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Common Sense.

What is this talk about "domination" of the Hughes campaign committee by this, that or the other set of political thinkers and doers?

There is only one political idea entitled to "dominate" Mr. WILCOX's committee, and it is practical, not at all historical.

That dominating idea is to elect Mr. HUGHES by united purpose and united effort. Let nothing else dominate or try to dominate.

If It Were Worth While Answering.

To the critics of President WILSON's course in the management of American affairs in and near Mexico, his supporters triumphantly put this question: "What would you have done that Mr. WILSON has not done?" This does not constitute a defence or an explanation; it will not be called a vindication. But FRANK S. ENGLE of Chicago, secretary of the Frisco Salvador Ranching properties, a refugee from Mexico who escaped to this country on the Dixie, has brought back a bit of news that would furnish a suggestion for an appropriate rejoinder to this interrogatory. Mr. ENGLE is quoted as saying:

"Although we are Americans, we look to the British to protect our interests in Tampico."

We conceive that if Mr. HUGHES or Mr. ROOT, or Colonel ROOSEVELT, or any other gentleman opposed to Mr. WILSON, on being asked what he would do that Mr. WILSON has not done, were to reply in words something like the subjoined, his utterance would not provoke in this country public disfavor:

"I should so conduct the foreign affairs of the United States that every American citizen in Mexico and everywhere else would look to the American Government and to no other Government for protection, and would look with confidence; and I should see to it that that confidence was not disappointed."

It is, perhaps, not worth while to answer this frequently heard inquiry; but if it were worth while, certainly such a declaration as that outlined above would be entirely suitable and in order.

The Infantile Paralysis Epidemic.

Never in the modern history of this city has an epidemic of a fatal disease spread with the rapidity manifested by the prevalence of infantile paralysis, which, if it does not prove fatal, deforms and handicaps the child or adult for life. The public is gratified by the energy and skill displayed by the Department of Health in searching out the cases and quarantining them to prevent the spread of this terrifying malady. The apparent impotence of medical men to cope with the epidemic with curative measures on account of absolute ignorance of its cause and mode of development carries us back to the Middle Ages, when people were similarly helpless in the face of danger.

The question naturally arises in the minds of the lay people: "Just what is being done in the direction of ascertaining the real causes by experimentation on animals, a practice which has achieved such great triumphs in tuberculosis, typhoid fever, typhus fever, diphtheria and other infectious diseases?" It would appear that now is the time to cultivate serums, to inoculate animals, to study with all modern means the possibilities of prevention and cure. What is the Department of Health doing in this direction, is a question that forces itself upon the minds of the lay public.

It is to be hoped that our brilliant bacteriologists are already busying themselves with these problems to throw light upon a subject that appears to puzzle the doctors.

The infectiousness of the disease would seem to be proved by the rapidity of its diffusion. The difficulty of detecting it in its early stage casts a doubt upon the wisdom of permitting large numbers of children to flee from it, as is reported, and thus diffuse it more rapidly among the people. Open air concentration of these children in tents would protect the community and at the same time offer the most favorable opportunity for recovery if the disease has failed to be recognized before the change of locality.

To allow these children to enter crowded houses would seem criminal, certainly far more cruel than exposing them to the possible discomforts of tent life. During the civil war it was discovered that cases of infectious diseases like measles, in the management of which the idea prevailed that exposure to the air, especially in cold weather, is fatal, recovered more frequently than similar cases treated in tents or under less comfortable shelter. Modern science has explained the reason to be that fresh air currents stimulate the circulation, refresh the nervous system and thus steel the sufferer against the inroads of disease. Upon this theory the successful management of tuberculosis is based, and the recent introduction of open air management of pneumonia in children and adults.

If the transfer of large numbers of children becomes necessary, parents need feel no anxiety on account of their exposure under tents.

Childhood's Right to Learn to Work.

That eminent student and thinker WILLIAM COX REDFIELD bestowed this gem of thought on the educators assembled in Madison Square Garden this week:

"Childhood and labor are opposing things that should have naught in common, and it is almost sacrilege to place even in thought the burden of labor on the back of a child."

The commercial exploitation of child labor is properly regarded by enlightened men as against public policy, and the States in which the party of Mr. REDFIELD's adherence has not been continuously in power have taken the lead in restricting it. But that "childhood and labor are opposing things," and that "it is almost sacrilege to place even in thought the burden of labor on the back of a child" are statements not only ridiculous but entirely false. It is not a hardship to train a child to labor, to impose on boys and girls duties in the household, on the farm, or in their parents' businesses. On the contrary, the training thus acquired is of the highest value throughout life, as many citizens whose childhoods were not given entirely to play can testify.

It is labor to keep the wood box filled, to drive the cows from pasture to barn, to feed the chickens, to collect the eggs, to run errands, to make the beds; and hundreds of thousands of children are performing such tasks today, to their own benefit and the material assistance of their families. A great army of school children is at work this vacation, and not even a Redfield believes that their employment is "sacrilege."

The forcing of children to work under unhealthful conditions at tasks beyond their strength, under circumstances impairing their bodily and mental vigor: these are abominable things, and should not be tolerated. But to call childhood and labor "opposing things" is to abuse words so recklessly that even the Secretary of Commerce should hesitate to do it.

Presidential Preference in Jersey.

New Jersey has a "Senatorial situation" on its hands. Ex-Governor STOKES, Congressman SCULLY and Judge JOHN W. WESCOTT are the most prominent aspirants for the place which the Hon. JAMES E. MARTINE now occupies.

Ought STOKES to wait for the election of a successor to HUGHES, in 1918, and let ex-Governor FRANKLIN MURPHY be the next Martine? But HAMILTON KEAN has an eye on 1918. So STOKES hesitates. He is most dangerous when most he seems to hesitate. On the Democratic side, Congressman SCULLY will and he won't, but we guess he will. Having stoutly denied that any of his utterances may be justly construed as a disclaimer of intention to go into the primaries, it is supposable that he can be more than almost persuaded. MARTINE declares he will seek renomination.

The one thing the candidates, confessed or coyly inviting invitation, have in common is a record of sacrifice. Mr. STOKES sacrificed himself in the last Gubernatorial election that made FIELDER Governor, and Judge WESCOTT did the same thing in the famous primary that sent HUGHES to Washington. He, no doubt, perceived too late that in yielding to preprimary persuasions and permitting his name to be withdrawn he had not flattered the voters for whose emancipation from Boss Rule the primary was devised.

Naval Officer WITTPENN renounced his last Gubernatorial candidacy in favor of FIELDER at Mr. WILSON's request. Also, it was in response to appeals emanating from that high quarter that JOHN WESLEY WESCOTT permitted himself, instead of HUGHES, to be eliminated from the situation out of which WOODROW WILSON feared the Hon. JAMES SMITH would be returned to the Senate of these United States. Mr. SMITH had committed the unpardonable sin of aiding and abetting the Wilsonian ambition.

These earlier interventions by the gentleman who now presides over the destinies of Humanity, in which he flatteringly includes New Jersey, were in part pre-Presidential preferences. Now it is hinted that Mr. WILSON's full fledged Presidential preference is for Judge WESCOTT. Our interest in the fortunes of the eloquent Camden lawyer is subordinate to our concern for fair play when we suggest to New Jersey's Attorney-General that he should not count too heavily, in his Senatorial campaigning, upon full measure return for services rendered in the Great Withdrawal and in the two highflying nominating speeches at Baltimore and St. Louis.

Mr. WILSON, if past actions have any logic for the present and the future, will not permit those from whose shoulders he has climbed to follow him too far in the ascent. The preference on which Mr. WESCOTT had better build his hopes is not Presidential but popular.

The Russo-Japanese Treaty.

That Russia and Japan have signed a treaty having for its purpose a definite agreement regarding their respective ambitions in the Orient is not improbable. Negotiations have been pending between these two nations for almost a year. The conditions in China, in which the interest of both centres, have through Chinese revolutions, misgovernment and lack of national funds become critically uncertain. With Europe immersed in war the present is a most opportune time for adjustment according to their own wishes.

The present war brought these foes of only a few years ago into a mood for a better understanding than they had ever before reached. Japan has been supplying the Czar's army and navy with munitions of war. She saw without apparently a word of remonstrance or disapproval Russia extend her railways upon Chinese territory, and the diplomats of both nations have been playing at a united game of watchful waiting regarding that great unwieldy republic.

Between Japan and Russia there has existed for some time an understanding of apparently the most friendly nature. This was secured through the Agreement of 1907, the Convention of 1910 and subsequent recognitions. These stipulations aimed to regulate commercial and political relationships, to secure the principle of equal opportunity and to maintain the integrity of China. In what respect they were insufficient or required modification is the question that will prove important to other nations interested in the Orient, especially in China.

Any agreement affecting the integrity of China or commercial rights in the country itself or the Chinese littoral is a matter of concern to the United States. This nation has always favored the "open door" policy in the Orient and has opposed the violation of Chinese territory. Our position was clearly defined in the understanding with Japan in 1908, and any treaty vitiating the terms of that agreement will meet with strong opposition in this country.

What Sinn Fein Did.

Had there been no Sinn Fein revolt in Ireland the scheme of self-rule proposed by LLOYD GEORGE and accepted by the British Cabinet unanimously would not have seen the light. The plan adopted at the beginning of the war, under which the operation of the home rule law was suspended until the reestablishment of peace, would have been adhered to, and Ireland would not have received the concessions embodied in the temporary arrangement now put forward. It is fair, therefore, to say that the rebels, short lived though their rebellion was, accomplished something, however far they fell short of their principal object, the founding of an Irish republic, free and independent.

By what has been given to Ireland, by the fact that the carefully considered programme of the Government with respect of her future has been abandoned, the impression produced on Englishmen by the Dublin uprising may be measured. If it astonished the English it opened their eyes; and the subsequent record discloses them convinced of the necessity of adopting measures to meet, at least in part, the demands of the dissatisfied population.

What the Government offers will not satisfy all Irishmen. That is obvious. But it is equally apparent that it is more than would have been given had there been no Sinn Fein.

A New Field of Military Usefulness for Colonel Bryan.

The effect of Colonel WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN's oratory upon Company M of the Forty-seventh Regiment in camp at Peekskill caused the arrest of the entire company on Wednesday.

After the silver tongued Chautauquan had told the militiamen that he hoped they would neither kill nor be killed, they arose as one man, defied their officers and insisted that they must either fight or eat. They were placed in the guard house, several thousand miles away from all Mexicans, and put on a diet of shortcake and lemonade.

The influence of Colonel BRYAN's pacific utterances upon the Brooklyn guardsmen shows how useful he may become to the country at this crisis if he continues to make speeches at our training camps. He sets the boys wild—as all soldiers going to war should be. What he has to say about peace arouses in martial souls a longing for battle and a craving for something to bite.

If Colonel BRYAN would continue his inspection of the camps and training grounds we feel sure that our troops would get to the border presently in a pugnacious mood that would make the most reckless Mexicans look in comparison like doves of peace.

By his nicely measured combination of force and courage with conciliatory endeavor, his resistance of German aggression at the same time that he strove to promote a better understanding between his country and the Kaiser's, Sir EDWARD GREY has proved himself one of the most capable of Foreign Ministers. His name will stand with KITCHENER's in British history.

Of all the modern romancers, Dr. SCOTT NEARING displays the most vivid imagination.

Canadian Scottish troops are found to be less subject to pneumonia and lung trouble than others who do not wear kilts, and the toughness of these soldiers is attributed in large part to this peculiar uniform. But from the start it takes a man to wear 'em. Could the Seventh or the Seventy-first or the Twenty-third N. G. N. Y. do it and make as good an appearance as the sturdy Scotsman does?

All the prisoners who signify their desire to join a volunteer regiment will be drilled by the keepers, many of whom were formerly in the army.—*The afternoon newspapers.*

Proving that public officeholders may be humorists.

From the editorial pages of one of the innumerable magazines of poetry we extract this pitiful plaint: "If the subscription list of this magazine approximated the yearly inflow of manuscripts the editors would hire a long string of assistants, have cut flowers replenished daily on their desks, and be less harassed generally." We must have a Society for the Daily Replenishment of Flowers on Poetry Editors' Desks.

Motor cycle bandit holds up five stages loaded with tourists.—*Newspaper headline.*

We anxiously await the appearance of the first highwayman carrying on his professional labors with the aid of a flying machine.

The Pilgrim speech of Viscount BRYCE, in which he said that the Allies are resolved to prosecute the war to a full and definite settlement of all that they contend for, will be accepted by Americans as authoritative, and, coming from the Englishman who knows America best, will have more effect upon the popular view than other utterances, less evidently fit for trust. His formulation of the argument, military and political, carries conviction. The German appetite for domination and the Turkish lust for massacre are not to survive as factors in international affairs. The statement, made without bluster or swagger, is impressive in its cool determination. We believe it expresses adequately the spirit of Great Britain to-day.

Three thousand college men now at Plattsburg.—*Newspaper headline.*

And what is the language of command? Could the collegians march behind old General XENOPHON or C. J. CÆSAR without a corps of interpreters to help?

President HENRY NOBLE MACCRACKEN of Vassar College has explained that when on May 5 he drank ale from a flagon in honor of the worthy brewer who founded the institution at Poughkeepsie he actually drank the beverage familiar under the title of ginger pop. President MACCRACKEN had better not try to fool the ghost of MATTHEW VASSAR; that philanthropist knew all about malt liquors, and no soft stuff masquerading in a flagon could escape detection by him.

The camel has been adopted as the 1916 campaign emblem of the Prohibition party.—*Despatch from national headquarters at Chicago.*

Elephant, donkey, moose and camel—the zoo is full. Is this Camelus dromedarius or Camelus bactrianus? The mono-hump species is better adapted to flat, sandy, hot regions; the two humped beast does better in cool, rocky neighborhoods. The camel is stupid when it is not ugly, and a mighty uncomfortable mount. A carrier, not a draught animal, how will it behave when hitched to the water wagon?

VILLA is probably the most annoying character in modern history. He refuses to admit that he is either dead or alive. Whether the bandit killed was VILLA or another fellow of the same name is hard to tell. And was the bandit killed? There is testimony to the effect that VILLA was sick and wounded recently and also proof that he has been in the best of health for a long time past.

Whatever may be the truth, VILLA is a nuisance, and whether dead or alive he knows how to remain so.

CARRANZA is paving the Mexican border with good intentions.

ABOLISH WOMAN? NEVER!

A Suggestion for the Suppression of the Drink Evil Rejected.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The quotation from a recent bulletin of the Health Department, published in THE SUN, to the effect that married men spend more time in saloons than unmarried men, indicates that at last the real cause of the drink habit has been discovered. As with most of our other troubles, it is woman.

The happy single man spends his time playing checkers or chasing elusive golf balls on the links.

The poor unfortunate who has been run down and captured by a female has no mind for these innocent diversions and is forced into the saloon, where he acquires the deadly schooner habit and learns, according to the Health Department, to work longer hours in return for smaller wages.

It is clear that the remedy for excessive drinking is the abolition of woman. Eliminate this foe to man's happiness and prohibition will be unnecessary, as the saloon will be deserted.

If matrimony drives men to drink, man must in self-defence demand that woman be abolished. H. L.

NEW YORK, July 6.

Place for a Deserving Woman.

From the Wilmington Journal-Republican.

Can Mary Hellwagen of Circleville get a job as chauffeur?

Building the Home.

Man started his building
When wisdom grew ripe;
A wall he erected
For lighting his pipe.

As further improvement
In manner to live,
He joined on another
A shelter to give.

Becoming enamored,
A maiden to win,
A third wall he added
To shut a world in.

A home thus provided,
He still had a doubt,
And put up a fourth wall
To shut the world out.

MCLANDSBURG WILSON.

ACCIDENT COMPENSATION.

An Examination of the Status of Municipal Employees.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For broader application the workmen's compensation law is in another mess. Since June 1 public employees in "hazardous employments" have been entitled to accident compensation under the terms of the law, but public authorities have not been able to meet the requirements.

The Legislature failed to provide for the payment of accident compensation to State employees and neglected to authorize the State departments and commissions to secure such payments in the future. The Attorney-General's opinion is that departments and commissions cannot act on the subject; that responsibility rests on the State. Just how accident compensation is to be secured for State employees, whether through action by the legislative, executive or administrative section of the State Government, is a puzzle; at present noncompliance with the requirements of the law is a matter of embarrassment.

Whether a State department or commission can elect to be subject to the provisions of the law is doubtful; probably all departments and commissions are to be dependent on the action of the Legislature at the next session. Amendatory legislation at the recent session opened the way for such election, and the State Industrial Commission has urged the heads of departments and commissions to act on the matter, but the Attorney-General's ruling has halted action. As a matter of fact the State Industrial Commission, that administers the workmen's compensation law, is without authority to elect to be under the law; it is without authority to insure its liability for accident compensation in the State Insurance Fund, the affairs of which it administers.

Noncompliance with the requirements of the law, whether intentional or unintentional, in the cases of State employees injured or killed in the course of employment, will compel the State Industrial Commission to determine the claims, award compensation under the terms of Section 20 of the law, and begin proceedings for the enforcement of payment under the terms of Section 26, each amount to be that of "a liquidated claim for damages" against the State as an employer, "which, with an added penalty of 50 per centum, may be recovered in an action to be instituted by the commission in the name of the people of the State." Any such action may be compromised or prosecuted to final judgment.

Through action by the commission the piling up of claims against the State in the Court of Claims is to be, as an official expressed it, an object lesson for the Legislature.

For the enforcement of the payment of public employees' claims for accident compensation in cities, counties, towns, &c., that fail to comply with the law copies of the awards made by the commission can be filed by the parties in interest in the offices of the clerks of counties. Judgments are to be entered immediately in the Supreme Court.

New York city and the counties within its borders are without funds for the payment of accident compensation, but the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has information on which to act in compliance with the workmen's compensation law, following an investigation of the subject after the filing of an opinion by the acting Corporation Counsel that "all employees of this city come under the provisions of the workmen's compensation law to the same extent as if they were employees of private employers or corporations, if their particular duties or the scope of employment brings them within the head of hazardous occupation."

The heads of departments have been asked to furnish information as to the number and amount of wages or salaries of employees in the hazardous employments that the law has defined. A list of the employments that an examination of the civil list disclosed appeared in a news article in THE SUN of May 28. As the acting Corporation Counsel said, "It is apparent that it will require some time and considerable litigation before the exact standing of many of the city's employees with regard to this act can be determined."

Circumstances compel the city to be a self-insurer of its liability for accident compensation. The State Industrial Commission has resolved to permit municipal corporations and other subdivisions of the State to be self-insurers, without obligation to deposit securities to secure liability to pay compensation.

A recent announcement is that the State Industrial Commission is about to call in from mutual companies and self-insurers the present values of accident compensation awards in death, permanent total and permanent partial disability cases. It means that where awards have been made in such cases in which mutual companies or self-insurers are the carriers, the future instalments are to be commuted, according to their present values, to a single amount in each case, to be paid into the aggregate trust fund created by the law and composed of such payments. The commission will distribute the compensation every two weeks. Whether the commission will require municipal corporations, as self-insurers, to meet the requirement is an open question.

In the matter of the application of the law to the city's employees injustice is apparent. The operation of a wagon or other vehicle is a "hazardous employment." The driver of a police patrol wagon propelled by gasolene or drawn by horses is entitled to accident compensation, but a patrolman is not. Likewise, the driver of a fire engine is entitled to accident compensation, but a hoseman is not.

The law was amended at the recent session of the Legislature to include "street cleaning, ashes, garbage and snow removal" in the list of "hazardous employments." The drivers of rubbish carts, as operators of vehicles, are entitled to accident compensation.

It is of interest to note that election to be bound by the provisions of the amended law for all employees has been confined to a few employers who have been liable for accident compensation in their hazardous employments and subject possibly to the common law liability for injuries to employees not in hazardous employments.

HENRY W. ODION.

NEW YORK, July 5.

WHAT HAS ITALY DONE?

Unindorsed Assertion That She Is a Slacker in the Alliance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What has Italy done in this greatest war in history? After one year she, with her great army of 1,500,000 men against 300,000 Austrians, occupied several miles of Austria's territory, which she lost in four days of Austria's latest offensive. Two days have passed, and we hear no news from Italy's battlefield, in spite of the great offensive on other fronts. France, England and Russia are disappointed with her.

To me it seems that she is waiting until Russia, England and France finish the job, with Germany and Austria. After that she will present her bill for a great share. MICHAEL DINICH.

NEW YORK, July 6.

Abbreviation by Submarines.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN has adverted lately to the subject of the President's English. I am prompted thereby to bring up a question that has troubled me ever since the publication of the Lusitania notes. In one of these occurred the expression: "abbreviation of the rights of American citizens." Theretofore, if the subject had been suggested to me, I should have thought that the only way in which the sinister purpose referred to could be accomplished would be in a form such as this: R'ts of Am. cit's. But it seems from the President's note that a like result can be attained by the employment of submarines. Will THE SUN illuminate this obscurity? R. W. R.

NEW YORK, July 6.

STARS OF SUMMER.

Viewed From the Deck of Our Planet Ship, How Fair, How Grand!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Like jewels of fire set within the ebon frame of Creation the sparkling suns of night shine brilliantly upon us, remotely, silently. Surveyed through the unassisted eyesight the summer firmament presents an inspiring spectacle, while viewed through assisted sight the titanic profudity of our universe is evident, although only vaguely appreciated. Standing upon the deck of a tiny planet ship, gazing upward into the illimitable ocean ether where innumerable suns and systems are moving more or less swiftly in divers directions, man feels that he is indeed insignificant, his most remarkable accomplishment being a cipher amid the incalculable space and countless ages of eternity above and around him.

Eastward of the zenith, brilliant and beautiful, sparkles the blue sun Vega amid the constellation of Lyra. Approximately one-third of a century of light-years separates us from this blue and brilliant star. Eastward of bright Vega shines the Northern Cross of Cygnus, large and symmetrical, while westward of Vega glimmer the constellation of Hercules, dim and irregular. Southeastward from Vega glitters Altair between its inseparable companions, Alshain and Trazed.

In the south reigns one of the three monarch suns of summer, ruddy Antares in the heart of the Scorpio. Westwardly white Spica is descending nearer and nearer the horizon, its bright light coming to us after several centuries. In the northwest twinkle the seven suns forming the Great Dipper in Ursa Major, revolving like the jewelled hands of a huge clock around and around Polaris of Ursa Minor. Remote and faint gleams the broad band of the mysterious Milky Way, beyond whose further boundaries other universes far vaster than our own may some day be discovered.

Arcturus, glittering and glowing like a veritable sidereal furnace, now begins to descend toward the western horizon. Arcturus is king of summer's evening skies, although his reign is almost over at the close of August. Gazing upon him, we are able to imagine that he is vastly larger than our own sun, but how difficult to believe that he is speeding through the ether of illimitable space with a velocity approximating 100 or more miles with each tick of a terrestrial clock. He is not as beautiful firmamentally as blue Vega, but brighter and grander than she. Those rays that shine upon us were not launched into space during the twentieth century, but during the nineteenth, in or around the year 1872. For approximately forty-four years they have been travelling to reach us.

As our little planet home happens to be situated at present in the universe, how silent, how placid, how restful are the skies of night. How inspiring it is, after Sol has descended and the gloaming is over, to stand beneath night's darkened dome and gaze and ponder upon the star lighted firmament. How encouraging and stimulating to feel that we are a real and active part of so wonderful a universe, amid whose incomputable space our tiny planet moves about as utterly insignificant as a speck of dust in the sunlight upon the surface of this world of ours.

CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

NEWTON, MASS., July 5.

CAMP WHITMAN.

A Soldier's Mother Reports to Anxious Parents.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Camp Whitman is situated in a rolling valley, surrounded by green hills, edges of young forests, extending around the entire camp. The Twenty-second Engineers, on a green knoll overlooking the other regiments, are particularly well situated. Each company has a row of large, airy tents, four, six, sometimes more men occupying each tent. These rows are called camp streets.

Privates sleep on canvas bed sacks filled with sweet smelling grass and flowers culled from nearby fields, many using their overcoats to make them especially soft, warm and dry; knapsacks are their pillows. Fresh, invigorating air induces sleep that never could be equalled within four walls even on a downy couch.

Enforced marches of five miles in fifty minutes, ten minutes rest, return in same time, add to the zest of life. The food is excellent; the majority of the men testify to this. To accentuate this statement Captain Ross, Company A, Engineers, not speaking for publication, as neither he nor I at the time knew his words would be used, said:

"The officers have formed a mess, but our company cook is so good that I prefer eating with our own boys."

Men are placed entirely upon their honor. The rules and regulations are read on their entering camp life, and they are supposed to adhere to them explicitly, which they do with few exceptions. Sergeant Debbins, a clean cut intelligent non-commissioned officer, said: "Yes, as a rule, honor holds our men in good order, but there must always be a few whom we must whip into condition. Strange how quickly young men, never having felt the necessity of washing their own clothes, learn the value of soap."

Young Private Brody, Company C, Engineers, said: "Laundry soap is the best for washing ourselves as well as our clothes."

Upon feeling the khaki colored flannel shirt that had been washed in a nearby creek the ability of the laundryman was demonstrated.

The spirit of happiness and buoyancy pervades the entire camp. The visitor feels it is a vacation more than a vigorous preparation for war. There is a rumor current that a large contingent of Twenty-second Engineers and other companies are to move to the border Friday. This the boys gladly welcome, not that they are not comfortable or content, but the restlessness of youth, coupled with the craving for adventure spurs them on for a change of scene and life.

With their kind and competent officers, an efficient complement of medical aid, an earnest chaplain entering into the sports as well as looking after souls, mothers, sisters, wives and sweethearts can rest assured that their boys will return after their healthful duty to their country benefited in character as well as mind and body. A MOTHER.

NEW YORK, July 6.

The Study of an Important Mind.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Dr. Rockwell's lucid exposition of Mr. Wilson's mental processes seems to have been anticipated to some extent by Mr. Wilson himself.

Dr. Rockwell says: "Mr. Wilson probably suffers chiefly from a mental infirmity, a tardy mind."

Did not Mr. Wilson recognize and aptly describe this infirmity when he said: "My mind is a one track road"? C. E. M.

NEW YORK, July 6.

To the Lovers of France.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Would it not be fitting for those of us who love France and are watching breathlessly her defence of Verdun to make a special money contribution to the French Wounded Emergency Fund on her great national day, the Fourteenth of July? L. S. W. PERKINS.

CONCORD, MASS., July 6.

Judicial Definition of the Steam Roller.

From Law Notes.

In Walters vs. Eddison Steam Rolling Company, 3 K. B. 818, it was held by a Divisional Court that a steam roller is a locomotive.

"A Mouthful."

Here's to the paper that shines for all;
Here's to the PRESS and THE SUN.
Here's to a column where Anglers fall;
Here's to the Rod and Gun.

ROYAL COACHMAN.

ANOTHER SISTER-IN-LAW.

She May Substitute for the Still Missing Blonde.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For weeks past a disconsolate wail has resounded through your columns for the return of a lost sister-in-law. Would to heaven that I could lose mine forever!

I cannot hope for her marriage, because she has rejected the proposals of two men who clearly wished to share her comfortable inheritance from her bachelor brother, who with almost dying breath cautioned her against both sexes. She has no other attraction. Her specialties are a profound ignorance of children and the day's doings, the latter deficiency being attributable to persistent perusal of a daily newspaper principally addicted to flaring headlines of misinformation.

In a genial spirit she has adopted my family as her especial care. From the birth of my boy and girl, both now in high teens, she was eager to take charge of their rearing. When I was pleading with my wife to remove the curls and infantile wear of the cub, the amiable interloper pulled hard in the other direction, and failing sought compromise by suggesting patent leather oxfords, velvet suits, dancing and piano lessons, while I was intent on starting him toward vigorous manliness. I want my girl to play basketball and lawn tennis, wear shoes to fit her feet and be free from much feminine harness. Her aunt frowns on all of these as unladylike.

Every occasion is taken by her as an excuse for presents of some thoroughly unsuitable junk to the poor girl. The last affliction was at Easter, when she thrust upon her innocence the gaudiest shoes obtainable, which made the feet of the girl appear as though in the throes of a delirium. On the following wet Sunday by means of a penknife I covertly performed an operation on those shoes which caused the soles and uppers to part company on the second wearing thereafter.

A hat that she constructed to resemble the headdress of a Patagonian priestess I secretly baptized with muriatic acid, and when it was exhibited to me I sorrowfully suggested that its ruin was probably caused by drippings from the elevated road. I shall always protect my own. Even though in the twilight of years, time hangs heavily on her brow and hands, and then she hangs some of it on me.

It is a day's pleasurable job to read THE SUNDAY SUN. I entertain bitter recollections of the many hours of that day of which she has robbed me by retailing events recorded by her favorite newspaper, which were impossible of recurrence. If she ever strays, is lost or kidnapped, I shall not complain or advertise, and the monarch of my bosom will sit easy on its throne. SLAVERY.

NEW YORK, July 5.

FROM FRIENDLY COUNSELLORS.

Concerning the Place and Demeanor of a Newspaper Page.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read THE SUN since I was a small boy. I felt even then the fascination of THE SUN's columns for those who appreciate good literary work done at high pressure.

Those were the days when THE SUN consisted of four pages of real news and sparkling editorial comment, not forgetting a column of scintillating "Sunbeams."

The years have brought expansion, but is it ungracious to say that they have not brought improvement? It would be the highest compliment to say that the standards set in those days have been maintained.

I am reassured by the continuance of the familiar headlines and by the unchanged makeup. Unchanged? Nay, the editorial page is put at the end of the chapter. Nevertheless, its new position has the advantage that it brings it, when the sheet is opened, conveniently opposite the big news of the day—the important news and the comment thereon. But—and this is an important point for the comfort of a host of THE SUN's older readers—I hope that this change does not foreshadow the appearance later of double column heads, great primer type, emphatic words set in capitals, and all the rest of the typographical fixings on the editorial page that in the newer journalism make up for the lack of quiet appeal to reason. Heaven forfend!

I make this plea for conservatism, not because I agree with THE SUN's politics or economics—I don't. Nevertheless, I hope you will continue to write and print your editorials just as of yore.

Whatever changes you put into effect, do continue to present your editorial comments and appeals in the characteristic, old fashioned, dignified way that has distinguished them from the beginning. HENRY HOYT MOORE.

BROOKLYN, July 6.

Educational Reminiscences.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of the first lessons I learned from THE SUN was what many men do not learn in college, and that was to distinguish between "differing with" and "differing from." THE SUN has always been a schoolmaster to newspapers, and on one occasion a newspaper used the term "differ with," instead of "differ from." THE SUN corrected its neighbor and stated the rule as follows:

One thing may differ from another, or one person may differ from another, as in form or size, but one person may differ with another in opinion.

And then this beautiful illustration:

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars, for one star differeth from another star in glory.

Many years have passed since I read that editorial article, but I have never forgotten the rule. It has been these sharp, pithy editorials in THE SUN that have endeared it to me through the mature years of my life. For me there is no other newspaper, for it really does differ from all other newspaper stars in the glory of the journalistic firmament, and so long as I retain a foothold on this whirling orb I shall turn to its all illumined pages each morn as my counsellor, guide and friend.

Nor am I interested as to whether the editorial page is in the front, middle or back of the paper; it is not its position but the contents that interest me. ARINGTON H. CARMAN.

PATCHOGUE, July 6.

Getting at the Kernel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Who can doubt the soundness of the editorial judgment which transfers the editorial page from the centre of THE SUN'S teeming output to the place of only secondary interest and search, the last page? Who of your regular readers does not, after glancing at the most important news of the title page, turn to the brilliant and varied presentation of editorial comment, pertinent query, play of fancy, pithy and timely communications, which have so long given THE SUN its unrivalled place in the journalism of these United States?

THE SUN is not a nut which needs the cracking of a shell to get at its meaty values. A simple turn of the entire and unopened pages, and there one now has access to the richest of what the editor has to offer.

THE SUN is living up to and improving the old traditions. Speed the good work! HERBERT S. KEMPTON.

BOSTON, July 6.

A Friend for Sixty Years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The idea of changing the editorial page to the last page came from brains in the right place.

When I arrived in New York from Ireland almost sixty years ago I started reading THE SUN. I have kept up the good work to date.

May your shadow never grow less!

WILLIAM WILSON HANNA.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., July 6.

SOME LETTERS OF J. FENIMORE COOPER.

The Author of the Leatherstocking Tales and Sea Stories Wished No Biography of Himself to Be Published. But Some Writings Have Escaped Time's Tooth, to Show the Man and Incidents of His Life.

What right has the public to invade the privacy of famous writers, in their homes while alive or in their papers after their death? The question is brought up once more in an article on "Unpublished Letters of J. Fenimore Cooper," by his great-grandson, J. Fenimore Cooper, Jr., in the current number of the *Yale Review.*

Because of "the controversial aspects of his life," the novelist expressed the wish that no biography of him should ever be written. Respecting this wish, his eldest surviving daughter burned all of his letters that might have been put to the forbidden use. But so much has been written critically about Cooper's books, his "characters" and his "rank," and so little about the man, that these notes have more than gossipy or superficial interest. At Yale young Fenimore once shut a donkey up in a classroom, engaged at fisticuffs with a fellow student and was finally expelled when his "pranks" involved the misuse of explosives. He shipped before the mast, then entered the navy as a midshipman, and after eleven years of service resigned to marry Susan De Lancey of Mamaroneck. Driving two horses tandem, the young couple rode to Cooperstown in a gig.

In 1826 Cooper had the Fenimore put into his name by act of the Legislature. He went to Lyons as Consul, wrote more books, became a friend of Lafayette and an acquaintance of Scott; "found most distorted ideas of his countrymen prevalent and was inevitably drawn into a defence of his country." A peppery defender.

Returning to America, he saw in the changed conditions of life proof that the country was going to the dogs. Commerce was driving out the old aristocracy. And after his long sojourn in European capitals the crudities of American life at that time seemed more flagrant than before. Into his novels began to come sharp satire. He alienated his readers. He assailed both political parties. He stirred the press to a hostility that became bitter and abusive. For five years he rushed from one libel suit to another, and forced his detractors to retract. It was a blazing battle.

He wrote his "History of the United States Navy," and got into another hot controversy over his treatment of Elliott's conduct in the battle of Lake Erie. And in these years he wrote "Pathfinder" and "Deerslayer." In his quieter later years he wrote less well. He was happiest and ablest when belligerent. How many friends of Hawkeye, Uncas and Chingachgook know that in 1850, the year before that of his death, their author wrote a comedy called "Philosophy in Petticoats" that had a run of three nights and was never published?

In 1829, writing from Florence to a friend in New York, he said:

As for myself, I know nothing of Europe through cafes and valet de place. I make no acquaintances with countesses in Diligences & do not see grandees at Restaurateurs, and scarcely know the name of an opera dancer. You see I shall return as ignorant as I came out, at least in the opinion of those galloping gentry, who think the world is to be best understood in the market places. I can tell you how often I laugh in my sleeve, when I remember the swaggering conversation of some of our ancient travelled Illuminati. I have traced a few of the most conspicuous and depend on it they have not left the trains of comets.

On returning from Europe he wrote to his wife, from Canajoharie, a letter lamenting the disappearance of old friends and landmarks and the modernness of everything: "Here and there the Yankees have got in", "every hour convinces me more and more that society has had a summerset, and that the elite is at the bottom." From various letters:

In this country, the confusion that exists in society is owing to the rapid increase of the towns, the jumble of immigration, and the disproportion between the nouveaux riches and those who are prepared by education and habits to do credit to their positions.

By the way, I have been told Scott, while at Naples, declared a person you [Mrs. Cooper]