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The Misplaced and Misplaced Court House.

The present situation with regard to the new court house scheme does not indicate future development on the projected lines.

The reason is obvious. It is found not only in the cost of labor and materials, but also in the state of municipal finances.

Moreover, we are bound to say that if the continued postponement leads ultimately to the abandonment of both the architectural design and the proposed site of Mr. Lowell's court house, even at a considerable sacrifice of expenditure already incurred, we do not believe that result will be very widely regarded as a public misfortune.

The city's real estate investment in connection with the court house plaza in the Centre street region is generally stated at \$12,000,000.

Not a passenger on the Mayflower had a middle name. It was not fashionable in England to wear one; in fact, it had been unlawful.

The common and perhaps natural falling of enthusiasts who have in hand a specific enterprise of municipal improvement is to make it the nucleus of some grander scheme of municipal transformation.

The unfortunate consequences of tying up the necessary and practical and immediate with the visionary and ideal and remote are visible, sometimes, years after, in the grotesque spectacle of an ambitiously planned "civic center" dismal and pathetic in its solitude.

The attempt to force the development of a city's growth in a certain direction by putting the adornment of the growth is always a ticklish operation.

of the town by earthquake and fire afforded exceptional scope to the post-architect of the "civic center". New York, even in a crisis of relative impetuosity, could afford to buy millions rather than suffer for all future time the disruption which results from the attempt to divert to an undesirable or impossible quarter important functions of its daily life.

In this matter, as in some others, Mayor-elect Hylan is manifesting common sense, independent judgment and a long distance vision where the city's interests are concerned.

Another Chain for King Alcohol. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn has decided unanimously that the Governor has power under an act passed by the Legislature at its session last spring to prohibit the opening or continuance in operation of establishments dealing in liquor in areas where their existence is deemed to be in opposition to the public interest.

When this matter first came up Justice Croeskey held that the statute was unconstitutional and the Governor's proceeding thereunder illegal.

The power given to the Governor under the statute thus upheld is reasonable and proper and may be essential to the maintenance of good order and the energetic prosecution of the war.

Is the middle name, after a century of popularity, fated to become extinct in America? The question arises on reading a list of the members of the Railroads War Board.

There is a very general recollection, not always accurate as to details, of the conspicuous part which the late WILLIAM E. CHANDLER sustained in the memorable process which put Mr. HAYES into the White House.

Germany and the Scandinavian Nations. The rulers and Ministers of the three Scandinavian nations at their conference, which ended yesterday at the Norwegian capital, entered into a new agreement to observe a strict neutrality during the war.

Illinois Leads in Marines. WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Since our participation in the war Illinois leads all the States for the number of men enlisted in the Marine Corps.

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LETTERS OF A GENERAL.

Mr. Creel Has Not Passed on Them, but Here They Are. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The following letters by General Washington will be interesting to readers of THE SUN.

Headquarters, Fredericksburg, 12th Nov. 1878. DEAR SIR: I was duly favored with your letter of the 4th instant.

Camp at Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 5th, 1775. To THE HONORABLE JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esq., Governor of Conn. SIR: By a person from Boston the day before yesterday we learn that a small fleet consisting of a 64-gun ship, a 20, 2 Sloops of 18 guns, 2 Transports and about 600 men sailed as yesterday.

THE ORDER OF ZEBRAS. An Appropriately Decorated Emblem for the Pacificists. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—We have in this country a number of societies named after animals and birds; namely, the Elk, Moose, Tigers, Eagles, Owls and others.

The Helms of Henry. In the days of the trenches when the body creeps off the floor with its limbs quivering from the cold, the public would have felt that the news was appropriate to the day.

Food in Germany reported unpalatable. Possibly, but not adequate, varied, satisfying. Bread and potatoes may make a life sustaining diet, but what would Berliners say if they were favored with a true cuisine of fellow Germans dining in Poutrevent street or Seventeenth street in New York city on an abundance of pie knuckle, ham, sauerkraut, with butter on their bread and cheese on the butter?

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IS THERE A TO-MORROW?

Nobody Can Be Sure, But Most of Us Bank on It. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The promissory notes drawn by Mr. Shylock tomorrow certainly cannot be called off. Yet no paper is uttered so confidently.

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NOTABLE EXHIBITION OF BOOK PLATES NOW TO BE SEEN IN BROOKLYN.

Notes on the Interesting and Representative Collection at the Long Island Historical Society's Rooms.

An exhibition of much interest to the owners and lovers of books is now open to visitors at the Library of the Long Island Historical Society on Brooklyn Heights, at the corner of Pierrepont and Clinton streets.

Each book plate is exhibited on a separate piece of cardboard; and wherever the Librarian has been able to procure a portrait of the owner, the portrait is displayed on the same card with his or her book plate, as the case may be.

Thus the book plate of Anthony Shaftesbury Cooper, the third Earl of Shaftesbury—author of the "Characteristics of the Human Mind"—is accompanied by a portrait of the Earl, engraved by Grubbin, the French sculptor (1661-1738), who engraved a small full length portrait of Lord Shaftesbury for the edition of his famous work which was published in 1714.

The book plates of five Presidents are included in the collection: John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, Theodore Roosevelt, William H. Taft and Woodrow Wilson. Well known authors are represented by the book plates of Edward Gibbon, David Hume, George Grote, Thomas Hood, Charles Dickens, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry James, Adam Sedgwick, W. H. Auden, E. Phillips Oppenheim and Jack London, and the collection is rich in book plates of actors and actresses from David Garrick to John Drew and Charlotte Cushman to Mary Anderson and Ellen Terry.

The oldest book plate in the collection which is both signed (by the engraver) and dated is that of Henry P. Dering, engraved by Nathaniel Hurd of Boston and dated 1748. The plate is a beautiful specimen of the art of the engraver and is a fine example of the "French plate" style.

The several styles into which book plates have been classified by American writers on the subject are represented by good specimens in this collection, namely: Early English, Jacobean, Chippendale, and the modern style.

As the visitor looks over the plates and the portraits of their owners in this exhibition he almost involuntarily exclaims: "What a rare and beautiful collection!"

LOUIS ALSO A CRITIC. He Discusses the Theatre and, Modestly, His Own Plays. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The letters in THE SUN concerning the present trend of theatrical conditions in the city are admirable, inasmuch as the public might be induced to see of the theatre as it is, and not as it has been in the past.

Few Great Plays Produced, but Are Many Great Books Written? To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—With your exception, dear friends, the stage is a sea. From your desire to plan show, from the weakest wish to the faintest desire, you do not see the very nature of the stage, ladies and gentlemen, preclude the just interpretation of most any other phase of life.

Opening the Campaign. Bunker has your wife's Christmas shopping with her. She has the end necktie for me in the pocket drawer.