THE JOURNAL

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

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In the Name of Politics.

Some funny things are done in the name of political expediency. Witness the Minnesota house adopting that marvelous majority report of the public accounts committee. The men who framed the report, and the men who voted for it, do not attempt in conversation to defend their action except on the ground that the former auditor demanded vindication, and had to have it in the interest of harmony. With the exception of the author of the report, all agree that it is a lame effort, but insist that it was "good politics" to adopt it. The furtive, hurried way in which the vote was taken without rollcall showed what the members really thought of the proposition. It is hard the see where the "good politics" comes in adopting something that cannot be defended.

If this majority report is true, then the present state auditor, S. G. Iverson, has made some serious mistakes by changing his method of handling state timber, so as to conform with the law. The committee says that altho the law was violated by the former administration, the state profited. If the former practice was right, as the house says, then Mr. Iverson has done wrong to change. If Mr. Iverson is doing right now, his predecessor was doing wrong. Take it either way.

There is no truth, says Mr. Leavitt, in the story that he said "Next year the board of control can go to thunder." Mr. Leavitt denies any knowledge as to where it is going.

A Safe Investment.

An inquiry at a Minneapolis bank with regard to the Japanese loan met with frank advice to let it alone. The inquirer had several thousand dollars of savings which it seemed to him would be well invested in bonds drawing 6 per cent, the rate which the Japanese agree to pay.

This eagerness to secure a high rate of interest and readiness to accept any kind of financial security, if only it is far enough away, is one of the peculiarities of investment by people who are not experienced in financial matters. It is true that some of the eastern banks are floating the Japanese loan, but their sales are usually made to people of very little business experience. The banker or broker in Wall street sells the Japanese bond, gets his commission, and stands from under. People who know the Japanese character view this Japanese loan as something that will probably be paid if the war turns out favorably to Japan and the conditions make it easy to meet the obligation. If, on the other hand, it should seem to be to Japanese advantage to repudiate the obligation, the commercial reputation which the people of that country have established affords no assurance that they will seriously burden themselves to discharge this debt.

This Japanese loan instance is more interesting, however, as an illustration of the preference some people exhibit to pass right by good, safe opportunities for investment at home and seek for chances to plant their money in out-of-the-way parts of the world in schemes with regard to which they can know nothing definite and with respect to the management of which they can have no opportunity to inform themselves.

It is characteristic of the small investor with nothing but savings to invest to fall a prey to the solicitor who is plausible and persuasive and actuated by a commission of some 25 to 50 per cent. The thousands and even millions scattered around in loose investments of this character, if planted in Minneapolis real estate, would certainly not only produce better returns, but would be invested in tangible property, something that could be seen, managed and disposed of to the best advantage.

The opportunity for profitable investment in Minneapolis real estate was never better than it is now. It is the judgment of men who know conditions thruout the country that in no city in the union is real estate cheaper today than in Minneapolis. At no time in the history of this city have its prospects been as bright as they are today, and never before has it grown as rapidly as it is growing now.

Under these conditions, Minneapolis real estate would seem to offer great attractions to conservative people. The wonder is that property of this character has not received more attention than it has. The hesitancy may possibly be accounted for in part by the unfortunate experience of twenty years ago; but whatever this city, in common with others, may have suffered from inflated values at that time, there has been full recovery, and prices today are demonstrably low and afford a wide margin of legitimate profit.

Coal has now dropped to a point so low that rich men can afford to put it in for next winter.

An English View of American Conditions.

Something over a year ago, when business conditions in our country were not so good as now and there were here and there some dark spots that made conservatives fear a long dull period, the London Statist sent a man over to see just how the land lay. There appeared shortly after, a supplement to the Statist, giving a summary of conditions in America, with accompanying inferences, and some prognostication as to the future.

The good things that since have worked to the front were then declared to be forthcoming. English observations when made without bias or prejudice, often result in clearer definition of a situation than the same observations made at home. The perspective is better. Timidity does not enter into it, or narrowness of view occasioned by alliance with one special interest or line of business. The Englishman coming into our country, provided, of course, he possesses the necessary training and experience to make him a competent judge of things commercial, should be able to see under the surface, deeper perhaps than the American, who from ordinary direction of attention along a particular line is less likely to take so thoro a general view. Hence the reports to the Statist then made were far more favorable than the opinions entertained by many American business men, and time has shown them to have been warranted by underlying conditions.

Again this English paper is out with an American supplement devoted to the railroads and finances of the country and taking in a general range of business conditions, and since it made good last time, and because of its high standing in the list of economic publications, the Statist summary is being generally read and commented upon in financial circles. It is favorable in a high degree, and should inspire confidence in the mind of any business man who reads it.

The first thing that strikes the English commentator as likely to insure a long continued period of commercial and industrial activity is the abundance of money and capital, indicated by the fact that American bankers have been active in loaning funds abroad. Good profits are found to have been made in a number of important industries. Credit is good, and aside from the confidence of one business man in another, there is a general feeling of trust in things governmental; not alone in the resources of the country, but in the condition of the government finances and the honesty and intelligence of the men who manage affairs at the head.

About the only thing the Statist can see as likely in any way to interfere is crop failure, but the great extent of country is considered, and the wide diversity of crops and climate, and the conclusion reached that deficiency in one district being usually counterbalanced by abundance in another, nothing short of general crop calamity could materially affect the country.

The closing paragraph of this highly gratifying analysis notes that the United States is now producing a large amount of new wealth with a minimum effort, owing to the general use of machinery of the highest type and everything that makes for improvement in methods of manufacture. The Statist expects trade to remain active for a considerable time, and that the effect of general prosperity will find reflection in enhancement of values of good railroad and industrial properties and securities of merit in the stock market.

Colorado had a fellow feeling for the Simlaites. That earthquake was so much like a spring election.

More Cars First.

A New York dispatch to the Tribune, commenting on the recent remarkable advance in the common stock of the Twin iCty Rapid Transit company, says that notwithstanding that advance and the large earnings of the company, the dividends on common stock will not be increased for the present. The common stock is now paying 5 per cent.

The reasons assigned for not advancing the dividends are that the company contemplates important extensions this year and will apply its earnings on new construction.

That's a good reason, but there is another one equally as good. The people of Minneapolis have rejoiced in the prosperity of the company as a Minneapolis institution. The remarkable growth of its business, the increase of its earnings, the liberality of its dividends have been taken as one of the substantial evidences of the prosperity of the city. It has been argued that the street railway company could not have been so highly prosperous in a community that was not itself prosperous and growing rapidly.

No serious objection has been raised to the payment of the 5 per cent dividends, altho it is more or less generally understood that the common stock represents little actual investment of money, but is chiefly condensed moisture. At the same time some allowance has been granted to the courage and enterprise which has pushed the company thru to its present strong position, and no exception has been taken to the payment of the 5 percent dividends. But to increase that dividend beyond the present figure would probably meet with no little opposition and might give the company a good deal of trouble, because the people of Minneapolis are well aware that before any more dividends are paid, before any higher rate of earnings are credited upon common stock, this community is entitled to very much better service than it is now receiving. Cars will have to come oftener before the dividends on common stock come in larger figures.

And this isn't a matter entirely in the control of the company, either. The company is not only under obligations to give better service; it is in no position to resist a demand for better service. There are plenty of good lawyers in this city besides the late Judge Smith, who passed upon the status of the franchise, who believe that the Twin City Rapid Transit company occupies the streets of Minneapolis simply by license only and has no exclusive rights. Furthermore, the question of fares, if the franchise cannot be maintained, is not altogether beyond the reach of the council. The Journal has always maintained, however, and believes now, that what the public wants is not lower fares so much as better service. We hear no agitation for reduction of fares, but we hear no end of demand for more frequent cars; and we shall expect them to be a good deal more frequent before the common stock draws any larger dividends than are now being paid.

Minnesota will take water today.

Wyman Insurance Bil.

The Wyman bill for the distribution of life insurance surplus accumulations among the policy-holders seems to have stirred up something of a breeze in committee where it has been charged that it is the work of an attorney who wants to use it as a club to "bullyrag the insurance companies." We do not quite see how the companies are going to be subjected to bullyragging by a law which makes it their duty to make a distribution once in five years of their surplus assets which belong to the policy-holders. Nor is it true as alleged before the committee that this is a plan which is not followed by the largest or best insurance companies. The public has been learning lately that there may be a difference between largest and best. While the largest ought to be the best, it is still a question with them, as with the smaller companies, of using the cleanest methods of doing business.

The tontining of dividends is a plan which was invented by a Neapolitan banker named Tonti in the seventeenth century. He used it in general financial schemes. Its application to life insurance came later. Its presumed benefits are that the surviving or persisting policy-holder who leaves his dividends with the company gets at the end of the tontine period not only his own share of the profits of the investment, but also pro rates with others the share of the lapsed policies in the same class. Its disadvantages are that a man may die the day before his tontine period expires in which case his estate loses the whole of his share as well as his anticipated share of the profits of others who have lapsed. In going into a tontine arrangement he is betting the amount of his share that he will survive the period. So far the plan is all right, being optional with the policy-purchaser. But the states have tried to make laws to compel the companies to account for the profits on their books. Obviously the only way they could do this would be either to pay over the money to the policy-holder or to carry the unpaid amount as a liability. As a matter of fact, a good many companies do not carry these amounts on their books as a liability, but they appear on the cash side of the ledger as an asset, which is not true in fact.

Some of the very best insurance companies now account for these items of surplus either by paying them in cash each year or by crediting them to the policies as earnings. The Wyman bill seeks to compel all companies doing business in Minnesota to make such an accounting at least once in five years.

The discussion of insurance affairs recently has been educational. The lawmakers are taking a greater interest in having laws made which will protect the great body of the people who are investing in life insurance at a greater rate than ever before in this history of the world. They are seeking to eliminate the speculative element from insurance as much as possible and so reduce it to a form of investment which cannot be lost. There are no companies doing business entirely in the interest of the policy-holders who can have any objection to such laws.

Bishop Berry's advice to young ministers to make their pastoral calls in the evening when the man of the house is a home seems good. The difficulty with afternoon calls is that the minister does not know whether he will bump into sweeping day, ironing day or butt in upon the chug chug club engaged in a discussion of the relation of ancient Egyptian industry to the stoking of modern furnaces.

Taking the Chances.

The senators took the plunge yesterday and adopted that mysterious document, the revised code. It only remains for the conference committee of the two houses to reconcile the 2,100 amendments and to repass the bill in each house after the report of the committee has been approved. According to the vote cast on the first passage, the final adoption of the code seems certain.

Yet even men who have done hard and faithful work on the code are willing to admit that a great risk is being run. Some of them say that if the code were a matter of their private business, they would never adopt it, but, being a public matter, they can do nothing else. In other words, they fear the political consequences of failure to adopt the code. Their action may be misconstrued and the party arraigned for extravagance in spending $85,000 on a fruitless work.

Servants of the state ought to take a different view. They should treat a matter of public business with the same conscientious care that they would give their private affairs. It is a false conception of public duty that makes a double standard.

But, putting the question on the plane of politics, it may prove far more disastrous to pass the code than to continue the work until it can be well done, instead of half baked. The members admit that there are boundless opportunities for error in the vast work they are turning out. The possible consequences of such error no one can estimate. One lurking mistake may work more damage than succeeding legislatures can ever repair.

The responsibility for any such mistake is upon the members, and, while they are standing up to it heroically, that will not save them from the wrath to come if the code is found to harbor woodchucks. In passing the revision offhand, they are taking some big chances.

The people who were bound to have Judge Dunne resign from the bench are about to have their wish gratified.

State Historical Society.

The thirteenth biennial report of the State Historical society, recently issued, is an interesting document about an interesting society that few in the state know anything about. The State Historical society is a semi-public association which receives state aid and whose purpose is to collect and preserve for use a historical library. The society has made a large beginning, having on its shelves already 43,000 bound and 34,000 unbound volumes. The society also does a large amount of work in filling and indexing historical scrapbooks. The most complete files of Minnesota newspapers are also to be found in the rooms of the society in the new capital.

The State Historical society, like any other library association, is merely embarrassed by material unless it has the men and the means to put it in order. Minnesota makes an appropriation of $15,000 annually for the support of this association. The sum may have at one time looked large, but today, with the increase in the material of history on hand and the urgent need for cataloging, more money is needed. Wisconsin allows her historical society something more than twice the means that Minnesota appropriates to this worthy and indispensable institution.

We are going to have a state census this summer, but everybody refuses to get excited over the possible result. It was different fifteen years ago; the gap between Minneapolis and St. Paul was not so wide then.

Not a Substitute for Filtration.

The government experiments with sulphate of copper in the purification of water have reached an interesting stage where the experimenters are willing to say that the copper treatment of water is free from danger to the consumer. They are also on record as saying that the sulphate treatment is not to be considered a substitute for filtration and that it never can be. This is the point on which many of our local economaniacs have gone off and it is proper to draw them back before they put all their faith in a cheap process of purification which does not exist.

The fatality attending the spotted fever epidemic in New York recalls the name given that disease when it was raging twenty-five or thirty years ago. Then it was known as cerebro-spinal comeandgetus.

Two State Church Crises.

If Premier Laurier had looked toward France and England he would perhaps never have introduced his separate school bill which he is now so anxious to withdraw. Those two countries, one Catholic, the other Protestant, are suffering all the evils of the partnership between church and state in education.

France's relations to the Catholic church were fixed about a hundred years ago by the concordat of Napoleon. The church was put under a number of restrictions that tended to make it more a national church than an appendage of Rome, but this worked only while Napoleon was on top, and while France was under the influence of the atheistic doctrines of the revolution. So soon as the deeply religious attitude of the peasantry of France began to reassert itself the church grew rapidly in power, and the fiction whereby the bishops were subject to the minister of public worship rather than to the pope began to make trouble.

In the case of two bishops of the French church recently it has brought on a crisis between Paris and Rome which has resulted in the withdrawal of the French minister from the Vatican and of the papal nuncio from Paris. The two bishops are probably the most unhappy men in France, for when they are ordered to do anything by Rome they receive counter orders from the government. When they offer to submit themselves to the discipline of the pope, they find that they are threatened with dire vengeance from the government; when they recognize their subordination to the government, they are unfrocked by the Vatican.

The cabinet of M. Combes—now happily for France, retired—carried on a most monstrous campaign against persons and property in enforcing the law of associations. Nuns were driven from their homes, their property confiscated and their right to teach even private schools denied. Such a campaign in America or England would have caused a revolution, but in France the people seem to be either so indifferent to individual right, or so anxious to see a settlement of the school question that they are willing to see any kind of a law ruthlessly enforced, which will tend to bring about that end.

The complete separation of church and state is now a live issue in France.

In England there is also a partnership between the church and the state on educational matters that is working badly. The educational act passed three years ago by the Balfour government puts all the teaching in the hands of the state church and nonconformists are placed in the attitude of contributing taxes toward teachings about God which they resent as an attack upon their own faith. They teach their children one thing in their chapels and at home, and then they pay state teachers to tell their children that these doctrines are heresy. A great many nonconformists have assumed the attitude of passive resistance toward the school rates, that is they do not pay them, but allow the government to distrain their property to get the money. In Wales, the distraining process has been rendered nugatory by the fact that there are no officers in sympathy with the government to do the collecting.

Surely our godless schools have never done anything quite so ungodly as this partnership has done in France and England.

Mr. S. C. T. Dodd, undeterred by the spectacle H. H. Rogers made of himself, has rushed to the defense of the Standard Oil. Mr. Dodd, with the bunch of initials, says that the reports set in motion by ministers that John D. Rockefeller secured his money dishonestly are very, very vile. It is pretty late for Mr. Dodd or any of his compatriots to try to load responsibility for such charges upon the ministers. The responsible witnesses are the legislatures of Pennsylvania and Ohio, the congress of the United States, the attorney general of Ohio, the historian Miss Tarbell and sundry and divers employees, agents and officers of the Standard Oil company. The ministers got their information from these sources, and it is information that has never been contradicted by the Standard Oil company.

A correspondent who has been a "whitecapper" writes the Indianapolis News that the whitecaps are not breakers of the law, but defenders of it. They plead that the regular officers of the law and the courts can not or will not do their duty; they step in and act without fear or favor. They break the law in order to enforce the law! This shows one of the things a community gets for not enforcing the law.

Medical Talk has a bit of practical philosophy on its cover this month. It says:

The world will grow better and healthier just so soon as men leave off trying to make others behave and each one begins to behave himself.

It is a good deal easier to edit your neighbor's conduct than it is to blue-pencil your own foolishness.

If the stories are true that the wives and children of the Russian soldiers who were sent into Asia are starving, the revolutionary movement is likely to gain considerable momentum. People as a rule, except perhaps the Russian aristocracy, dislike to see mothers and children starving to death.

Work on Mr. Rockefeller's wonderful new marble palace in the Pocantico Hills will begin about May 1. He is planning to put about a million dollars into the building alone. The estate will doubtless be the finest in America and would be an ornament even to the Lowry Hill district.

The La Follette men in Wisconsin are willing that John C. Spooner shall be secretary of state or have his choice of foreign missions, the more foreign the better. But John says he just dotes on Wisconsin, where the summer evenings are long and the cranberries are full of juice.

Open doors are becoming quite the rage. William the Sooner is the latest statesman to mix himself up with the anti-closing movement. He has ripped up a seam in France's monopoly of trade in Morocco that makes the boulevards fairly sizzle with "Voila!" and "now you see."

The Morocco war cloud, at present no larger than a man's hand, would certainly darken, should Foreign Minister Delcasse's veiled hint of a protectorate become a French policy. Smaller things have started a war and larger things have failed to provoke hostilities.

The president is with his rough riders, and when Alkali Pete ran over his excellency, as they say in Arizona, with a bucking broncho, the president said it just did him good, it was such a reminder of home and the senate.

Shiloh church met the other night and without strain suddenly increased the pastor's salary. There are many pastors in whose lives an incident like this would come in the nature of a glad surprise.

The lord provost of Glasgow has answered the cable of the lord mayor of Chicago, offering him the loan of the traction manager of the Scottish metropolis. Hoot mon, and higher up my bonnet!

With a million a year in tithes to invest just as he likes do you wonder that President Joseph F. Smith looks upon Brother Dowie as one of the minor prophets?

The chuckles of Thomas Lawson over the general Equitable-Rockefeller-municipal ownership situation may be heard half way across Massachusetts bay.

Philadelphia is talking of providing a "school garden" for each school in the city. It is a fine thing to get children interested in the soil.

The wheat in the southwest is said to look so rich and promising that farmers are just standing around holding their breaths.

Creatore has a few gestures that have never been thrown ready for tonight. If you have never seen jiu jitsu music don't miss it.

Crop Note—It looks now as tho the crop of sweet peas would be about the largest ever raised in Hennepin county.

THE BEAM IN OUR EYE

Louisville Courier-Journal

In all the United States, outside of cities, there are but 3,000 miles of macadamized roads, while in France alone there are 130,000 miles. If we spent more of our energy building good roads, and less of it in boasting of our superiority to the rest of creation, we could better stand comparison with the rest of creation.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF LOBSTERS

Minnetonka Record.

Lobster fishermen in Maine have formed a union to protect themselves against the lobster trust. The time will come when the lobster will be owned and operated by the government.

THE INDIAN GIVER

Life, you give us youth,
Then, before we know,
Scorning pity, ruth,
Crown us cold with snow.

Life, you give us love,
Then, ere we're aware,
Heaven is dark above,
Earth is one despair!
—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

HOUSEHOLD STANDARD OIL

W'en my pop talks of Standard Oil
It makes my heart beat faster,
Fur fear I'll git sone, 'cause I know
The standard oil is castor.
—Catholic Standard and Times.

With the Long Bow.

—"Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies."

An enthusiastic friend of his states that the Rev. Frederick B. Hill, who was mentioned in this column the other day as having finally permitted a beautiful heiress to become his wife, is in fact a Minnesota boy. He was born in Morris, Minn., and is well known there. He graduated at Carleton college, took his theology straight at Yale, and since that date has occupied an assistant pastorate at Providence, R. I. It cuts no ice with Mr. Hill whether there is a pants button in his contribution box or not.

Pieces of pumpkin with grass seed stuck in them are being sold for fine fresh strawberries again. The crime is laid at the door of Texas.

The Panama canal has been under discussion now for 300 years, the Spaniards opening the ball at that early day. It would be under discussion for 300 years longer if the United States senate had to build it. This explains the popularity of the president.

The dog poisoner is abroad and the pup that attempts to analyze the subtle perfumes along the garbage-can route is in danger. Keep your dog at home for the present. Why a dog should enjoy the bouquet of a garbage can and revel in it is one of the things that is difficult for a person without the nose for it to understand. Still some people like to have perfumery squirted on them. There is no accounting for tastes. As between the odors chosen by the dog and the smell of stale perfumery many times applied, perhaps some excuse may be found for the animal.

Two Grafton, N. D., explorers, says the ever invaluable Record of that town, have just returned from a trip of exploration in Central America. One thing that impressed them particularly was the immense size of the wasps' nests, which they report full of boarders. As the wasps do not have to quit for winter they get full of energy and high life and give the census-taker a lot of trouble.

When the two travelers slept at a coffee ranch one night, Mr. Haussamen also made sinister complaint of two highly-colored blankets, occupied by 7,000 fleas; if not that number some of them bit him twice. It was a long night for him and for the others, who had to listen to his angry talk.

One day the party chartered a small boat. Most of the space in this boat was occupied by a warm boiler, which made the excitement for the propeller, which twisted along behind and furnished the going-away power. They crossed the gulf of Nicoyer, named after a Spaniard who was too drunk at the time to object. This gulf is full of sharks which will eat anything, but prefer people from North Dakota, so the engineer explained, and the Grafton delegation sat quietly and inoffensively in the boat and did not dangle their tired feet over the sides into the blue and tempting-looking water. From the gulf they glided up an inviting-looking river and fed themselves on the scenery, which was worthy of admiration. On the return trip they had little time for scenery, as the tide had retired, and there was little water left for their boat to use and it would glide gracefully up on a sandbar and stick like a porous plaster to a rheumatic back. Then the strong arms from North Dakota would be called into service and the old tub—a pleasure boat no longer—was lifted and pried off into what water was left. When they got back to the gulf they were mad enough to fight the sharks, but cautiously held their temper.

The returned Argonauts say that Central America is all right but that they prefer the inhabitants of North Dakota.

An insurance man who journeyed to a town in northern Minnesota to see about insuring the life of a certain pastor who had made inquiry as to rates, arrived at his destination in the evening. A series of meetings was being held and the agent, feeling pretty sure that the man in question was there, stepped inside the little church. The pastor was holding forth something after this fashion:

"My friends, I tell you he will get you. He is after every one of you sinners now and he doesn't have to hurry any, either, to catch you. He'll get you."

The insurance man leaned over and whispered to his neighboor:

"Who is he?"

"The devil," was the reply.

"No, no, I mean the preacher."

"Oh, that's Rev. ——."

It was the right man and after services the agent wrote him for $5,000.

—A. J. R.

BOOK CHAT

THE UNEASY CHAIR

A CASE OF "THE SINS OF THE FATHERS"—AND THE MOTHERS.—Despite the implied denial of the view that virtue is always rewarded and sin always punished, with which denial Bettina von Hutten prefaces her new book **Pam**, her story goes to show quite clearly that dining at the house of folly is costly and must be paid for by some one, whether the diner or some one else.

"Pam" is the story of a girl whose parents are not married, at least not until the girl is approaching maturity, and yet who live together a care-free, joyous life. They are indifferent to the stings which a position without the social pale ordinarily inflicts. But the suffering they escape falls in the end upon the heart of the girl. She pays the price of their light-hearted folly, thru misconception of sex relations, fostered by her anomalous position and training.

PAM.
The "Heroine" of Bettina von Hutten's New Book.

Yet, Pam is a girl of fine spirit and high morals. Despite her warped notions about marriage and love, she wins the sympathy of the reader at the outset and holds it until the end of the book. One thruout is hoping that she will be lifted for good and all out of the miasma of the social level into which her fate has cast her—this little thing with a mind much too old for her years, and a heart with yearnings of like quality. But she isn't, more's the pity, and therein lies the story, and the story doesn't end, just breaks off, leaving the girl at the threshhold of life with a wretched handicap and the reader's views on life's relations, mayhap, worse tangled than before he began the story's reading.

And in this confusion of life's relations lies a serious fault in the story. If stories of the kind must be told, it is at least the duty of the teller to keep the sane view of the things dealt with where the reader may not overlook them. Another weakness of the story is in Pam's father and mother. They are, the author makes out, deeply in love with each other and happy far above the ordinary. But as the author portrays them there are in reality no depths to their natures to admit of great depths or heights of feeling, nor does their happiness seem to be more than that of the butterfly flitting about under fair skies and sipping the physical sweets of life.

But Pam—well, we wish we had met her in other company, or, at least, had not been compelled to leave her as fate in the person of the author has bidden.

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, $1.50.

FRIENDSHIP.

I know not where the end will be,
Hither or yonder, near or far,
Upon the many-billowed sea,
Or where the trackless sand dunes are—

I know not how the end will be—
Or nerveless fading out of life;
Or throes of mortal agony,
The issue of a luckless strife.

I know not when the end will be,
Unvisaged, in the spirit's prime,
Or when the palsied years set free
The soul impatient of slow time.

I only know that time and place
And manace of that spectral end
Can never rob me of thy face—
Can never dim thy smile, oh, Friend.

—By Edmund Kemper Broadus of the State University, Vermillion, S. D., in The Independent.

THE HENRY JAMES CULT IS "SELECT."—If you have never read a Henry James book, you need have no special fear of admitting the fact; "there are others." A writer in the **New York Times Saturday Review** shows there is not a great demand for James' novels among the members of at least one reading club, and, perhaps, that club is typical. Here is what the writer in question, J. W. Abernethy, of Brooklyn, N. Y., says:

During the past five years it has been one of my duties to cater for a reading club of about 100 members. All of the novels of Henry James have been given to the club with other current publications, and I find by referring to the charge-book that not more than three of the hundred ever take out one of the James novels. Popularity may be a crude test of genius, nevertheless it is a test that has been applied with pretty uniform results to all great reputations in fiction. Poets and reformers sometimes write for posterity, and, like Milton, content themselves with a "fit audience, tho few." But the novelist who does not reach a large audience in his own day and generation will not have a large place in the history of literature; and it is no contradiction or exception to this natural law of literature that a very small novel frequently gains a very large audience and presently sinks into the oblivion of the commonplace.

A TEMPTING AND SATISFYING SHORT HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.—Eva March Tappan's **A Short History of England's Literature** is a book that contains much in little relating to English literature. We have read it for the sake of clarifying our birdseye view of the subject, and find it does the work admirably. The author has built the book and built it well, upon the theories—which we indorse—that "the prime object of studying literature is to develop the ability to enjoy it, that in every work of literary merit there is something to enjoy, that it is less important to know the list of an author's works than to feel the impulse to read one of them, that it is better to know a few authors well than to learn the names of many." One setting out with purposes so sane could not fail to do good work.

Incidentally, we discover in the book in hand the authority for the statement that there are no snakes in Ireland. The author tells us that the record of Ireland's snakelessness was first made by "the Venerable Bede," who died in 735 A.D., one of England's earliest "literary lights," who shone not because of his strength so much as because of the surrounding gloom of his time.

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Washington Post.

Dr. Patton says that "language is thought's pottery."

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