular minds unfettered by religious preconceptions, there seems to permeate a belief that the end will be the dawn of a better era?

Is it fancy run wild that finds an unexpected parallel in that of the much talked of "Tag"? Did it enter the clever German intellect that the "Tag" for which they prayed and to which they drank for years and the great "Day of the Lord," the Day of Judgment and of setting things in their proper places, might be one and the same "Day," and that it would be a day of settlement once and forever of the question of the sovereignty of earth and not a day of the aggrandizement of any nation?

Paul, speaking in defence of his work, said, "Why should ye account it an incredible thing that God should raise the dead?" and with equal force may it not be asked to-day, "Why should ye account it an incredible thing that the great Day of the Lord has come?" Did we expect the performances of that day to be more spectacular? Surely the terrors pictured by the old seers about the Judgment Day do not surpass in frightfulness the actual situation in Europe, nor that which is potentially threatening the whole world.

RHYDD AP ROBERT.

HAVANA, Cuba, January 18.

Precaution.

Knicker—What did you name the baby?
Bocker—Wilhelm Carranza, so they won't do anything to him.

ALABAMA'S WILSON MEN WATCH BRYAN

Gets Party Indorsement, but His Aids Fear Plan for Stampede.

STATE FAVORS DEFENCE

This is the fourth of a series of articles by a SUN *staff correspondent on the political outlook in Western and Southern States. The first of the series showed that Indiana favors Wilson and Fairbanks. This also applies to Kansas, as indicated in the second article, while the third reveals Tennessee as inclined to Wilson and Burton.*

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 22.—There is a shenanigan game of some sort going among the Bryan Democrats of Alabama. And Mr. Bryan knows all about it. The Wilson men fear there is a scheme afoot for the Alabama delegation to stampede the Democratic national convention. The Bryan men say there's no truth in any such report.

Mr. Bryan has made four different trips to Alabama since the first of October. On his last trip he held a long secret conference with the extreme prohibitionists of the Democratic party. Reports as to what occurred at the meeting are conflicting. The common belief is that Mr. Bryan was attempting to gather a delegation that would oppose Mr. Wilson in the national convention.

Reports differ as to who would benefit. While in Montgomery Mr. Bryan said, in answer to the question if he would be a candidate in 1916, "No prohibitionist can be elected now." Since that time Mr. Bryan has come out against a prohibition plank in the Democratic national platform.

The Democratic State central committee met two weeks ago and passed a resolution indorsing Mr. Wilson and demanding that every candidate to the national convention pledge himself to indorse Wilson and all of the Wilson policies. That committee was composed almost entirely of Bryan men, and the State delegation to the national convention will be instructed for Mr. Wilson. Yet they will all be staunch Bryan men. Anti-Bryan Democrats in Alabama wonder what it means.

Don't Want Roosevelt.

Alabama is another State in which Republicans are useful to assist in nominating a President, not in electing him. The organization is maintained by the Federal office holders who seek an opportunity of returning to office. In 1912 Alabama gave Col. Roosevelt twenty-two votes as Mr. Taft, and Mr. Wilson nearly three times as many as received by Messrs. Taft and Roosevelt combined.

The Republicans have maintained their organization and the Progressives have scattered, mostly to the Republicans fold. Old line Republicans will accept almost anybody but Roosevelt, whom they are violently opposed. Mr. Burton, Mr. Root or almost any known Republican can have the Alabama delegation by making a bid for it.

The remnants of the Progressive party will do whatever Col. Roosevelt wants. Alabama also will stand with Mr. Wilson on a preparedness program. Its citizens see nothing wrong in the shipment of munitions to the Allies. They complain when the cotton is mentioned. Preparedness not hurt them, and their iron and steel plants are busy making for munitions. But Britain's action is looked upon with wrath by cotton growers. They think that Mr. Wilson should lift the embargo at once. However, there is no great sentiment in the State against him on this issue. It is not a burning issue.

There scarcely are enough Democrats in Alabama to put up a real fight, and the Democrats fight among one another. For the last few years they have been scrapping over prohibition. Both factions want it, but they each want different methods. Every Legislature tinkers with the prohibition laws, and just now the wet people have the upper hand. The State has a very tight local option prohibition law with all the extreme penalties—although no statewide law has been passed. It has been defeated. The anti-saloon league politicians say the wets and secured by legislative enactment that which they were unable to get by vote.

Much Dry Legislation.

The drys started in Alabama in 1907 with a local option law which was passed by the Legislature. Two extra sessions of the Legislature were called to pass prohibition legislation. In 1909 a stat