THE JOURNAL

LUCIAN SWIFT, MANAGER. | J. S. McLAIN, EDITOR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL.

One month $0.35
Three months 1.00
Saturday Eve. edition, 20 to 26 pages..... 1.50

Delivered by Carrier.

One week ..... 8 cents
One month ..... 35 cents

All papers are continued until an explicit order is received for discontinuance, and until all arrearages are paid.

THE JOURNAL is published every evening, except Sunday, at 47-49 Fourth Street South, Journal Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

M. LEE STARKE, Mgr. General Adv. { New York Office, Tribune Building. Chicago Office, Tribune Building.

W. W. JERMANE, Representative. { Washington Office, 45 Post Building.

AN INVITATION is extended to all to visit the Press Room, which is the finest in the west. The battery of presses consists of three four-deck Goss Presses with a total capacity of 144,000 eight-page Journals an hour, printed, folded and counted. The best time to call is from 3:15 to 4:30 p. m. Inquire at the business office and be directed to the visitors' gallery of the press room.

Democratic Folly.

There is a rather turbulent condition of affairs in congress at the close of the last session of the fifty-seventh congress. The house democrats boiled over, yesterday, because a republican was seated, after investigation in the St. Louis case, and forgot how many times they did the same kind of seating when they were in control of the house. In the senate, Senator Blackburn pledged his party to obstruct business to the extreme of its ability to do so, unless the republicans agree to a vote on the Hoar-Littlefield anti-trust bill, which was introduced after all the available anti-trust bills were enacted.

This measure is supported by the democrats because it goes considerably farther in dealing with the trusts than the latter, and they want to record their vote upon it for campaign purposes, and make a pretense of furthering radical legislation on the subject. Their scheme is to make it appear that they alone are the antagonists of monopolistic combinations, and that the republicans have been shamming all along.

The Hoar-Littlefield measure is partly incorporated in the Elkins bill; at least the sections directed against the offering and acceptance of rebates are, while the corporation bureau of the department of commerce provides for the publicity feature of the demand for anti-trust legislation, and, if it is not as drastic as the democrats seem to desire, and if the information the bureau obtains is to be given to the public only at the discretion of the president, no thoughtful person doubts that President Roosevelt will make public every delinquency on the part of the corporations under the law. To condemn the publicity feature and the anti-rebate feature of the present legislation before it shows what it is capable of doing is unreasonable and narrow. That legislation is designed to make up the deficiencies of the Sherman anti-trust law. The decision of Judge Grosscup in the beef trust cases seems to show that the Sherman law is strong enough as it stands to make serious trouble for the violators of that law. If the beef men appeal to the federal supreme court, it is more than probable that the decision will go against them, as the same principle was embodied in the Missouri Traffic association case decided against the association.

Instead of faulting the current legislation, which strengthens the existing statute, the democrats should accept it, and, if it fails in practice, they can strengthen public opinion favoring more drastic legislation. If is safe to predict that the new legislation is not to be ignored or weakly administered. The administration has correctly interpreted the dominant public opinion on the trust subject, and will continue to act aggressively and conscientiously in the line of its duty.

The Great Northern is to be congratulated on its new Pacific coast train. The southern transcontinental lines naturally shine in winter, but in the summer the northern lines ought to get the lion's share of attention and patronage from the cross country travelers.

Changes Slowly Made.

The effort to nationalize the metric system at this session of congress is destined to failure as previous efforts were. To make the system compulsory is not possible in the present state of the public mind. The government has used the system for some time for certain purposes. Mechanical and civil engineers are using it to a considerable extent in their calculations. Its general use will be a matter of slow growth. If the public discovers that the system is more convenient than the old one, it will gradually adopt it. Even in France where the metric system is firmly established, it was some time before it was generally accepted.

Ever since 1841 efforts have been made in England to secure the decimal system of coinage but the public there preferred to stick to pounds, shillings, pence and farthings. In 1854, a Decimal Association was formed to promote such reform in money, weights and measures, but no change has been made.

In our own country, as late as the fifties, people were talking and dealing in shillings and sixpences. The old dollar was divided into eight shillings and to that reckoning the people clung seventy years after the federal decimal currency was introduced. In 1821, John Quincy Adams wrote:

"Even now, at the end of thirty years, ask a tradesman or shopkeeper in any of our cities, what is a dime or a mill, and the chances are four in five that he will not understand your question. But go to New York and offer in payment the Spanish coin, the unit of the Spanish piece of eight, and the shop will take it for a shilling, and thus we have English denominations most absurdly and diversely applied to Spanish coins, while our own lawfully-established dime and mill remain to the great mass of the people, among the hidden mysteries of political economy—state secrets." In shillings and pence prices were stated on restaurant bills of fare in many localities up to the breaking out of the Civil war. But the lawfully-established decimal currency and nomenclature conquered.

After such a struggle for recognition of decimalization and ultimate victory, it certainly is not impossible that the metric system will one day work itself so into the habits of the people of this country that they will generally use it just as they, after obstinate resistance, recognized the advantage of the decimalization of the currency in every day business transactions. At the present time the metric system has been legalized by congress and anybody who finds it advantageous in business or in scientific or engineering calculations to use it, can do so. It can't be forced upon those who do not need or understand it as yet.

Why repeal the whole corrupt practices act because it has some faulty or ridiculous provisions?

Hypercritical Art Commissions.

These municipal art commissions are proving far more useful than their warmest supporters expected they would be. The Minneapolis commission saved Minnehaha Park from the Hiawatha statue, and the Chicago commission has just saved Chicago from a Kosicusko statue. Neither a Hiawatha nor a Kosicusko statue is objectionable, per se, but in both cases the commission detected departures in the statues from true art.

There was nothing much the matter with the Hiawatha statue, so said our local commission, except that the spectator was filled with fear that the warrior would fall flat on his face and crumple Minnehaha up considerably, until it was observed that the pedestal was firmly attached. In view of that very petty fault, we are not surprised that there has been a very general condemnation of the commission for decreeing that Fjelde's Hiawatha shall forever be banished from the haunts of the old human Hiawatha.

The Chicago art commission in rejecting Chodzinski's equestrian statue of Kosciusko, has thrown as much cold water on Polish patriotism and budding art aspirations in Chicago as our Minneapolis art sharps did on Indian enthusiasm and local art fervor when they exiled Hiawatha. Here, again, the experts condemn for trivial reasons. One of them is that the beholder is filled with a great fear that Kosciusko's snorting charger will fall over sidewise. Then, again, the bronze horse, is no horse at all, but the old-fashioned notion of what a military charger ought to be, the kind Napoleon bestrode when he pranced over the Alps, and the kind General Jackson rode at the battle of New Orleans. This prosaic Chicago art commission insists on an anatomically correct image of a horse. Then again the whole creation is too restless, for our sober times. The steed is making a mile in about about 1:59, and Kosciusko himself is turning sidewise in the saddle while pointing to the path of duty that leads but to the grave, or to something else. Everybody knows that nowadays generals are fond of steady going, sedate palfreys when they do not use automobiles, and that nine times out of ten they are phlegmatically smoking while the fate of nations is being decided.

We know all this, we know the old charger never existed in the flesh, and that the old warriors never attitudinized on the backs of their steeds, but just the same we confess a weakness for the rearing steed that threatens to fall over backward, and for the ability of his rider to overcome the force of gravitation. In such ways may artists impress us that they are immortalizing extraordinary men.

Congress has appropriated money for statues to Pulaski and Baron Steuben. 'Tis well, but Emperor William might have saved us some money and a lot of trouble by giving us a Steuben statue instead of one of Frederick the Great.

A Reversed Policy.

It is cabled that the kaiser's government has sent to the federal council a measure providing for the readmission of the Jesuits into Prussia and Germany, from which they were expelled thirty years ago under the drastic series of laws which Prince Bismarck caused to be enacted, after Dr. Falk had prepared them, against the Roman Catholic clergy both in Russia and Germany in 1873 and 1874. These laws gave the government almost complete authority over all Roman Catholic bishops, priests, schools and properties in Prussia, and they were enforced with much more severity than Combes has been enforcing the French law against religious associations.

Bismarck held that the subjects of these severe laws should give their first allegience to the civil government under which they lived, and not to a foreign ecclesiastical potentate in Italy. Pope Pius IX. retaliated by absolving all Roman catholics from their duties to the German laws. After Pius IX. died in 1878, Bismarck found that he would need the clerical vote to carry out some of his plans, so in 1881 steps were taken to modify some of the Falk laws and minimize the strong opposition in the reichstag, whither the controversy had been carried from the Prussian diet. In 1880, a thousand parishes had been declared vacant; leading ecclesiastics were exiled, the Roman Catholic professorships in theology in the universities were unoccupied and Bismarck, needing Centre votes to carry out his financial policy, began to yield, and Leo XIII. was ready to receive concessions, but made none himself. The culturkampf weakened and a qualified modus vivendi was reached, although Bismarck had declared in 1872: "Of this you may be sure, that we will not go to Canossa, either in our ecclesiastical or political relations."

He did, however, and, to-day, the kaiser is ready to go to Canossa by repealing the law against the Jesuits. In defense of the visits to Canossa, it is held, that the culturkampf was undertaken because the Roman Catholic hierarchy had shown a hostile spirit toward German unification under Prussia's lead, and there is no longer any danger from that source. As a matter of fact, however, it was imperial political necessity which compelled a surrender to the vatican. The Falk laws were monstrously severe and irrational and a blighting reflection on German professions of devotion to human liberty. It is true the attitude of the ecclesiastical element was seditions, but it did not seriously menace Prussia or Germany.

In the case of the McCormick Theological seminary of Chicago, the United States supreme court has rendered a very important decision. In substance, it is that not even special charters can protect from taxation the property of religious bodies not used for religious purposes. The decision is an eminently correct and democratic one. The moment a religious body begins to receive revenue from property not used for religious purposes, whatever may be the use of the revenue therefrom, it should pay taxes as anyone else does. If this were not so the holdings of religious organizations might become a great burden on the community, since their exemption from taxation would be a premium on the extension of such buildings, and would increase the tax burden of the very persons with whom a religious business might be competing.

Stevens Did It.

Representative F. C. Stevens deserves great credit for killing the Frye ship subsidy bill. Mr. Stevens was the marshal of the anti-subsidy forces, and he conducted a masterly campaign against the iniquitous bill. Mr. Stevens is deserving of all the more praise for the reason that he is not against subsidies on principle, but opposed this one as the special class grab which it was. Mr. Stevens would favor a subsidy bill that would really encourage the growth of American shipping, but he was resolute in his opposition to any measure that would be a mere rake-off for a few favored companies. We shall hear no more about ship subsidies for a long time, and for that we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Stevens.

If we must extend government aid to our shipping, it would be far better to do it along the well tried tariff lines. The tariff has had a large part in building up our manufactures, and it can be made to stimulate the growth of an American marine. A lower tariff for goods brought in American vessels would be a way of putting new life into the American merchant marine, without the risks and temptations and jobs of subsidies and without being a charge on the people.

It really begins to look as if the women's clubs would have to let up a little on Wagner and Browning, and devote more time to the art culinary. Here comes Professor Monaghan of the University of Wisconsin and says that 75 per cent of the drunkenness in the United States is due to a lack of knowledge of food properties. The wife doesn't give the husband normally stimulating food and so he gets it at the saloon, and generally takes too much At any rate the Carrie Nation woman can do more good for the temperance cause by learning how to cook instead of smashing handsome bars.

The senate insurgents are reported to be out again to prevent reciprocity with Cuba. It is hardly supposable that they will hold out long in a special session, and that is surely what they will get if the treaty is not law on March 4. The beet sugar senators must not imagine that because little has been said about the treaty of late the people have lost interest in it. They have taken it for granted that the treaty would be ratified. If serious opposition to it appears now they will be heard from.

An effort is being made to compromise the primary election contest in Wisconsin. The anti-La Follette men offer to apply the primary election system substantially as it is applied in Minnesota, leaving the state ticket to be nominated by convention. We should think that if the La Follette men can't get any more than that out of the Wisconsin senate, they would accept the compromise, rather than go two years more without an experiment with the system.

It is amazing how the negro problem has rapidly come to the front again. Here is the Milwaukee Sentinel, for example, sending its Mr. Vandercook on a tour through the south for the purpose of giving its readers an impartial view of the facts. Mr. Vandercook is writing some excellent letters, and is turning up in the darkest part of the south some very hopeful phases of the problem.

The owl cars are to be put on by the street railway company next week. The public must be prepared to hear a complaint in a week or two thereafter that they don't pay, but it is a complaint that should receive scant attention. With a gross income of $3,600,000 last year the company can afford to run a car now and then that does not pay.

STILL THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

New York Post.

We are moved to ask these questions in view of current discussions of the negro question in this country. In one way and another it has come rapidly to the front in the past few weeks. At public meetings of various kinds, in many pulpits on Washington's Birthday, the issue of the negro's political rights has been made the theme of debate. We shall certainly hear much more of it. Politically, the subject of negro disfranchisement in the south is bound to have great prominence in the next congress. In many republican quarters we hear again the old clear note of human liberty. The president's attitude, with that of the senate's, in the case of the few select negroes whom he has named for federal office, has aroused thought and provoked an agitation which bids fair to go to the root of things. It almost seems as if the old moral fervor of the republican party, in all that relates to human rights and equal opportunity, might be rekindled.

SURE.

Chicago Tribune.

"How did the doctor tell you to take medicine, Larry—internally or externally?"

"Nayther wan, sor."

"But look here, Larry; that's absurd. It must have been one or the other, you know."

"Nayther wan, I tell ye. He tould me to shnuff it up me nose."

A FAMILY JAR

Brooklyn Eagle.

Although 'twas in a public place,
Where family jars should never be,
My wife and I stood face to face,
When suddenly she rushed at me.

I pushed her with no gentle touch;
She staggered back and nearly fell.
Then, with a wild, excited clutch,
She tore the rose from my lapel.

I grabbed her by the arm, and she,
Her face as crimson as the rose,
Clawed in a frantic way at me,
And stamped upon my tender toes.

I seized her in a rude embrace,
Which only added to the brawl,
For as I tore a bit of lace,
She jabbed me with her parasol.

Perhaps I should explain that we
Were standing in a crowded car;
And every stop and start, you see,
Hurled us together with a jar.

AMUSEMENTS

Frank Daniels in "Miss Simplicity" at the Metropolitan.

Frank Daniels, laugh-maker extraordinary to the public, has long been in the van of his clan. He is, indeed, in a class by himself, for there is only one Frank Daniels and he was never like any one else. Nor can he impersonate another. No matter what his costume—and he has weird and striking sartorial ideas—nor what his make-up, he is always just Frank Daniels, saying and doing funny things and convulsing his audiences by the mere elevation of an eyebrow. Why he is funny no analyst ever succeeded in explaining and he would probably be at a loss himself if asked to give an inside view of his methods. His little old face, blinking with owlish wisdom, holds up to nature a convex mirror that distorts what is there reflected most oddly. On his slim shoulders he usually bears a weight of woe and trouble in the carrying of which there are countless laughs for the onlooker. His voice is comically expressive of the weariness that comes to the egotist for whom the world refuses to wag as he would have it. And his iteration with variations of some quaint mannerism swells what seems mildly funny at first into a very crescendo of merriment.

"Miss Simplicity," the vehicle in which Mr. Daniels rides to success this year, is rather better built than some of the ramshackle affairs in which he has hitherto taken passage. The plot is not much. But it gives an excuse for a varied string of pretty songs and ensembles, it makes a variety of costumes possible, and it furnishes a succession of troubles for the valet-king, his master and their sweethearts. R. A. Barnet, the Boston librettist, made the book, while the music is mostly by H. L. Heartz, with several striking interpolated numbers by other composers. One of the best of these is "Babette," a genuinely funny spook song, sung inimitably by Mr. Daniels. Another is the catchy "Don't Forget You're Talking to a Lady." Then there are two effective ensembles in the "Floradora" style, and several neatly turned duets. In fact, the musical and dancing features of the production are notably rich and varied.

Although Mr. Daniels, as usual, holds the center of the stage pretty steadily, there are other good ones in the company. Cecil Lean, as the smug doctor, who is picked out at once by Daniels for his pet antipathy, is one of them. His song, "He Did It So Politely," is a clever thing cleverly done. Frank Turner plays the real king easily and gracefully and sings rather well. Grace Orr Meyers, who plays the role of his sweetheart, sings with him a smart duet, "Some Do, Some Don't." Miss Meyers is pretty and has a sweet, albeit rather light soprano. Mai Lowery is another bud in the bouquet of beauty and is besides a comedienne of ability. An air of frank and childish naivete is what Mr. Daniels would call her Prince Albert, that is, her long suit. Florence Holbrook as the countess' maid-duenna, and Isabelle D'Armonde as a demure little English girl, round out the afore-mentioned bouquet with their variant types of loveliness. There is a large company to fill out the stage pictures, and minor speaking and singing parts are distributed with the liberality that has been in vogue since "Floradora" demonstrated what could be done by a little artful intelligence in this direction. Most of the parts, too, are reasonably well done, and the evidences of careful training and staging are many. "Miss Simplicity" offers an evening full of enjoyment with melodic memories that will haunt you afterward. —W. B. Chamberlain.

Foyer Chat

Harry Beresford, a talented young comedian, is to appear at the Metropolitan Sunday evening as Seymour Sites in George H. Broadhurst's comedy, "The Wrong Mr. Wright." Mr. Beresford is said to have the support of an excellent comedy organization.

Denman Thompson and Geo. W. Ryer's latest successful New England play "Our New Minister" will be seen here for the first time at the Metropolitan next Thursday evening. In this new play the authors of "The Old Homestead" are credited with a work of merit, presenting life as it is found to-day in any New England village.

One of the season's best offerings will be "At the Old Cross Roads" at the Bijou, next week. The cast is headed by Miss Estha Williams, and the well known romantic actor, James M. Brophy.

The Orpheum Show continues to draw large audiences to the Bijou. The Swedish Famine Sufferers' benefit still continues and great work is being accomplished in this direction.

"A Young Wife" as presented by the Ferris Stock companyat the Lyceum, is enjoying liberal patronage. To-night the state hardware dealers association will attend in a body. Sunday evening the company will begin their week of Sidney Toler's great comedy drama "The Belle of Richmond."

ADDICKS THE ABHORRENT

George Kennan in The Outlook.

Of the evidence obtainable in Delaware with regard to the use of depraved women as a means of disgracing legislators and enabling workers to hold or control doubtful men by threats of exposure, it is not necessary, at present, to speak. I must save some space for a consideration of the difficulties in the way of criminal prosecution, and for a few brief comments on Mr. Addicks' character. * * *

The first think that strikes one, in reviewing the history of his long struggle for the senatorship, is his weakness as a politican and manager. He is a bold and persistent fighter, an unscrupulous adversary, and a most adroit corrupter of men; but he is extremely imprudent, he is an extraordinary wreckless and foolish talker and he seems to be wholly lacking in the ability to forecast the results of actions or courses of procedure. As illustrations of his imprudence, take, for example, his attempts to get financial assistance from corporations and organizations outside of the state. At the beginning of one of his campaigns he went personally to a well-known manufacturer who is the president of a manufacturers' club in a large northern city, and said to him in substance: "I want your club to put up $75,000 to help me in Delaware. If you'll put up $75,000 I'll put up another $75,000, and with the $150,000 I can buy up the whole democratic party in the southern part of the state. Then, when I'm elected senator I can do a lot to help you manufacturers."

In another case he made to the representative of a Pennsylvania steel company a somewhat similar proposition, and offered the remarkable suggestion that the United States senatorship might be "syndicated." I have refrained from giving names in these cases, but I can furnish them should they be called for by competent authority.

LOOKING WITHIN.

Looking within myself, I note how thin
A plank of station, chance, or prosperous fate
Doth fence me from the clutching waves of sin;
In my own heart I find the worst man's mate,
And see not dimly the smooth-hinged gate
That opes to those abysses
Where ye grope darkly—ye who never knew
On your young hearts love's consecrating dew
Or felt a mother's kisses.
Or home's restraining tendrils round you curled;
Ah, side by side with heart's ease in this world
The fatal nightshade grows, and bitter rue!

—James Russell Lowell.

Books and Authors

KIPLING'S STANDING.

During the last few years the question has often been asked and answered in various ways: "Where does Kipling stand in English literature?" In the February number of The Bookman, Wilfred Whitten asks again this question and discovers that Kipling's work invariably "grips you and leaves go; it is and then it is not." The mind does not absorb the picture presented, but Mr. Whitten thinks The Jungle Book is the finest work of Kipling, who is at his best drawing collective and not individual character, as when he writes of jungle people—the tiger, the panther, etc. This criticism is hardly just. There are scenes in "Kim" which not only "grip" one, but remain imbedded in the memory. It is a meager compliment to say that The Jungle Book is Kipling's best work. And has he not shown himself to have a power and influence over English public in patriotic appeal, which the poet laureate himself does not in the slightest degree possess? These national hymn ballads, or whatever they may be called, cannot be left out in any estimate of Kipling's literary achievement. Put "The Rowers" beside the "Jungle Book," and say which "grips" one the most and holds one, too!

NEW BOOKS.

HOW TO MAKE RUGS. By Candace Wheeler, author of "Principles of Home Decoration," etc. Illustrated. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. Minneapolis: N. McCarthy. Price, $1.

A gratifying feature of the activities of the day is the disposition of people to acquire a knowledge of some useful art and industry. Basket making has become a feature of the public school curriculum and the making of rugs is doubtless destined to become a useful domestic industry. The author of this book shows that hand weaving need not be considered a dead art, killed by the great, roaring factories, and that there is both pleasure and profit in the weaving of rugs at home, and it is suggested that the women's clubs of the country take up the subject and agitate it for the advantage of women on farms and elsewhere. In this volume will be found practical instructions on the operation of domestic looms and selection and handling of the material used, and, it is shown how largely artistic taste may enter into the patterns and disposition of the colors used.

Literary Notes.

The Boston Ruskin club solicits subscriptions to the Ruskin Memorial to be erected at Bournville, near Birmingham, by the Ruskin societies of Great Britain. This memorial is to be a library, museum, handicraft school, village lectures, art exhibitions, etc. Those wishing to subscribe can address George Willis Cooke, vice president, Boston Ruskin Club, No. 16 Ashburton Place, Boston.

The Routledges of London are getting out a new edition of the novels of G. P. R. James, and there is no doubt they will find plenty of readers. James died in 1860, but his "Solitary Horseman" will be very much alive and observed for a long time yet.

J. M. Barrie is having fine success as a dramatist in London and has made himself already distinguished as a novelist. His dramatic work began ten years ago with "Walker London," and he has advanced to works of such recognized fine quality as "Admirable Crichton" and "The Little Minister," his earnings from the latter having been $300,000.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward is the only novelist in England who has never been interviewed, because she eludes the most astute and diplomatic interviewer. George Meredith used to defy interviewers, but in late years he has succumbed.

Irving Bacheller is giving readings from his own works in New York.

Mrs. Humphry Ward began her literary work writing a story for children entitled "Milly and Olly," and a love story, "Miss Bretherton." She translated Amiel's "Journal Intime," but did not awaken the public to an appreciation of her powers until 1888, when she produced "Robert Elsmere," a blossoming of her interest in social questions.

McClure, Phillips & Co., New York, announce a memorial volume on the late George Douglas Brown, who wrote that somewhat gloomy, but intensely interesting book, "The House with the Green Shutters," the popularity of which is suggested by the fact that eleven editions have been called for. Brown died before he knew the substantial character of his success. His friend, Dr. Meldrum, is to edit the memorial volume, which the publishers say will give the author's admirers "an opportunity to know how great was the breadth of his literary craftsmanship." He left many essays and verses which had never been published.

John Habberton, author of "Helen's Babies," has written another book entitled "The Tiger and the Insect," illustrated by Walter Russell.

The Dodge Publishing company announce "For Every Music Lover," by Mrs. Aubertine W. Moore, containing practical essays on music and musical education.

Dr. Charles A. Eastman, author of "Indian Boyhood," had the good fortune to win for his wife Elaine Goodale, the New England girl who, some years ago, wrote in conjunction with her sister Dora, a volume of remarkably good poems under the title "Apple Blossoms." Miss Goodale becoming interested in the promotion of the welfare of the Indians, went west as a missionary and did heroic work among the Indians of Pine Ridge agency. There she met Dr. Eastman, who is a full-blooded Sioux, but a well-educated and efficient man, and the two fell in love with each other while working in a hospital, and now the former New England poet is the mother of five children, and it is said no happier marriage was ever made than that of the Sioux doctor and the heroic Elaine.

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK

Overworking School Children.

To the Editor of The Journal:

Would to heaven something might be done to stop the senseless, absurd and well nigh criminal cramming of the minds of the children in our public schools!

Verily, we are a patient people. Every parent in the city who has children attending school, and who takes a proper interest in their welfare, knows that this system of crowding and cramming has gone on until the physical and mental health of the scholars is being endangered; and yet we smother our indignation, quiet our consciences with the thought that we must be modern and "up-to-date" and allow the direful work to continue without so much as a protest.

We are quick to resent an injury to our child upon the street, and yet we allow this iniquitous system which stunts his growth, ruins his health and destroys his nerves to have him under its control during the years of his young life when he should be growing strong and developing gradually so that when coming to manhood's estate he might have a fair show with the farmer's son who has been educated in the district schools in the good old-fashioned way. Rather than continue this plan we might better go back to the old time methods which required a moderate amount of study during school hours and then allowed the child to go free, instead of giving him a lot of "home work" over which he must dig for hours in the afternoon and even late at night. Under the present system the children are continually burdened with their work. It is scarcely off their minds by night or day, and they have no opportunity for the freedom and reaction after toil which even adults need. We have learned to "spare the rod," but it is a question if we have not learned to perfection a very refined method of killing the child.

The parents of our children are justly indignant, and I would that some opportunity of publicly expressing this indignation might be devised. I am satisfied that many of the teachers are also disgusted with the requirements of this beautiful system, and yet, what can they do? To my mind it is high time that some decided action be taken which shall lead to a radical reform in the whole school course, and if our school board and the worthy superintendent will speedily address themselves to the task, they will receive the ever-lasting gratitude of a long-suffering public.

Never mind what other cities do, let us have a system which is sane and reasonable even though it must be our own!

—J. U. Barnes.

Minneapolis, Feb. 26, 1903.

A DIG AT MILWAUKEE

Grand Forks Herald.

The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union will not hold its next convention in Milwaukee, because the only hall available is owned by a brewer and is adjacent to three saloons; and, in view of possible strained relations, it has been suggested that they meet in some American city, such as Columbus, Ohio.

The Nonpareil Man.

Casually Observed.

How is your pituitary gland? Dr. Sejous says it is one of the most important organs in the body. While we have nothing against the pituitary per se, we are still rooting for the stomach as the "most important gland."

◈ ◈ ◈ ◈ ◈

It is known that Baby will eat almost anything from the hair mattress up, but a Cleveland, O., child this week capped the climax by feeding on his sister's marriage license. A child that can do that could swallow some of the stories told by our hated contemporaries.

◈ ◈ ◈ ◈ ◈

A pointer for the old gentleman who sticks out his rheumatic foot and tries to trip up the automobile is that the machine is being made heavier this year.

◈ ◈ ◈ ◈ ◈

As the spring break-up draws near, Tacoma and Seattle transportation companies are properly excited over new and marvelous gold finds in Alaska. "Outfits cheap." "Your money taken while you wait."

◈ ◈ ◈ ◈ ◈

Timid, shrinking Mary L. Rogers just out of the conservatory at Wellesley college attempted to teach a high school class at Pawtucket, R. I. The captain of the football team, weight 180, and other lads of equal advoirdupois and good manners, attempted to imitate the rough, course rah-rah boys of our higher institutions of learning, and to have fun with Miss Mary. The lady saw into ethics of the game at once and exploded. Master Geo. McNeil, who has captained the team in some of our bloodiest encounters, was smitten on the nose and Master William Cambell, 5 ft. 7 in., weight 140, also stopped teacher's fist with his "looker" which at once took on a rich, dark color. Miss Rogers said that the boys insulted her and "that the measures taken to demonstrate that I would mantain discipline were somewhat drastic, but entirely justifiable." The other members of the team now cross their fingers when teacher looks at them and the discipline of the Pawtucket high school has already improved 87½ per cent over last year.

◈ ◈ ◈ ◈ ◈

There was a social function at the Hastings insane asylum Wednesday night attended by a committee from the state legislature. Among the guests was Hastings' Tried Old Friend, Gov. Pease of Anoka. In giving the story of this eventful evening of fun, good humor and flow of soul, the well-known Hastings' newspaper rush correspondent, C. A. Thorne, says:

> "When the inner man and woman had been satisfied, what proved to be a very interesting feature was the dubbing of G. S. Pease, of The Anoka Union, as the 'cracker-jack spokesman of the soiree.' It is no disparagement to the many other distinguished personages present to say that he humorously entertained all, and particularly the ladies. A most royal welcome awaits him when he makes his next visitation to our beautiful and thriving city."

The only regretable feature of the event was that Mr. Thorne neglected to say at the close of his report, "A pleasant time was had." But it is possible that he considered this superfluous for whenever Uncle is presiding at the "festive board," "groaning" as it always does on these occasions "with plenty," all ages are youth and all seasons summer.

MISCELLANEOUS HUMOR

INDEFINITE.

Leslie's Weekly.

Deacon Johnson—What yo' doin' now, Abe?
Abe Hardcase—Cleanin' out a bank.
Deacon Johnson—President, cashier, bookkeeper, or janitor?"

HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Scottish-American.

A pious, Christian lady in Edinburgh, who was a warm admirer of Professor Blackie, notwithstanding his heterodox notions, sent him the present of a cheese, with a copy of Sankey's Hymns laid carefully on the top. Blackie's acknowledgement was characteristic:

> Blessed is she who hath done what she could
> To make a lean man fat and a bad one good.
> For the body, cheese; for soul, Sankey.
> For both, thank'ee.

A MISAPPREHENSION.

Judge.

First Boy—I say, Chimmie, give a feller a chaw uv terbacker, will yer?
Small Boy—Ah, g'wan! Dis ain't terbacker I've got in me cheek—dis is mumps.

PROPERLY DESIGNATED.

Los Angeles Herald.

Naggersby—I understand Grubber is accused of rank plagiarism in the writings he has been passing off as original.

Waggersby—Yet one would hardly call him a thief. He is only a cliptomaniac.

WE'VE ALL HEARD HIM.

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"That man," remarked Smithers, "makes a hundred speeches from the platform every day."

"Some great political leader?" asked Smuthers.

"No," replied Smithers, "street car conductor. He says 'Move up forward, please!' every time any one gets on his car."

QUITE FAMILIAR.

New York Commercial.

Oliver Herford was at the Boston Club one day when an enthusiastic individual clapped him on the back with a "Hello, old fellow!"

Mr. Herford coldly surveyed the stranger, who, somewhat abashed, said: "Why, don't you know me?"

"No," was the reply. "I don't know your face, but your manners are familiar."

TOOK NO CHANCES.

Judge.

A wife once concocted a biscuit.
Her husband, too fearful to riscuit,
Caught it on his pate
When swift from his plate
He slyly attempted to whiscuit.

DIDN'T MOVE ON TIME.

New York Tribune.

A typical tough boy, aged 23, was committed to a certain asylum not long ago by a city magistrate.

"What did you do that they sent you here?" asked the superintendent, mildly.

"Huh!" They sent me up just for playing a game," snarled the boy.

"What game?" asked the superintendent.

"Checkers, wid de police," he explained. "It was me move, an' I didn't move, so dey jumped me."

He had been arrested for loitering.

YES, ALMOST.

Yonkers Statesman.

Church—Got any hard coal?

Gotham—No; I'm using soft coal.

"Oh, I wouldn't have soft coal."

"Did you ever try to get any?"

"No."

"Well, you'd find it almost as hard."

OUGHT TO BE.

Life.

"I never could understand why a woman puts anything on her face. She deceives no one but herself."

"Isn't that enough?"

ALL GONE.

Syracuse Herald.

"Did Johnson's purchase include also the good will of the business?

"There wasn't any good will to it. It was a coal dealer that Johnson bought out."

HE WAS WILLING.

Richmond Dispatch.

Judy—Will ye give me yer promise, Dinnis, thot ye'll love me forever?

Dennis—Sure, an' Oi'd like to do thot same, Judy, but Oi'm hardly of the opinion that Oi'll lasht as long as thot.

FROM EVERYWHERE

General Botha says the Boer relief fund now amounts to over $100,000.

On accepting a challenge to a duel recently, a municipal councillor at Roncegno, in the Tyrol, chose cannons as the weapons, and stipulated that he and his opponents should fire at each other from two mountain tops three miles apart.

To rid themselves of the competition of the cheap products of prison labor, Austrian manfacturers want their government to transport convicts beyond the sea.

Emperor William is ambitious to create a monumental structure in his capital city which shall match Westminster Abbey in London. At present the remains of the former leaders of the Hohenzollerns are scattered.

Atlanta Constitution: The manufacturing industries of the south have grown so rapidly and yet with so little spectacular incident that we presume nine men out of ten in the south to-day still believe that the greatest interest of the southern states is bound up in agricultural pursuits and products.