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A Conversation That Is Ended.

"Some time before the western offensive began," said Count CZERNIN in Vienna on April 2, "M. CLEMENCEAU addressed to me an inquiry whether and upon what basis I was prepared to negotiate. I immediately replied that I was prepared to negotiate and that as far as France was concerned the only obstacle I could see in the way of peace was the demand for Alsace-Lorraine."

"Count CZERNIN lied," said CLEMENCEAU on April 3.

"Nevertheless," said an official statement from the Foreign Office in Vienna on April 5, "a conversation concerning peace was held between Austria-Hungary and France."

LLOYD GEORGE and President WILSON were also in it, said the *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna on the same day, April 5.

"Force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit," said President WILSON on April 6.

"Count CZERNIN did not lie," said the Vienna Government on April 7. "Although the discussions to which Count CZERNIN referred were begun in July, 1917, when M. RIBOT was Premier, the thread was again taken up by CLEMENCEAU himself in January, 1918."

"No such conversations took place," said former Premier RIBOT on April 9, "either directly or through a neutral intermediary."

"Here," said CLEMENCEAU on April 9, "is an autograph letter from the Emperor CHARLES to his cousin, communicated to us on March 31, 1917, in which the Emperor writes, 'I beg you, my dear SIXTUS, to convey privately and unofficially to President POINCARÉ that I will support by every means and by exerting all my personal influence with my allies France's just claims regarding Alsace-Lorraine.'"

"I accuse M. CLEMENCEAU," telegraphed the Emperor CHARLES to the Kaiser on April 9 or 10, "of piling up lies to escape the web of lies in which he is involved, making the false assertion that I in some manner recognized France's claim to Alsace-Lorraine as just. I indignantly repel the assertion. At the moment when Austro-Hungarian cannon are firing alongside of the German artillery on the western front no proof is necessary that I am fighting for your provinces."

"The Emperor CHARLES's letter to SIXTUS was falsified," said Count CZERNIN in an official statement on April 12.

"I hasten to tell you," telegraphed the Kaiser to the Emperor CHARLES on April 12, "that in my eyes there is no need whatever for such an assurance on my part, for I have not for a moment been in doubt."

"CLEMENCEAU's accusations against me are so low," telegraphed CHARLES to the Kaiser on April 15, "that I have no intention to discuss longer this affair with France. My cannon in the west is our last reply."

"Count CZERNIN did not know of Emperor CHARLES's letter to Prince SIXTUS when he made the statement that France had initiated the conversations with Austria," said a Vienna despatch to the Berlin *Lokalanzeiger* on April 15. "On learning of the letter he resigned."

A thousand words of comment could not add to the interest or significance of the conversation hereinbefore reported in the language of the chief interlocutors. It is ended; but the Muse of History will long concern herself with its amazing details and even the Muse of Comedy will not be inattentive while the Emperor CHARLES's cannon are making their final if illogical reply to the authentic letter of the Emperor CHARLES to his cousin Prince SIXTUS.

The Independence Germany Brings to Finland.

Berlin reports that the German troops have entered Helsingfors, the capital of Finland. The long struggle of the Finns for national independence has resulted through the exigencies of the war in freedom from the Czars and the Russian rule, but it has brought the country under the no less dreaded power of Prussian autocracy.

In the capture of the Finnish capital, which the official announcement says was effected "after a vigorous encounter with armed bands," Germany has carried to a temporary success a series of intrigues directed against the Finnish people. It was not apparently the intention that Finland should be overrun and forcibly subjected to militarism in the same manner as were the Polish and Baltic sea provinces. Instead, the demands for Prussian rule were to come from the Finns themselves. They were to be forced to ask for the blessings of Kultur, and their pleadings were to be answered by the Hohenzollerns in the gift of a son of the Kaiser, Prince OSCAR, as their king.

For the carrying out of these designs German agents began their propaganda even before the Russian revolution. In their propaganda they were assisted by many wealthy German residents of Finland. They preached the liberation of the Finns through German help, and they sent young men to be drilled and trained in Germany to be enrolled in a German army of invasion. The upheaval in Russia made this plan useless; but it gave Germany the nucleus of the well trained force which she has been employing under the name of the "White Guard," or the Finnish regular army.

Against this German influence the Finnish people have organized, and they are endeavoring to establish a republican form of government. It was this opposition—the Berlin report dismisses it as the opposition of "armed bands"—that the Germans met in landing at Helsingfors. This movement for a free government has the support of the Finnish people and all who had for years struggled for Finland's independence. Its representatives have already made appeals to all the Allied nations for support, and Dr. ILLIO N. REUTER has been in this country for some time seeking to secure for the provisional Government thus established the recognition of the United States.

The Germans have strengthened their position by occupying the islands of Aland. They evidently intend to retain possession of these islands, for the control of the Baltic, thus dominating not only the Russian coast but also the coast of Sweden and Norway. With Finland as a subservient vassal state the power of Prussia would be completely established in northern Europe, and not only would all hopes of Finnish independence be dissipated, but the national existence of the Scandinavian countries would be in peril.

The Dyer Bill.

THE SUN shares the opinion of "G. W. B." as to the unconstitutionality of the bill proposed by Representative DYER for the punishment of lynchers under Federal law. To make murder by mobs within a State a crime against the United States would require, in our opinion, an amendment of the Constitution. The notion that such a statute might be upheld under Section 4 of Article IV., which provides that "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against domestic invasion; and on application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence," is fantastic; the general welfare clause does not cover the situation; even the elasticity of the clause conferring power on the United States to regulate commerce is insufficient to qualify it to cover Mr. DYER's measure.

But we are at odds with our correspondent when he assumes that the internment of all Germans—and he fails to define what he means by "Germans"—would end lynching. The fact that a few citizens or aliens sympathizing with the Kaiser have been victims of mobs does not tell the whole story. We had mobs and lynchings before we went to war with Germany; these shocking occurrences are not new developments in the United States, and their cause is not unknown or even obscure.

They are the legitimate fruit of corrupt, inefficient, cowardly failure by the authorities to enforce the laws. In California that failure caused the erection of a mob government of considerable dignity, orderly processes and admirable effect. In many remote settlements in pioneer days the vigilante organizations were the crude instruments of good government and the conservers of public order. They came into being because the authorities were weak; they endured until the authorities became strong. Lawlessness was not the inspiration of their formation, but the incapacity of government to repress lawlessness, and when government assumed its proper place in their communities they went to pieces.

It is the same to-day. Not evil deeds and evil doers, but impotence among the authorities lead to lynchings. We should have them in New York did not every citizen, whatever his disposition, know that the police of this city will defend prisoners from attack at the cost of the lives of their assailants, to say nothing of their own. Whenever government neglects its primary functions, caters to disorder by tolerating its expression, falters in its duty, there are lynchings, and the way to prevent them is by strengthening the ordinary agencies of government, not by creating new ones.

The case which has brought lynching to attention at this time is typical. A spineless police surrendered an accused man to a mob of immature boys and of men inflamed by liquor, led by a drunken man, and he was murdered without a single effort to protect him worthy of the name. One New York patrolman, a Pennsylvania State trooper, a member of the Northwest mounted police would have saved him unaided and put the mob to rout, and would have thought nothing of his exploit. Such being the case, neither a Federal statute, such as Mr. DYER advocates, nor the internment of all "Germans," which our correspondent proposes, is necessary to cure the evil, which can best be met by the relentless application of policemen's locusts to the heads of those who defy authority, whoever they are and whenever and wherever their defiance is manifested.

The Call to American Man Power.

The leaders of our Allies continue to emphasize the need for great numbers of American soldiers on the western front without delay. Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, the British Foreign Secretary, is the latest to give voice to this conviction. In an address to the American Labor Delegation he said: "What is now most pressingly required is that the fighting forces of the United States should be brought as speedily as possible into the field."

There can be no question about it. The moment demands men. Germany seeks a decision by sheer force of man power. The favorable decision she reaches for can be kept from her grasp only by man power. The greatest battle of all time will be decided by the human element. The side that falls short in men will fail to win.

Germany knows it and hastens to press her stroke home before America's man power can add its strength to the still unbroken wall before her. The Allies know it and send forth urgent appeals to us for haste. The United States knows it and is stretching every nerve to meet the need.

We are doing our best to make the man power of America available without an hour's avoidable delay. We are doing better than we had planned. We are probably doing more than any one had believed possible in this length of time. But we are not yet doing enough.

We are not doing enough because we are not yet doing all that we can. We have not yet begun to draw upon our man power in the way that England and France and even Canada have done. We are prepared to do it; we are eager to do it; we will do it. But we have not done it yet.

The time has come. The fate of democracy and all that the free peoples of the world hold sacred hangs in the balance. We must make our supreme effort now, not later. The crisis will not wait.

There is one question which the American people and those charged with the heavy responsibility of the administration of their affairs should ask themselves at this moment: How can we send more men? This does not mean, Are we living up to our schedule or bettering it? Are we sending all or more than we had planned? Are we filling the places of those we send, so that we may send more as rapidly as they are trained? All these questions may be answered in the affirmative, and still the United States may be falling short of its sacred obligation.

Are our plans big enough? Have we all the training camps that we could use? Are we drafting men fast enough? Are we doing all that we can? These are the vital questions that we should ask ourselves. THE SUN believes that the answers must be in the negative.

We should have a plan quite as great. We should have twice as many training camps. We should draft men twice as fast. We should double our exertions all along the line.

Nothing would so hearten our Allies, who have borne the burden and heat of the cruel, pitiless day. Nothing would so dishearten the Germans, who know that the fate of their hopes and pretensions lies in the man power of America. Nothing would so hasten the triumph of democracy and righteousness. Nothing would do more to shorten the war, to reduce its ultimate cost to the world and to America, to save American lives.

German militarism must be crushed, or it must be compelled to admit defeat and to accept the consequences of defeat. Man power alone will bring it about. The man power of America must strike the final blow. It must strike with irresistible force and lightning speed.

The War Pigeon and the Industry of Poultry Farming.

During the war animals of various kinds have proved of the greatest value to the armies in the trenches. Besides these friends of man, other creatures like the birds have been the protectors of the food of nations by preying upon and destroying the parasites which ruin the crops, and have accomplished marvellous feats of pluck and endurance in carrying despatches and S O S calls. The French have a beautiful custom of decorating their faithful dogs and the no less faithful pigeon. From "Somewhere in France" comes a full report of the training and breeding of homing pigeons, which is decidedly useful at this time as a lesson in modern "liaison" work.

According to the *Revue Scientifique*, which has devoted special articles to the subject of the animals used in war work, the science of the homing pigeon as an arm of warfare must be strenuously developed. For this purpose farms where pigeons and poultry are bred are urgently needed, since the business of breeding homing pigeons is too expensive to be profitable unless helped out by other kinds of farming. Considerable time must elapse in perfecting a race of birds endowed with the necessary intelligence, pluck and physical endurance. It is a gradual process, as pigeons begin their training when about three months old, their first flight being only about half a mile from their lofts, and the distance is gradually increased until they develop powers of orientation.

The endurance of these birds is extraordinary. In 1898 2,000 German birds were liberated from Dover on a race to Düsseldorf, a distance of 300 miles. Prior to the war two stalwart pigeons returned from a long distance race from Rome to England, a flight of 1,000 miles, and some thousands of birds have flown from France and from the foot of the Pyrenees to London, a distance of 500 miles. It seems to be possible to improve upon these flights, for the science of the homing instinct has been more attentively studied than ever before. It was a moot point whether a pigeon could be induced to "home" to a loft which was not stationary—and also whether he would fight his way through the gas and smoke of a modern barrage when liberated from the little basket in which his convoyer had carried him into the trenches, but these difficulties have been marvellously overcome. Stories are published of pigeons combating not only their natural enemies, the hawk and the storms, but the crash of shells and columns of dust, and clouds of smoke from the battlefield, carrying their message through it all in a diminutive aluminum tube fastened to the leg.

One of the most interesting features of this account of the war pigeon is the question whether that bird is used by spies. The answer is generally in the negative. A spy would find it difficult to carry a crate of pigeons with him and liberate them unseen. It might be done from a motor car and aeroplane, and for this reason the industry of pigeon farming and the management of lofts should be under Government regulation. However, the use of pigeons by spies is undoubtedly a danger.

The shades of the old New Yorkers who pulled down the lead effigy of GEORGE the Third were present when the statue of FREDERICK the Great took passage for oblivion.

Until my uncle, FRANCIS FERDINAND, died at Sarajevo I was a very secondary person.—*The Ruler of Austria.*

It will be news to the Kaiser that a change took place even then.

Having been the receptacle of a ton or so of British air bombs, Karlsruhe, capital of Baden, passes a resolution requesting the Imperial Government to try to obtain a general agreement for the cessation of hostile air raids on places outside the zone of military operations. Is it to Germany that we are indebted for the expression, When the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be?

A despatch from Buenos Ayres says that an officer of the Argentine army crossed the Andes by airplane from Zapata, Argentina, to Curico, Chile. As the distance was 112 miles and the aviator reached the height of 10,-500 feet in his flight, the feat was no mean accomplishment. Argentina is evidently meeting with success in the airplane programme which she announced a year ago.

Emperor CHARLES should have resigned.—*Giornale D'Italia.*

For once Berlin, even if not so openly blunt in its expression, was in accord with Italy.

There is one thing to be said in favor of the Germans. When they throw up their hands and cry "Kamerad!" they do not always add, "Ever since we were boys."

"ONE HOOKER A DAY."

He Stops Taking It and Gets Marvellous Results.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Until a month ago I used to take just one good hooker of whiskey a day.

Following the advice of the W. S. S. posters, I very suddenly made up my mind to add five cents to the daily output and turn that one drink into thrift stamps, purchasing one every day.

In the first place, I am no longer a whiskey drinker and no doubt physically benefited to this extent.

Further, in these days when economy is positively necessary, I do not spend this 25 cents a day.

My 25 cents a day is helping to finance the war.

Again, I have quite a large war garden, and into this garden patch I turn my twin boys of 14 years of age and pay them with the daily thrift stamp.

This further helps the war, as I can raise enough of all kinds of vegetables to supply my table for a family of ten for at least six months, and more or less canned vegetables for the entire year.

Last but not least, this one thrift stamp a day has inspired these two boys with the thrift idea, and no thought of running to the store for candy enters their heads, but all the thought is of the growing number of thrift stamps on their cards and the exchange of the 25 centers for those beautiful $5 War Savings Stamps.

The facts are exactly as stated above, and it would seem to me that many good patriotic fellows might see the possibility of even more toll being exacted from the little 25 cent bond, and work it to the very limit.

SUN READER.

NEW YORK, April 16.

Ben Franklin, Recruiting Sergeant.

NEW YORK, April 16.—The United States Marines have enlisted the services of Ben Franklin to aid in their recruiting campaign here.

The occasion warranted ceremony. Soldiers of the sea from the navy yard and a band paraded. Mayor Hylan spoke.

The marines did not doubt that the famous patriot would help their corps if he were alive. So without hesitancy they established a recruiting tent in front of the Franklin statue at Nassau street and Park Row.

The Right Pronunciation.

Now, some exclaim in tones of gush:
"I just adore that General Foch!"

More graceful speech by far than, "Gosh!
He's one big guy, that General Foch."

The linguists who are sure they know
Allude with pride to General Foch.

And, all superior, love to poke
Fun at those who call him Foch.

The Jag remarks: "Why, sure, I knowsh;
Cinch to shay it; name ish Foch."

Fo, Fosh or Fush; 'tis quite enough
If Teutons find he rhymes with Tough.

H. H.

THE DYER BILL.

Objections to a Proposal for the Punishment of Lynchers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As the result of a recent lynching at Collinsville, Ill., Representative Dyer of Missouri has introduced in Congress a proposed anti-lynching law which, to say the least, is sweeping in its provisions.

It provides that every person in the mob shall be deemed guilty of murder; that he shall be tried in a United States and not in a local court; that the county in which the riot occurs must forfeit $10,000 to the dependents of the deceased, or if he has none to the United States, and that officers of the law from whom persons are taken for lynching shall be punished by a fine of $5,000 and five years imprisonment.

I am opposed to lynch law and would favor any measure tending to eliminate it, but would the proposed bill of Mr. Dyer accomplish the end he seeks to attain?

Would not the better remedy be to eliminate the cause?

If some one were to propose a bill to intern every foreign born German in the United States, whether naturalized or alien, Mr. Dyer and a great many others would probably object to it on the ground that many innocent persons would suffer. That is true, but in time of war innocent persons always suffer. Some 2,000 innocent noncombatants have been killed in London alone by the dropping of bombs from the sky, contrary to the rules of humanity and civilized warfare.

Hundreds of thousands of women, children and old men have suffered death, and some of them horrors far worse than death, in Belgium, France, Serbia and Poland. Several hundreds of thousands of the flower of our nation are now under arms, and many of them on the fields of France giving up their lives to put down the greatest crime ever committed in human history and to insure the safety of mankind in the future. All are innocent and all are suffering and must suffer for a long time to come to save us here behind the lines.

When Sherman burned Atlanta and marched to the sea, many innocent persons were made to suffer. When Sheridan proposed so to desolate the Shenandoah Valley that a crow in crossing it would have to carry his luncheon he must have had in mind that many innocent persons would suffer.

To intern for the duration of the war every German in this country, naturalized or otherwise, would cause some to suffer. We believe there are some here whose hearts are true, but we also believe that they are in the small minority. Would it not be better for a few Germans whose hearts are true to suffer the inconveniences of internment rather than to have the German propaganda and its spy system running up and down the country, setting fire to our property, blowing up industrial enterprises, agitating strikes and fomenting discontent and opposition to the Government with immunity until legal evidence can be obtained of some overt act on the part of each particular individual involved?

If all Germans were interned, German language papers, which now insult the intelligence of decent people on the news stands, and other causes which now stir people to mob violence would disappear.

There is another objection to the proposed bill which the gentleman from Missouri has overlooked. In the early days, during the formative period of our Government, there was adopted a certain instrument known as the Constitution of the United States which is recognized by most of us as having some force and effect at the present day. There may be some so-called "citizens" in Congress and out, educated in the schools of Kultur, who regard it as a scrap of paper, but it has not yet been so declared by the great majority. If the gentleman from Missouri will get a copy of that instrument and read it carefully he will find that all rights not delegated to the Federal Government are reserved to the States, and he will hunt in vain for any delegation of power to punish local crimes committed by one citizen against another, or to punish crimes committed against an alien.

If the gentleman from Missouri will turn back a few pages of his history he will find that Mr. Hay, then Secretary of State, in writing to Baron Fava, the Italian Ambassador in 1900, deplored the lynching of several alien residents in Louisiana and offered to recommend an appropriation by Congress to compensate their dependents, but made it quite plain that under our dual system of government the State of Louisiana possessed the sole power to punish the guilty persons who committed the crime.

G. W. B.

NEW YORK, April 16.

The General Welfare Clause.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is not often necessary to disagree with THE SUN's interpretations of the Constitution, but I think there is room for a difference of opinion as to the constitutionality of the Dyer bill to remedy State laxity in suppression of mob violence.

Under Section 2, Article III., the Federal judicial power is extended to all cases "arising under the laws of the United States," and the question is, does the Congressionl power of legislation extend under the Constitution to this subject? Which means, will the Supreme Court so hold? I think the power of Congress to do so will be upheld by the high court because of what it has held in other cases. Article I., Section 8, provides that Congress may "levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States." The question is, does the Dyer law pertain to the welfare of the United States? If it does, it is a constitutional law. And it is generally admitted, THE SUN agrees, to be an advisable law if constitutional, which would, in at least a measure, indicate that it is for the Federal welfare.

The Supreme Court has approved of Congressional legislation on a number of subjects not mentioned in the Constitution under this general welfare clause, and these acts may be divided into two classes: first, subjects affecting the States, but where it is impossible for the State itself to legislate outside of its own borders; secondly, subjects where the State can and has legislated, and where the Federal law seeks solely to give force to the State legislation. In the first of these classes we may put interstate commerce and in the second the interstate transportation of liquors. Neither of these subjects is mentioned in the Constitution, and it was doubtless far outside of our forefathers' powers of divination that either subject, especially the latter, would become an issue in this nation. But the general welfare clause is a lifesaver, obviating in many cases the necessity of what you term "the longish way around" by Constitutional amendment.

If the Dyer bill merely empowers the Federal courts to enforce the different State laws on the subject, I am of the opinion that the Supreme Court ought to and will uphold it under the general welfare clause. But it is equally clear that Congress cannot make any law for the States on the subject. Its power is limited to the enforcement of the State's own laws. Additional power to do this may be found in Article IV., Section 4, that "the United States shall guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government." It is not to be supposed that the word "form" means "mere appearance," but "actual republican government," which cannot exist where there is laxity in the enforcement of law.

ALEX. DOYLE.

DEDHAM, Mass., April 16.

TESTING A MASTERPIECE.

With Louis's Wisdom and a Bit of Frame It's Easy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Just three years ago I discovered an interesting test for the decision of an absolute master painting. So often it has been asserted that it is difficult to adjudge the masterpiece without fail—and now that my test has proved indisputable and also found satisfactory by an out of town artist to whom I divulged it—I shall be altruistic in disclosing my discovery to your many readers and to still unborn artists and critics.

It is very simple, as all things great are, generally. Here it is:

Take any great painting or a painting by a minor artist—for brevity's sake let it be a canvas 40x50 inches. Now, get a frame, say, 5x6 inches, for short; place it on any part of the painting, and that space, if the painting is a master work, will be in itself a picture masterfully executed in every detail. Then place the frame over other parts, until the entire canvas has been inspected. If every 5x6 inches proves a little individual picture well painted, drawn and colored, only then may it be classed among works of absolute mastery. The frame for a canvas 8x10 should be 3x2, for a painting 100x70 make it 10x8, and so on, in proportion to suit yourself.

However, this works charmingly well. Sad to say, much of our modern work would not bear this test. For instance, put a frame 8x10 on any part of a radical picture, then you would be mortified to see a barn all out of drawing—a vaporous bit of sky look like rocks—an adobe house just a dab of paint—a glorious tree a mere stroke of the brush with no body, no organised beauty of nature's ramifications. Or take a conservative painting by an acknowledged artist at the museum, a lady seated at a table in a room. Place the frame anywhere around her—why, my dear Mr. Editor, the space in the frame contains nothing but a bare wall and a bare floor. Another artist who tries to imitate Van Miers but cannot reach his mastery could not be tested with my discovery. Again, try it with the marvellous marine painters. I tried it—behold, a brilliant red rock, just pigment slapped on, should be reflected in the water—but not a hint of red in the water! And so on, to the derision of the art gods! Are most of our modern artists jokers or are the public blind? I could go on with these examples. I will let the public go to the exhibitions and ask them to take a frame 8x10 along with them and be exhilarated with their finds.

LOUIS M. EILSHEMIUS,
Peer of Poet-Painters.

NEW YORK, April 16.

THE JAG OF MYSTERY.

Being the Strange Happening in Cape Town Port in the '60s.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with deepest interest the letters of H. I. Ball and Charles Hooper relative to the fermentive properties—not all peculiar—of the air in certain parts of the States of Washington and Texas. Thereby hangs a tale within my own experience, which when told upon rare occasions has apparently shocked the faith of many of my friends in my veracity.

Both H. I. Ball's and Charles Hooper's letters, though written in humorous vein, contain potential truths and possibilities beyond their thoughts. Fermentation by the process they suggest is no idle dream, but a stern reality and a common occurrence in various parts of this world, as many of our old time sailors can testify. Here's the tale and it's true, let scientists and others squabble over and explain or condemn it as they may.

In my naval days in the early '60s my ship lay at Cape Town, South Africa. Our officers were greatly annoyed by an extraordinary increase of drunkenness among our liberty men. With the most stringent liquor regulations apparently well enforced by the Cape police our men would be roaring drunk shortly after reaching shore. The most searching investigation of our officers and the British failed to disclose the source of supply of liquor, which seemed to be rather out of town. And so matters continued until a few days before our departure, when one of our repentent men gave away the secret, which was fully confirmed by investigation.

The would-be drunk first ate a peck, more or less, of the luscious grapes so cheap and plentiful there, then lay with his torso exposed to the broiling sun until fermentation had sufficiently progressed and a glorious and lasting drunk was acquired.

To both Mr. Ball and Mr. Hooper I owe a debt of gratitude for their potential confirmation of a story which has caused many of my friends to look askance at me. Theirs is the first confirmation in all the years that have passed. They wrought better than they knew. Let the credulous try the secret and be convinced.

AQUA SALIS.

WESTERLEIGH, S. I., April 16.

The Boss.

Knicker—Does your cook do general housework?

Bocker—No, she does generalissimo.

Ring the Bell!

Don't you hear the city's call?
Ring the Bell!
Plaza at the City Hall—
Ring the Bell!
Needn't know well how to play,
Needn't have a thing to say;
All you've got to do is pay—
Ring the Bell!

Hurry over after lunch—
Ring the Bell!
Hand the Kaiser a knockout punch—
Ring the Bell!
Put the Crown Prince on the trucks;
Only costs a hundred bucks.
What's a hundred, brother—shucks,
Ring the Bell!

Make it crack beneath the strain—
Ring the Bell!
Swing the clapper hard! Again!
Ring the Bell!
Ring the bell for liberty!
For the lads across the sea,
Fighting now for you and me!
Ring the Bell!

MAURICE MORRIS.

FINE OLD HOUSES ON THE EAST RIVER BANK RECALLED.

Suburban Life at the Foot of the East Eighties, Where Gracie and Rufus King Had Their Homes.

In THE SUN some weeks ago appeared a communication from Eugene Merz, asking about a large stone building that stood on the north side of Eighty-sixth street just west of Hell Gate Ferry. Soon after you published a letter from Joseph W. Greene, Jr., who told about the ferry, but did not exactly answer Mr. Merz. In 1854 my grandfather purchased for $20,000 from William Niblo of Garden fame his house and grounds, and from this date until 1866 my boyhood days were mostly passed there.

This house, a large square one painted white and three stories in height, with a cupola, stood in the middle of the block bounded by Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth streets and Avenues A and B, although at the time I write of Avenue B was not opened except from Eighty-fourth to Eighty-sixth street, and Eighty-third street ran only to Avenue A. The grounds embraced all of this block except the Avenue A front, which was owned by a Mr. Dowling, who had a house on the northeast corner of Eighty-third street. In 1867 this property passed into the hands of Thomas Rutter, who lived in a brick house that then stood on the northwest corner of Eighty-third street and Avenue A. His mother lived in a similar house on the upper corner and these were the only houses on the block front. His brother, William Rutter, lived in a low, rambling frame house on the north side of Eighty-fourth street, about middle of the block between Avenues A and B. On the northeast corner of Eighty-fourth street and Avenue A stood a white two story frame house occupied in the late '50s by Alfred G. Perry and later by a Mr. Letson, who was connected with A. T. Stewart & Co.

East of the present Avenue B, then unopened, and Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth streets stood a two story house with a cupola, formerly the Schermerhorn place but then occupied by Moses Hobby, who was vice-principal of the grammar school of New York University. South of the present Eighty-third street and east of Avenue A to the river was the Jones estate, the house standing on a bluff overlooking the river and occupied by the late Peter Gilsey. This property was reached by an old lane running via the line of the present Eighty-third street east of Avenue A. South of the Jones property was Bellevue Garden, a great picnic resort, and I can yet hear the strains of the "Slumber Polka," which was always the last piece played by the band before the dancing ended.

On the east side of Avenue B between Eighty-fourth and Eighty-sixth streets stood a two story stone house facing the river, with one story extensions on the north and south sides. A terraced garden ran to the water's edge. For some years after Carl Schurz Park was opened this house remained, but it has been removed. Here lived Samuel Jandon, with his wife and five children, two sons, Peyton and Frank, and three daughters, Ada, Mrs. Livingston and Mrs. Van Rensselaer. The stable of this property was on the northwest corner of Avenue B and Eighty-fourth street.

On September 10, 1800, Samuel Blackwell and others petitioned the city relative to establishing a ferry and laying out a road at Hoorn's Hook, the road to begin at the East River at high water mark fifteen feet northerly from the south line of Archibald Gracie, then west 100 feet, then northeasterly fifty feet, then westerly 1,200 feet, then northwest to a fence, then west 600 feet to the old road. This old road was a lane in 1770 or earlier and started from the Kings High Way, or Boston Post road, now the present Third avenue, at about the southeast corner of Eighty-fourth street and ran northeasterly by east to John Jacob Astor's, at the foot of Eighty-ninth street, and it was about at Eighty-seventh street and Avenue A that the road to the ferry joined it. After this connection was made the road through its entire length was known as the Ferry road. Previously the old road was known as Chauncey's lane. This road was closed in 1834, at which time Eighty-sixth street was probably opened to the river.

In May, 1801, the road was ordered to be immediately opened and ferry stairs erected, the ferry to run to Hallet's Point and to be rented for three years to highest bidder. A. Gracie and the heirs of Nicholas Cruger were to be paid $1,800 for the land taken for the road. The ferry now runs to Astoria. It is a shame that the old name has not been retained, it having descended from Colonial times, for in December, 1652, the ground was granted by Gov. Stuyvesant to William Hallett. The old ferryboat, Sunswick, was named after a creek that entered Hallet's Cove.

In 1808 Jacob McKeag, the lessee of the ferry, complained that the road to the ferry was in poor condition and he was ordered to improve it by digging down the crown of the hill, which was about one hundred feet from the northeast corner of the new house. For compensation he had the use of the ferry free of rent for two years from May, 1809; the house attached to the ferry and recently erected to be finished, &c.

The house was of stone, 43x23, two stories and an attic, and faced the water and was directly south of the ferry. In front was a raft of logs. Upon the raft rowboats were pulled up and the place was a resort for striped bass fishermen, the fish being abundant in the waters of Hell Gate. In the early '60s the house was kept by a sporting man whose name has escaped me. I well remember him. He was tall, slender and had a large mustache dyed jet black, and was willing to rent a boat to me when I wanted to row over and call on old Maxey, who had a fort on the extreme north end of Blackwell's Island where the lighthouse now is. In 1852, and for years after, stages ran from Chatham street to Yorkville, to the ferry, which ran to Fulton street, Hallet's Cove, every fifteen minutes, fare, three cents.

The stone building asked about by Mr. Merz was a stable. It faced north and was two stories high. On the south, or Eighty-sixth street side, it had a door opening into the second floor, above which was a fall with rope and pulley. This property, now the upper end of Carl Schurz Park, was long before the Revolution owned by a Hollander named Clausen or Classen, who gave the name of Hoorn's Hook to its northeastern point.

In 1799 the then owner, Gerard Walton, sold it to Archibald Gracie, whose house, built soon after, is still standing. He was a wealthy man, and here he entertained among others John Quincy Adams, Louis Philippe and probably Irving, who wrote "Astoria" at Astor's house that stood facing the cove at the foot of Eighty-ninth street. West of Gracie's was the residence of Nathaniel Prime, built about the same time and still standing in the grounds of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum. The first mention of the stable is found in a deed of May, 1819, when Gracie sold the grounds, "with country house, stone stable, &c.," to Rufus King, two of whose sons married daughters of Gracie. King disposed of the property in 1823 to Joseph Foulke, who paid $20,500 for the house and grounds of about eleven acres. From him the point was renamed Foulke's Point. It was part of the estate of his son, Jacob Foulke, who died in December, 1853.

Fifty odd years ago there was no more lovely spot than the bank of the East River, say from Jones's Wood north. The shore was dotted with country places with ample grounds well to do New Yorkers. The sparkling, swift running waters of the river and Hell Gate, the Sound steamers morning and evening, the Harlem boats, Sylvan Stream and Sylvan Dell, made an ever changing panorama, and best of all, all the people were American by birth and descent. How much English does one hear in Carl Schurz Park to-day?

JOSEPH O. CURTIS.

NEW YORK, April 16.

THE PAINTED CLOCK.

Utilitarian Reasons for Its Permanent Record of Eighteen After Eight.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Those who have harbored the impression that the placing of the painted hands on the wooden clocks outside of jewelry stores at eighteen minutes after 8 has some connection with the shooting of Lincoln by Booth must have been enlightened by THE SUN's editorial article calling attention to this fallacy. The camouflage clock on City Hall, which was responsible for the editorial article, has served one good purpose at least in correcting that impression. Of course the shooting of Lincoln had nothing to do with the placing of the hands in their present position! It was purely a commercial object which caused them to be so placed, just as THE SUN stated.

About two years ago one of your readers, through a communication to the editor, asked if there was any truth in the report he had heard somewhere about the shooting of Lincoln being the cause of the hands being placed in their present position. THE SUN printed a number of replies from correspondents, I being one of them. I was informed by the editor of an important jeweller's trade paper that by having the painter drop the hands down to the convenient figures of eighteen after 8 plenty of room is left for the insertion of the jeweller's name on the false clock. Placing the hands in this position gives a nice spread over which the name of the individual or firm can be placed so as to attract the eye.

The placing of the hands in this position divides the face of the clock symmetrically. At eighteen and six-thirteenths minutes past 8 the hands are equally distant from the "XII." and also from the "VI.," and two-thirds of the face is above the hands, half on each side of the middle.

D. L. W.

NEW YORK, April 16.

Texas Tried a New Diet.

From the Dallas News.

Frogs are leaping into unprecedented popularity this year, it is announced by local restaurant and hotel proprietors and the managers of fish markets. The restaurants which are carrying "frog saddles" on their menus—the average price being 40 cents an order—report that the public is taking more kindly to them this year than ever before, especially on meatless Tuesdays.

THE PROFIT IN ONE WORD.

It Was "Cafe" and It Doubled the Saloon's Receipts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN of April 12 John H. Jones in a letter entitled "Coffeeless Cafe" asks why every saloon, gin mill and rum shop in the city emphatically calls itself a cafe—where if you were to ask for a cup of coffee the bouncer would catapult you instanter.

I can enlighten Mr. Jones. In the late '80s I kept a saloon in Twenty-eighth street near Broadway. I had as patrons Dan Harkins, theatrical manager, John Gilbert and many actors and [illegible] celebrities. In their badinage and later they always referred to my establishment as a gin mill or rum shop. To avoid all this banter I went to a cabinetmaker and gave him an order for a plate glass to be artistically inscribed with the word "cafe" and embellished [illegible] with cathedral glass.

When it was set up my cash receipts almost doubled; if not unique, it was at least a novelty. Many saloon keepers paid me a visit and complimented me on the "originality" of my design.

But the wits affected to see it differently. John Gilbert took a card and on it wrote the following and pinned it to the woodwork:

"You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,
But the scent of the rum will cling to it still."

Dan Harkins, not to be outdone, wrote on his card the following:

"Abandon hope, all ye who enter here."

But the good old times are gone and I have retired many years ago.

WILLIAM [illegible]

NEW YORK, April 16.

"Dinkum."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN's definition of "dinkum" [illegible] is insufficient. "Dinkum," as the Anzacs use it, means "good" [illegible] "real," "genuine." A "dinkum" [illegible] is an officer who is actually [illegible] activities. No desk officer [illegible] be described as "dinkum" [illegible] sary meal, however good, would ever be termed a "dinkum" meal. What I would like explained is the origin of the word.

W. J.

NEW YORK, April 16.