THE JOURNAL

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THE LIFE SENTENCE

We are unable to appreciate as an argument in favor of the release of the Younger brothers the fact that they have survived in the penitentiary longer than was expected. These men were sentenced for atrocious murder. They were principals in an attempt to rob a bank in broad daylight, and in order to carry out their design the robbers were prepared to kill anybody who interefered, and did commit murder. It is to the credit of Minnesota that these men have been held in confinement as long as they have, and that misplaced sympathy has not set them free. It will be worth much to the reputation of Minnesota as a place where crime is punished, justice is done, and criminals are not made the beneficiaries of sickly sentimentality, if these notorious bandits are compelled to end their days just where they are. If they had died eight or ten years ago there would have been no question as to the justice of the penalty. The fact that they have survived till this time and are still in the enjoyment of life and making themselves useful to the state against which they committed so great a crime fails to present sufficient reason why they should now be released from the penalty which it was decreed they should pay. A life sentence should mean a life sentence if it was a just sentence when imposed.

Speaking of the apparent greater business activity in Minneapolis than in St. Paul and the peculiar fact that state capitals are seldom the best commercial cities of their respective states, the circumstance is explained by one of the recent commercial excursionists in the city who observes that this is probably due to the purpose of locating the capital of any political division at the dead center.

THE CUBAN OUTLOOK

The foreigners who bought the $500,000,000 to $600,000,000 bonds issued by Spain against the revenues of Cuba, have no doubt come to the conclusion that they cannot hold the United States responsible for the amount, since the efforts of the Spanish commissioners at Paris utterly failed to get our government to consent to such a preposterous saddling of Spanish debt upon the United States. It is not in the bond, and these bondholders will have to get what they can out of the Cubans, which certainly will not be much, if any.

No doubt the democratic newspapers which have been proclaiming that there is (Philadelphia Times, for instance) "a political and commercial conspiracy for the retention of Cuba, in which the representatives and advisers of the administration are engaged, the most infamous of all that have been hatched out of our new imperialism," would like to have our government assume this big indebtedness, but they will not be gratified. Senator Frye thinks the Cubans should insert a clause in their constiution repudiating this big Spanish claim, because it is most probable that, as soon as Cuban sovereignty is declared, the French and Spanish holders of these bonds, which they bought at a dirt-cheap price, will demand full payment and Cuba will not be able to pay and France and Spain will seek to recoup in behalf of their citizens. Mr. Frye holds that the Teller resolution of 1898 effectually prevents congress from amending or rejecting any part of the Cuban constitution and consequently his proposition to get the Cubans to repudiate the bonds aforementioned would be meddling and interfering in the way he has said was impossible under the Teller resolution.

The talk of an administration conspiracy to "crush the Cubans is about as absurd as the charge that President McKinley is secretly preparing with Miles, Otis, MacArthur, Wade, Corbin and other military men, to overthrow the republic and set up a monarchy and enslave 78,000,000 Americans. The president is proceeding, step by step, to carry out the policy of pacifying Cuba and preparing the people for self-government by establishing stability of government and security for life and property on the island. The Teller resolution does not supersede the Treaty of Paris and cannot. The treaty is as much a part of the supreme law of the land as the tariff or excise laws. It definitely requires the establishment of a stable government in Cuba before evacuation by our troops. It is the duty of the United States to do this and to insure stability. The president called together the constitutional convention on this understanding, viz., that the United States must see that the guarantees of stability given by the Cubans are sufficient. This is understood by all intelligent Cubans and two prominent Cuban papers have advocated the exercise of this function by the United States. The duty of our government is to actualize the Teller resolution and the terms of the treaty of Paris. One cannot be separated from the other, for they both are obligatory. One is of as much importance as the other. Both contemplate the security of both Cuban and United States interests.

Mrs. Nation's hatchet seems to have chopped a big hole in the crust of indifference and neglect of official duty in Kansas. The attorney general of the state has commenced to move at last and says that the prohibitory law must be enforced throughout the state.

THE ELECTORAL COUNT

Congress, in joint session, will this week go through the form of ascertaining and announcing the vote cast by the electoral college of each state. A change has been introduced in the mode of announcing the vote which deprives the presiding officer of the senate of the right to declare such and such persons elected after ascertaining from the tellers the state of the vote. Under the revised rules, the presiding officer can only announce the state of the vote as he receives the count from the tellers and make no decdaration as if he were the determining authority.

In 1877, when the Hayes-Tilden controversy nearly brought on the horrors of civil war, the function of the senate's presiding officer as the announcer and declarer of the vote for president and vice president, was the chief point in contention along with the dispute about going behind the returns. The electoral commission alone prevented a clash of arms, both parties agreeing to submit to the decision of that extraordinary court, one, indeed, entirely extra-constitutional. Yet this settlement, which to this day is characterized as a "fraud" by many democrats, who contend that Tilden was elected, was followed by a needed cessation of partizan agitation of the extreme kind and promotion of peace between the sections and the beginning of the great uplift of the southern states to industrial and commercial prosperity.

The settlement of 1877 proved a godsend for the south, indeed, and a strong stimulus to the national progress. The constitutional method of counting and announcing the presidential vote proved to be fallible and it may prove to be fallible again.

Anyone who has read the debates on the constitution in the Virginian convention of 1788, will recall what a hard time Mr. Madison and other champions of the proposed federal constitution then had to bring the dissidents around to their way of thinking. And in that Virginia convention there were many of the brainiest men in the confederation, many of them opposing the electoral college system on the ground that the people would have no part in the election of a president. The system was adopted finally because it was deemed best by the majority to filter the electoral power through a body intermediate, the original motion being that the people would elect the electors and they would vote at their own discretion for candidates for president and vice president whom they, in their judgment, deemed to be the most competent and worthy.

This conception has been entirely evaporated in practice, and thus the talk of direct popular vote is heard just now in stronger terms than heretofore.

It is difficult to see which course of action would reflect more seriously or produce consequences more to the republican party—refusal by the democrats in the senate to permit a vote on the ship subsidy bill, and thus kill it off for this session, or consent by the democrats to a vote and the passage of the bill by the republicans. In the first instance, the republicans would owe their escape from a very bad piece of business to democratic defense of the public treasury. In the second case, they would succeed in putting through a measure against democratic opposition which is well calculated to make serious trouble for the party in the next election, whether it goes through the house or not. The proper thing is for the republicans in the senate to kill it themselves.

The British troops in China have three Chinese gods of special value and interest for sale. Ordinary cheap gods are sold every day. These three are no bargain-counter specimens but selected stock from the looting of the Chinese temples by British troops. And, yet, people wonder why the Chinese hate the "foreign devils." The conduct of Russian, French, German and even British troops in offering violence, indignities and outrage to the Chinese has greatly increased the difficulties of arriving at a peaceful settlement, and planted animosities and feelings of revenge in the Chinese nature which are bound to produce a large crop of consequences in the future.

Mrs. Nation is going on the lecture platform. It very often turns out that way.

Dr. Mary Walker and "Them."

Dr. Mary Walker, who still insists on wearing them, continues to furnish a problem to the thoughtful mind. She appeared in New York city the other day in imported tweeds, turned up at the bottoms, while in her natty four-in-hand scarf appeared a fancy pin. When she appeared on the tenth floor of one of the large office buildings, the news spread so rapidly that nearly all work was stopped in the building while the tenants crowded around and gave her quite an impromptu reception. Dr. Walker explained some of the troubles that her unwonted attire caused her. While addressing the legislature at Albany last week some one stole her silk tile, probably for a souvenir. A painful incident also occurred at the reception. A lawyer to whom she had been introduced as Dr. Walker did not understand. In his simple, hospitable way he slapped her on the shoulder and invited her and the crowd "around to Lipton's," Mr. Lipton being a dispenser of several varieties of liquid damnation whose use Mrs. Nation is doing so much to discourage in Kansas. Dr. Mary resented this and told him that he was no gentleman. "Neither are you," said an irreverent office boy, and this broke up the reception.

A woman who has never tried to wear "them" cannot conceive the trouble they occasion. Think of going to a hotel and sleeping in the nightly fear that some one may steal them for souvenirs or for a souvenir. Which is correct?

These violent changes, even when they turn up at the bottoms, are not easy to bring about. It is believed that Dr. Mary is the only lady who now openly goes to such lengths of garmentmental reform.

The enterprising town that holds up two fingers and whistles shrilly through its teeth now gets a Carnegie library.

Lord Roberts says that he did not have at any time nearly men enough to cover the territory overrun in South Africa. It is becoming clearer that Mr. Chamberlain bit off an extremely large mouthful.

Jack Chinn of Kentucky is now carrying a new vest-pocket hammerless "gun" that shoots little steel pellets 600 feet. Mr. Chinn's enemies will be given homeopathic treatment if they do not "treat" first.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me.
And there will be some mourning at the bar
When I get there, by gee.
—Mrs. Nation.

Chicago is enjoying fifteen inches of snow, with here and there some three-foot drifts. We repeat that the great winter resort has moved north.

OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS

The Deportation of Rice.

To the Editor of The Journal.

In the Minneapolis Journal of the 29th of January, I noticed the following article about George T. Rice, the editor who was deported from Manila:

A member of the First South Dakota regiment says he was well acquainted with George T. Rice, the editor who was recently deported from Manila by the military authorities for sedition. This soldier says that Rice conducted a vile publication and that while he was in the army he continually gave utterance to treasonable sentiments and was frequently ducked in the Pasig river by his comrades and would have been handled much more severely but for his youth. He was at that time a member of Company G of the Thirteenth Minnesota. Besides encouraging the Filipinos by word of mouth, he is also charged with being the author of a circular that appealed to the soldiers to shoot high so as not to wound the Filipino "patriots" when meeting them in battle.

I wish to state that the South Dakota soldier does not know what he is talking about, and that the whole article is false. The writer of this article is a resident of Kenyon, Minn., and during the Spanish-American war was a member of Company G, First North Dakota infantry. He has known George T. Rice since 1897. Rice was an inmate of the state training school at Red Wing, Minn., where he was sent five years ago from Albert Lea. There was no charge against him, but as he had no home he was placed in that school in order that he might be properly cared for.

While an inmate of the training school he learned the printer's trade, and in 1897, he came to this place and worked in a local newspaper office.

In February of 1898 he returned to Red Wing and in the following April inlisted in Company G of that city and went to the Philippines with the Thirteenth. I went to North Dakota in the spring of '98 and went with the North Dakota regiment to Manila. I met Rice while in camp at San Francisco, and at Honolulu, and quite often at Manila, and since I left the Philippines have kept up a correspondence with him. I have received copies of Rice's paper, the Daily Bulletin. Rice was discharged from the Thirteenth Minnesota in August, 1899. He remained at Manila and entered into a newspaper enterprise called the Philippine Publishing company, of which he was the owner. He next held a position as clerk of the "nautical expert" in the hydrographical office, which is the captain of the port's building.

About this time the Daily Bulletin, which is a paper published in the interest of the merchant marine and business men of Manila, and is owned by Corson Taylor, was started, and Rice was given a position as editor.

While Rice was a resident of Kenyon he was wel and favorably known by all as one never afraid to speak the truth. His record in the army was a splendid one. He was highly spoken of by his comrades and all who knew him. He was never known to utter any treasonable sentiments, and would sooner fight Filipinos than eat.

While the writer knew him he always upheld the policy of the administration, and in the letters and copies of the Daily Bulletin I received from him, I never saw one utterance against the administration. But, as the editor of a paper which was published in the interest of the merchant marine and business men of Manila and from whom it received its support, he, acting on the information received, made charges of excessive pilotage and moorage fees, which he claimed the captain of the ports put into his own pocket.

Knowing George T. Rice as I do, I believe there is something to his charges against the captain of the port, although Major Mills puts the blame on the editor and those who gave him information. We also doubt the justice of deporting him to the United States. George T. Rice is only 19 years old. He had two other brothers in the army. One of them, who is now a resident of Sargent, Minn., was shot through his left breast and left arm at Santiago, Cuba, June 1, 1898.

—Ole G. Sandstad,
Co. G, First North Dakota Infantry.

I wish to add to the above that George T. Rice worked for me as compositor during the year of 1897 and early part of 1898. He was a stanch republican and very patriotic. He had only one fault (?) and that was to fearlessly tell the truth, no matter whom it hit.

—Oscar H. Neil,
Editor of the Signal.

Edward's Ancestry.

To the Editor of The Journal.

Under the head of "The Edwards of England" in your issue of Jan. 25, a correspondent makes the statement that the king of England cannot be a descendant of Edward IV., "because Edward IV. and Edward V. were of the house of York, which was driven off the throne by Henry VII., and their line of decent ran out long before the present king saw the light."

Richard III. fell at Bosworth Field, in which battle his army was defeated by that of Henry VII. Henry afterwards caused to be put to death the young Earl of Warwick, who was Richard's nephew and the rightful heir to the crown. The male line of the Plantagenets thus became extinct. But Henry had still further strengthened his position by marrying Elizabeth of York, the daughter of Edward IV. This marriage united the Red Rose with the White and the houses of Lancaster and York were merged in the dynasty of the Tudors.

Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth, became the wife of James IV. of Scotland. Through Margaret, James VI. of Scotland was heir to the English throne and, on the death of Queen Elizabeth in 1602, became James I. of England. He was the great grandfather of George I.

These being historical facts, Edward VII. can, at a distance of twelve generations, claim descent from Edward IV., the "Lion of March."

—M. E. B.

A FALSE ACCUSER

In the Popular Science Monthly for February, Harvey Maitland Watts scolds the newspaper press of the United States for alleged indifference to scientific meteorology; for promoting the calling of the professional weather prophet and quack; for misrepresenting facts. Mr. Watts pats himself on the back as possessing vast meteorological knowledge and proceeds to repeat the rudimentary catechism and primer of the United States weather bureau, apparently under the impression that no newspaper men know anything upon the subject.

As a matter of fact, the newspapers of this country give all the space needful for the weather bureau's reports, and the American public are kept fully informed as to high and low barometer areas, velocity of wind, precipitation of moisture, temperature, probabilities, etc. Yet this Philadelphia critic says the newspapers "confuse facts"; "confirm popular error"; know nothing of the "main facts of weather drift"; "still accept the concepts of their grandfathers"; "refuse to recognize much, if any, difference between the scientist and the charlatan."

Of course, this is an atrocious libel on the newspapers, and all because the newspapers, in their general disposition to be accommodating, give Oldest Inhabitant and Pioneer and the rest a chance to tell whether there is going to be a dry spell or what the goose bone indicates about a hard winter, while at the same time giving up lots of space every day to the reports and predictions of the official weather forecaster of the signal service. The Philadelphia weather sharp is suspiciously jealous of the comparatively small space given to the unprofessional weather predicters, and would seem to fear the comparison of their guesses with the scientifically determined signs of the weather bureau.

Joy in Nebrasky.

Nebraska State Journal.

Snow now covers almost the entire winter-wheat belt of the United States. It will not only protect the wheat from frost, but will furnish moisture to nourish the roots and at the same do away with the Hessian fly, which has been a menace to the crop. The outlook is indeed encouraging.

AMUSEMENTS

Frederick Warde in "The Duke's Jester" at the Bijou.

Frederick Warde, one of the foremost actors of the American stage, is at the Bijou for a week's engagement. Mr. Warde was welcomed by two magnificent audiences yesterday which found a great variety of entertainment in his impersonation of Cecco, the Duke's jester, a role not new to Minneapolis audiences.

"The Duke's Jester" is a rather indifferent performance judged from the standpoint of the dramatist, but artificial and unconvincing as it is in construction, it is nevertheless strong in those passages in which the duke's fool, Cecco, an exiled nobleman who has put on motley to be near the woman he loves, pours out his passion. As a fool Cecco must dissemble, and his transitions from grave to gay, from bitter anguish to demoniac laughter, are marvelous revelations of the art of acting when depicted by an artist of Mr. Warde's capabilities.

It may be questioned if the stage has ever held a player with a finer, nobler enthusiasm than that which has actuated every step of Mr. Warde's histrionic career. His earnestness and genuine love of his art make him careless of everything else. Is it a bad night that prevents people from attending the theater? Are members of his company ill, rendering his task doubly difficult? Are there any one or a dozen of ten thousand vexations to try the soul of an actor confronting him? No matter. He cannot be put out or defeated. The noble enthusiasm that consecrates his art transports him on eagle pinions over all annoyances. He is the same virile, forceful, enthusiastic actor whether there are two or ten thousand persons in the audience. And it is most interesting to note the illumination of many passages in the text because of this splendid, vital enthusiasm—passages that would otherwise be gabbled over without leaving a trace of their significance.

It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that Mr. Warde never appeared stronger, clearer, more aspiring, than at yesterday's matinee performance. His voice is in excellent condition, and he looks the picture of rugged health.

E. R. Spencer, as the Duke of Milan, imparted an extremely Frenchy flavor to that noble personage, shrugging his shoulders and stalking about with a very Richard III. swagger. But Mr. Spencer read his lines well and acceptably played the duke and the fool alternately. Others in the cast were Cyrus Hales, Frederick Forrester, H. C. Barton, Alex McKenzie, Douglas Fairbanks, Ed Royal, Isabel Pengra-Spencer, May Warde, Florence E. Edford and Bessie Hunter.

—W. A. D.

Foyer Chat.

"The Belle of New York" began a brief engagement at the Metropolitan last night. The performance was bright, breezy and up-to-date. The company includes a cluster of stars and the result is a tornado of merriment. A review of the performance will appear in this column to-morrow.

"The Singing Girl," an opera new to Minneapolis, will be given on Thursday and Friday evenings at the Metropolitan by the Alice Nielsen Opera company. On Saturday afternoon and evening "The Fortune Teller," heard here two years ago, will be presented. An original theme for a comic opera is hard to get, but Harry B. Smith and Stanislaus Stange, who together concocted the libretto of "The Singing Girl," had the ingenuity to devise one. They selected the early part of this century for their period and placed their scene in upper Austria, thereby providing opportunity for richness of costuming and picturesqueness of scenery.

Since the days of Macready, the great English actor, who first played Richelieu, the part of the great cardinal has been a prime favorite with all great actors. Every tragedian aspires to distinction in two great parts, Hamlet and Richelieu. In the play of "Richelieu" there is the broadest scope for the actor's art. Mr. Warde and his company will present "Richelieu" at the Bijou tonight and Friday night. "The Duke's Jester" will be repeated on Wednesday matinee and Thursday night; on Wednesday night and Saturday matinee "Hamlet" will be the bill, and for Tuesday and Saturday nights "Othello" will be presented.

Vaudeville, especially when of a high class order, has never lacked for appreciation on the part of local theater goers and a most enjoyable entertainment of this order is promised the coming week at the Bijou in Fulgora's European and American Stars Kara, the juggler, who performs the most bewildering and graceful feats ever attempted; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sidman in "A Bit of Real Life"; Sam J. Ryan and Tom Lewis, in negro comedy; the Brothers Herne, in a mystifying act entitled "Substitution," Polk and Kollins, accomplished banjo soloists; Zeb and Zarrow, trick bicyclists; Hayman and Hayman, character comedians, will combine to present varied entertainment.

SKY STONES

Dr. Oliver C. Farrington of the geological staff of the Columbian museum contributes an interesting paper to Popular Science Monthly on "A Century of the Study of Meteorites." Up to the beginning of the last century, scientific men entertained a profound disbelief in stories of stones which had fallen from the skies. In 1803 a shower of stones fell in France which was investigated by the French academy and proof was given that the discharge was from outer space.

After that, scientists were keen to collect and analyze the sky stones, which were found to contain twenty-nine minerals already known upon the earth. Many theories as to their origin remain to be tested in the new century. The similarity between shooting stars and meteorites has been established and it is known that every day the earth encounters not less than 20,000,000 cosmic bodies large enough to produce the phenomena of shooting stars. The number in space is beyond calculation. Dr. Farrington remarks that all theories as to their origin have proven fallacious. No satisfactory evidence of the existence of extra-terrestrial life has been obtained from meteorites. Science is nonplussed when it comes to meteorites.

Not Too Much Business.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

That permanent court of arbitration that grew out of the peace conference at The Hague is now sitting and ready for business. International disputes are to be settled in short order; diplomatic grievances adjusted while you wait. And yet it is doubtful if the court will be overrun with business.

A Secret Contract

BY J. McLYALL.

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Of all the races on the face of the earth, bar none, the Chinese are the most indifferent to suffering, the most deceitful and the most cruel. As they have no pity or mercy for each other, they cannot be expected to have any for foreigners. No Chinaman dreads death. He is a liar to his wife, to his children and to himself. He is cruel to everything that lives. Much has been written of his filial respect. It is true that he assumes a reverence for his parents, but it is also true that if he saw one of them drowning he would not stretch forth a saving hand. He is crafty and hypocritical far beyond any other nationality, and, much as he pretends to love his religion, he never lets it interfere with his greed, selfishness or revenge.

However, if you care to know which is the worst type of a barbarian race, it is the Chinese pirate. He is a convict and an outlaw before he becomes a pirate. If he were not a thief, robber and murderer he would not be taken into a band. He is a fiercer and more persistent fighter than the Malay or the Arab. On land, as a soldier, he will run away when he knows he is defeated, but on the sea, as a pirate, he will go down with his junk rather than surrender or draw off. If taken prisoner, he will try to kill at least one of his captors, and whether successful or not, he will put an end to things by committing suicide if the opportunity occurs.

In the year 1886 I was half owner and captain of the bark Wanderer in the China trade, and while at Canton I received a queer offer from the viceroy of that province. Piracy, as far as meddling with foreign commerce was concerned, had long been dead, but there were plenty of Chinese pirates who still preyed on the crafts of their own nation. For 300 miles to the north the coast is studded with islands, among which a fellow named Wong-Chin has his rendezvous. He was credited with commanding twenty junks and 600 men. For years he had no doubt paid the viceroy and other officials a commission on his plunder. He finally got so strong and bold that he refused to pay further tribute, and when a few war junks were sent to bring him to terms, he captured the crafts and butchered the crews to the last man. The viceroy naturally felt that he had to do something to restore his authority and keep his record at Peking clear. Through a mandarin and a firm of American importers he made me an offer. I was to arm and equip the Wanderer for a cruise, take all the risks and be paid so much per head for all pirates killed and so much per craft for all junks destroyed.

I should not have entertained the proposition under ordinary circumstances, but it so happened that certain things nicely fitted in with it. I could pick up a large crew without much trouble, and at Canton was a German who wanted to go into partnership with me. He was agent for Herr Krupp, and had with him four quick-firing six-pounders, and half a dozen rapid-fire guns, with plenty of ammunition. He had gone to Peking with his ordnance, but it was altogether too new a thing for the Chinese, and it had come back to the coast to be reshipped to Germany. I made terms with the agent, and then I entered into a written secret contract with the viceroy. Of course, he did not appear in the matter, either personally or by name, but nevertheless he was backing it for all he was worth. A sum of money amounting to $25,000 was deposited to my credit in advance, and then we began work in earnest. I picked out thirty good men for a crew, and got among them ten who had seen man-of-war service. Needed alterations were soon made, and when we finally got ready to sail to the north we were in shape to give a good account of ourselves.

I had but one plan from the start. I knew the island on which the pirate leader had his headquarters. I knew, also, that we would have to trick him to get him to attack. We might sail up and down with a foreign flag flying and he would keep hands off. On the other hand he would not look for us to interfere in case he cut a junk out from under our very bows. After getting within fifty miles of his island, I hired two trading junks to act as decoys. Their crews were delighted at the idea of bringing old Wong-Chin to book, and cheerfully agreed to play the part assigned them. The pirate junks voyaged for a hundred miles up and down the coast, and for fifty miles to sea, but, as all the fleet had gone north on an expedition just at this time, we were above the island before we sighted any of them. There were eighteen junks in the fleet. The pirates were returning home disappointed of plunder. At first sight of them we hauled up and stood out to sea, as if seeking to escape, and as a further enticement, we made the bark look a wreck aloft. What I wanted was to draw them well off the land, and the trick worked beautifully. We were fifteen miles at sea before we showed our hand.

If those men had been anything but pirates we could have cheered them for the way they came on. Old Wong-Chin, as admiral, had studied out certain tactics, and the fleet executed quite a number of maneuvers before finally closing in on us. He had planned to take us without much fuss or noise, and there was little firing as the crafts approached. From a count of the men in three different junks I estimated the total number in the fleet at 550. Our decoy junks had the usual ten men apiece, and the pirates would estimate our crew at about sixteen. We looked to be such easy prey that I wondered at the whole fleet's coming after us. The fellows may have looked for a brief resistance with small arms, but they had no idea of the surprise awaiting them. While I attended to the sailing of the bark, the agent took charge of one of the six-pounders, the mates of two others and the boatswain of the fourth. Old men-of-warsmen had the handling of the one-pounders, and we girded ourselves up the see the fur fly.

Of a sudden, and as the leading junk fired slam bang into us with a solid shot, the hidden ports in our bulwarks were opened and the music began. It was like shooting with a rifle at a barn door. Those chaps must have had many surprises in their time, but nothing like our opening salute had ever happened them. True to their nature, they attempted to fight back, but their crafts were blown out of water while the crews pointed their guns. Wong-Chin soon saw that he must close in with us to make his strength tell, but as we had a good working breeze, I baffled all his plans. I don't believe it was over ten minutes from the firing of the first shot when we had destroyed twelve of his junks. The one-pounders swept the decks of men and the six-pounders drove through the hulls of three and four junks at once. When I had placed the bark between the rest of the fleet and the island, the Krupp agent said he wanted to go slower in the firing. He had never seen his guns in actual service before and he wanted to make notes and watch results.

The only excuse I can offer for annihilating that fleet is that it was manned by pirates. I was bound to earn my money to the last "cash," and did not intend to let one single man escape. We kept away and used the six-pounders alone, and no one ever saw prettier plays with ordnance. When a shell was used and exploded just right, the junk was on her way to the bottom by the time the smoke lifted. Where we used solid shot it took three of them to knock the craft into kindling wood. Not a junk attempted to sneak away, though some could have made their escape had they tried. As long as a gun would bear on us the pirates kept firing away, but when they realized that they were doomed, they defied and reviled us and died with curses on their lips. We saved the flagship for the last, and it was not the pirate leader's fault that he did not lay aboard. A shell was finally fired into his craft amidships, and the explosion of the missile divided her into quarters. Wong-Chin screamed at us to the last second of his life. We did not take a single prisoner, nor was one junk left floating on the bosom of the sea.

I expected treachery on the part of Hu-Li, the mandarin middleman, and was not disappointed. He wanted the $25,000 to settle the whole thing, whereas, there was over $100,000 due us. We got him to make a short run to sea with us, accompanied by an old junk, and then we turned the guns loose on the craft as an object lesson. It was a success. The old coon came down as softly as you please, and settled up with us on the square. England tried to raise a scandal over our work, and I believe the French protested, but nothing ever came of it. We had done the whole world, as well as China, a good service, and the life of a Chinaman, even when classed as a respectable citizen, is held too cheap to kick up much of a bobbery about.

Current Topics.

PROF. JOHN H. FINLEY of Princeton University.

The widely know ex-President of Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, and former editor of Harper's Weekly, has assumed direction of THE JOURNAL'S CURRENT TOPICS CLUB series on ***"Colonial Governments of Today—Their Strength and Their Weakness."*** Prof Finley is an expert on the governmental needs of the new colonies of the United States. He has visited Porto Rico especially to study those needs and will contribute the final article of the series summing up the questions of colonial government as they relate to the new colonies of the United States.

Specially prepared articles on Currant Topics, explanitory and instructive, are often just what the newspaper reader wants. Readers of The Minneapolis Journal are to have this advantage. The Journal for February 18 and the special mail edition for February 19, will contain the first of a series of articles under the general title of

The Current Topics Club.

Amoag the subjects to be treated are

"Colonial Governments of Today," with reference to the colonial questions that confront our own country.

"The Opportunity and the Man," which will show whether the opportunities are all gone.

"The Art of Living a Hundred Years," not a whimsical notion but a matter of scientific as well as popular interest at this time.

"American Life a Century Ago," interesting and instructive comparisons and contrasts with the present.

"The Woman's Club Movement," and what it is really accomplishing, and

"What the Government Does for the People," a valuable and instructive insight into a matter about which the most of us have rather vague notions.

Beginning one week from today these articles will appear daily in **The Minneapolis Journal.**

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL,
No. 21 Park Row.

Nursing the Corporations.

Feb. 11.—At last there seems to be a general sentiment in this city and state to deal more leniently with the vast corporations whose main offices, under one name or another, are always here. Important amendments in the corporation laws of the state of New York have been promised during the present session of the legislature, and there is every prospect of the promise being made good. For some years, under a mistaken policy, New York has vigorously sought to drive from the state the financial interests on whose location here the prosperity of the city and state is so largely dependent. The effect has been peculiar. The great corporations and men of wealth have been obliged, by the peculiar conditions of finance and commerce, to maintain their headquarters here, and at the same time, owing to the peculiarities and stringency of our tax laws, most of the big corporations and many of the men of great wealth have had their legal habitat elsewhere. Hundreds of millions, yes, billions of dollars of incorporated capital have gone to other states. There the companies have been formed under more lenient and agreeable laws, and the corporations, under the legal fiction of maintaining a branch office in the metropolis, have actually made New York their headquarters. The mills and plants of the industrial corporations have of course been located all over the country, in many cases not a single one being located in the state fathering them, but at all times the selling of the products of the various companies, and the management of great interests, have been from here. It is somewhat anomalous that in a state in which such enormous amounts of capital are employed there should be such general complaint that the laws bear heavily and unequally upon corporations, for it is mainly by incorporation that capital is nowadays made effective. Not only is the burden of taxation complained of, but there are other disadvantages which lead to incorporations in other states. Many states have embodied loose provisions in their corporation laws merely to invite capital there for the collection of moderate fees for incorporation. Then in these states the laws have permitted the conduct of business by the corporations to be in as lax a manner as they might elect. There is no demand or desire to enact loose laws for corporations in New York state, but it is justly regarded as most essential that the policy of the state be changed from the enactment of laws to drive corporations elsewhere to the adoption of laws to bring capital here. With lenient but protective legislation almost every corporation now doing business in the state of New York could be induced to locate here permanently in the legal as well as in the actual sense, and, in addition, future formations of great corporations would be completed here. Altogether this would mean millions of dollars annually to the state for incorporation fees and yearly taxes.

Liability of the Directors.

Many men are averse to becoming directors in this state on account of the exceptional liability imposed upon them. This is entirely apart from questions of taxation. It is by no means desirable that directors here should be relieved from liability for the payment of unearned dividends or the impairment of capital, or for incurring indebtedness beyond the authorized limit when they are in any way responsible for the violation of legal restrictions. But directors do not feel justified in incurring a risk to become jointly, severally and personally liable for all the debts then existing, or thereafter incurred, if certain annual reports are not made at the time required by law. This is the reason for so many corporations being formed under the laws of West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and Washington, while as a matter of fact they are New York corporations. In addition to this there is a tax of one-eight of 1 per cent of the full authorized capital. This must be paid before a certificate of incorporation can be obtained under New York laws. Just across North river in New Jersey the tax for this purpose is but one-fiftieth of one per cent. This makes a tremendous difference when a corporation of from one million to one hundred million dollars is to be formed, and the result during 1900 was that the one-eight of 1 per cent tax in New York state yielded only $350,000 to the state treasury, while New Jersey's one-fiftieth of 1 per cent brought $2,000,000 into its coffers. There are located in New York many corporations with an authorized capital of $100,000,000 that, had charters been secured in this state, a tax of $125,000 for each would have been imposed. In Trenton the cost for the same was $20,000. New York state does not benefit in any way by this action, while much is lost. This is the policy which practically all the business men of this city and state are agreed must be changed if we are to get the financial results from business we are now excluding by maintaining a ridiculously high Chinese wall.

New Jersey Is to Near.

New Jersey is altogether too near New York for the latter's financial comfort under existing laws. It is apparent that this state must do much by way of invitation to capital and corporations in order to reap benefits. Governor Odell has appreciated this condition, and before the present session of the legislature closes there is every promise that our statutes will be in such shape that capital coming here will receive a hearty welcome instead of being frostbitten. With certain corporations, those not engaged in transportation or operations that are visibly a use of capital within the state, there are certain other advantages in being "foreign" to our laws. If a large part of their trafficking can be carried on in Jersey City, for instance, they may be subject only to the New Jersey franchise tax, which is one-tenth of 1 per cent on the nominal capital up to $3,000,000; one-twentieth on additional capital up to $5,000,000, and one-two-hundredth on the excess over that limit, giving distinct encouragement to large capital. In this state the franchise is one and one-half mills per dollar on the capital if dividends do not exceed 6 per cent, and one-fourth mill additional for each 1 per cent increase in dividends. For instance, a corporation with $50,000,000 preferred stock paying 7 per cent and $50,000,000 common stock which earned 6 per cent, would pay a yearly franchise tax of $162,500 in New York and $8,750 in New Jersey. Unless it was necessary to have its business in New York, this would determine the side of the river upon which it would locate, apart from any consideration of higher cost of property or greater local taxation on real estate.

The Great Dividend Payer.

The Standard Oil company still keeps to its record of being the best dividend payer on earth. This month sees a 20 per cent dividend on the $100,000,000 capitalization of the company, just as in February of 1900 Wall street was surprised with the same kind of a dividend. This 20 per cent dividend, which is payable March 15, to stockholders of record Feb. 15, is a quarterly dividend of the company. Thus the stockholders of the Standard Oil company will receive $20,000,000 in dividends with the certainty of having three more dividends during the year, each one of which may reach the same figure. Over and above all this there is also the playful little habit of the Standard Oil directors of surprising their stockholders with extra dividends every once in a while. During 1900, for the full year, 48 per cent was paid in dividends to Standard Oil shareholders. In 1899 they had 33 per cent, in 1898 20 per cent, in 1897 33 per cent, and 31 per cent in 1896. During each of the five preceding years 12 per cent dividends were paid annually. It is interesting to note that since 1895 the company has paid in dividends more than twice the amount of its capital stock. It is no wonder that the stock is selling around $815 for a $100 share. At this time the stock is selling for nearly twice its price of a year ago.

—N. N. A.

NORTH STAR TWINKLES

Red Lake Falls leads all the north towns, except Crookston and East Grand Forks, in population. Give us twenty-one thirteen-inch guns at sunrise.

The sympathy of the state press is with Jens K. Grondahl, and that is as nothing compared to—the salary of public librarian.

Duluth business men will hold a meeting to protest against President Hill's big steamships making the port something like a flag station.

According to the Free Press the only proper home for retired and well-to-do farmers is the city of Mankato.

Mayor Carter of Mankato has not made up his mind as to making another dash for the tape.

The music of the McCormick binder is to be heard in northern Russia. R. P. Herrick of St. Cloud will have charge of the McCormick interests with headquarters at Moscow.

It begins to look as if the Schiffman-Warner-Reese push will not be as popular as the Alexandria Post-News would have them, by the time the Mollie Morris bouquet has been passed around the circle.

Mayor Hugo wants Duluth represented at the Buffalo exposition.

Tax collection at the head of the lakes is not like getting money from home.