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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 1908.

A Voice from Out the Past.

Now that the William Howard Taft boom appears almost, if not quite, to have squelched all other Republican booms into zero-like proportions, it is interesting to study this genial gentleman—perhaps our next President—from an entirely human point of view, and subject to our minds' solemn contemplation such incidents and matters along his former life's pathway as may have bearing on the supreme future greatness mayhap in store for the Ohioan.

It is pleasant to learn, for instance, that the big Secretary was a promising personality from the very start; and to this the Ladies' Monitor bears abundant witness in the following words:

"A sweeter baby never lived than Secretary Taft when he was little, and every woman who remembers his early years watches his race for the Presidency with admiring interest. Although not a pretty baby, Willie was exceedingly bright. At three months he could call his nurse, at five he played with a box of tin soldiers, at seven he addressed his father as 'dada,' and at nine he posed for his photograph without moving a muscle. Being a very large child, he did not walk until fourteen months old, and his family suffered great anxiety as to his perfectness. But when, at the age of a year and three months, he deliberately weaned himself from his bottle, his elders felt more than reassured that in Willie they possessed a baby with a future."

That Mr. Taft has more than justified the predictions of his admiring parents and concurring neighbors and friends is not to be denied. He must have been, as this narrator says, not only bright and promising mentally, but of an unusually sunshiny disposition as well. We feel quite sure he was born smiling, and with the smile that won't come off, too. That smile is one of his greatest present-day assets, and search fails to reveal any one who ever knew him when it was not his most distinguishing characteristic. That he was "not a pretty baby" is quite beside the question. He hasn't outgrown that, either; but as he isn't a candidate for a blue ribbon at a beauty show, it doesn't matter much. Besides, when he shall have donned his nomination at Chicago, a glance around will show for the moment but one official entry against him—Hon. Thomas E. Watson; and that gentleman certainly has no corner on physical loveliness, and is not knit together after a fashion calculated exactly to turn green with envy those whose ambitions fill them with desire to shine with splendor among the Apollos of this earth.

So, after all, the one seeming rift in the lute is not a rift at all. The extremely juvenile days of Mr. Taft were all that his most ardent friend could have wished. It might have helped some could he have arranged to be born in a log cabin; but we will not be captious on that point, if others will not. On the whole, we think the showing made in the Ladies' Monitor quite sufficient as a campaign starter; as "Exhibit A," it fills the bill very well, indeed.

Don't worry; it isn't going to be necessary for either convention to offer trading stamps with the Vice Presidential nomination!

What the Governors Accomplished.

The value of the conference of governors will be found to consist in the agitation of a good cause, in the impetus given the movement for the conservation of natural resources, rather than in organization. Even the so-called "House of Governors" would have no power, for its functions would be merely advisory and consultative, and its usefulness would depend on the point of view from which its members regarded governmental questions, whether from the national or the particularistic. If any considerable number of States should agree to embark on the particularistic policy that has outcropped in a few of them—if they should inhibit the free movement of commerce, or hamper the flow of capital and enterprise, if they should endeavor to protect or aggrandize themselves at the expense of other States—such action would be highly injurious to the nation and would raise serious Federal problems. It should be said, however, that there was very little of the particularistic spirit at the White House conference, and the delegates appeared to be infused with the ideal expressed in the resolutions that the independent States are in fact interdependent, "bound together by ties of mutual benefits, responsibilities, and duties." Gubernatorial conferences infused with this spirit ought to be productive of good and contributory to the solidarity of the nation.

As a promoter of the conservation policy the conference has proved a notable success. It concentrated the attention of the country in a most effective way on the discussion, and developed an influential body of opinion favorable to certain definite purposes. These purposes must be worked out in both Federal and State legislation, but legislation must have behind it public sentiment, and to the education of that sentiment the conference undoubtedly will powerfully contribute. To the governors belongs the initiative in recommending legislation to their several legislatures—a duty which the resolutions as well as the expressions of individuals indicate will be performed at the proper time. Gov. Blanchard has led the way by asking that the Louisiana legislature, now in session, take up the question of forestry, and in his message named nine other States that had adopted legislation to encourage arboriculture. This is one of the most promising fields of State activity in the conservation of natural resources, and one in which they will have the hearty co-operation of the Federal Forest Service. Several other features of the conservation programme, as developed in the resolutions, likewise supply opportunity for feasible and valuable State legislation not at all in conflict with national policy.

The conference having given its stamp of approval to a comprehensive development of our waterways, it is incumbent on Congress to legalize the Inland Waterways Commission, which is engaged in working out a project for national improvement. The bill for this purpose should be passed before Congress anjourns.

"So far as the Speaker is concerned, in the five years he has occupied that position I am sure he never spent five minutes trying to influence any vote on any subject," says Congressman Scott. Why should he, when a curt order brings the desired result?

The Legal Definition of a Drink.

The War Department, which has to do with the administration of post exchanges at army posts, is in great need of a decision from the Federal courts which shall determine with scientific exactness the characteristics of a beverage to entitle it to be regarded as an intoxicant. At present the department authorities are greatly perplexed over that question which has to do with the dispensation of drinks in the soldiers' clubs, which, in the days of its less restricted form, was known as the canteen. It has never been determined by the courts just how much alcohol may be contained in a drink without converting that beverage into an intoxicant, and so placing it within the prohibited class.

"Soft drinks" may be freely sold and as freely imbibed at these post exchanges, but nothing of an intoxicating character may be carried in the stock of the post exchanges. It has been decided that a safe rule for the guidance of the army officers who are in charge of any particular post exchange would be to follow the practice of the prohibition States. At Fort Williams, Me., for instance, the post exchange may very properly offer for sale to the enlisted men of that place such drinks as are sold in the public resorts of the State. A beverage which is ruled out under the State laws of Maine could not be considered as a proper article to offer for sale in an army post exchange located within the precincts of that Commonwealth.

This question comes up periodically, to the embarrassment of the War Department officials who must render opinions or issue instructions for the guidance of subordinate officers, and they are now able to give only the most general suggestions along the lines which we have described. It would seem to be advantageous to determine by means of a test case, if no other method were available, as to which of the numerous tonics and extracts are over the line of prohibition.

It was not long ago that the War Department, acting upon advices received from the Department of Agriculture, ruled out of the post exchanges a beverage which is extensively advertised and is usually sold at the soda-water fountains everywhere. It was claimed that this drink, while not inebriating, was of a stimulating effect quite injurious to health. Later this decision was reversed, and presumably the beverage against which the army surgeons had declared is restored to the list of allowable drinks. It is, altogether, a very nice question which may not be easily settled upon merely legal grounds, as to the class of beverages which may be sold at the post exchanges or wherever else the principle of total abstinence is applied. A drink to be at all satisfactory must have some effect, and it is a grave problem to determine to just what extent this effect may be safely permitted with the full protection to health and morality.

And this time next year, President Bryan may be saying to Distinguished Citizen Roosevelt, "Well, sir, and what do you think of my collection of governors?"

Government Misbranding.

Every householder is now familiar with the words "Guaranteed under the food and drugs act" on medicine bottles and on cans and jars containing the scores of different food products which may be bought from any grocer. Unfortunately these words do not mean all that they are commonly supposed to signify. During the past week Dr. Frederick L. Dunlap, one of the government chemists having to do with the enforcement of the pure food law, has been telling Boston grocers what the supposed government guarantee really means. He said:

"Do not be misled into thinking that the legend 'Guaranteed under the food and drugs act, serial number ——,' means that the products bearing such legend are necessarily pure, unadulterated, and properly branded. All that this means is that a general guaranty has been filed with the Department of Agriculture, which acts merely in the capacity of custodian, and has, to facilitate business, issued a serial number to identify the general guaranty. It means, further, that if the goods to which the legend and serial number are attached are found to violate the law in any way, and provided the serial number is the property of the person from whom the goods are purchased, the one who has established the general guaranty will assume all responsibilities for the penalties which would in due course fall to the person in whose hands the adulterated and misbranded products are found."

Naturally enough, as Dr. Dunlap remarked, the guarantee has been used to mislead people into the belief that the government guarantees the product to be pure. Probably ninety-nine persons out of a hundred do so believe. Certainly the form of words used is such as to convey the impression that the government has examined a sample of the product and guarantees it to be wholesome and free from any deleterious matter, or in the case of drugs and medicines, to be up to a recognized standard of purity. It will be news to most people that the government guarantee on food products is simply a manufacturers' assumption of responsibility for violation of the pure food law, and that it carries with it no assurance that the products are fit for human use. Yet it merely means that if the product is found to be adulterated or impure the government will be able to identify and lay hands on some responsible person or corporation.

"It is to be wished," said Dr. Dunlap to the Boston grocers, "that the general consuming public knew better the exact significance of the serial number and legend," and he hoped the truth would become generally known through grocers and salesmen. But has the government no responsibility in this regard? Manufacturers and retailers have no motive for spreading the information that goods supposed to be guaranteed pure and wholesome by the government are not in fact so guaranteed. The deception, which has its origin in the ambiguous wording of the legend, is more than likely to be encouraged, or at least permitted to obtain among the consuming public. This deception the government could easily stop by requiring that the legend read simply "Manufacturers' guaranty," or that the labels state specifically what the manufacturers do guarantee. Surely the government should not require the labeling of food products with a statement misleading on its face, or at any rate capable of a misleading interpretation—a label which has in fact misled practically everybody except the initiated.

Otherwise inoffensive women who look as if they might be Mrs. Belle Gunness' 'steenth cousin fourteen times removed will do well to avoid the lynx-eyed sleuths of Syracuse, N. Y.

A physician says our round shoulders are caused by the habit of continually reaching into the pockets of our clothes. Still, we can't see any remedy for it, as long as the cost of living continues its upward flight.

"It is not always May." We merely call attention to that because we are naturally inclined to be optimistic.

"Prince Helle refused to plunge at Monte Carlo," says the Baltimore Sun. This reminds us of Mr. Eugene Field's little boy, who "jess before Christmas" was "as good as" he could be!

"The crown prince of Germany has been reading up on the habits of the American Indians," says a contemporary. He will never understand their full capacity for annoyance, however, until he comes over and listens to a gallery full of them under full swing ahead in some American theater.

However, the President will probably have his way in the Stewart case, Rayner shine.

"The Johnson men think they can beat Bryan," says the Topeka Capital. It isn't yet the close season for thinks, for all that.

A New York tinsmith poured hot lead into his own head. The man was lightheaded, of course, and wanted to overcome it.

"When a man says he does not read newspaper criticisms he is one of two things—either a fool or a liar. That play which touches your own heart will find a like response in the hearts of others. Without high criticism we are crippled. Art cannot march forward with one lame leg," says Henry Miller. Now, then, if the critics don't hand Henry a nice one next time, we should like to know why?

If, as a scientist says, the water supply is to be exhausted in fifteen million years, all Georgia and Alabama have to do is to wait a time in patience, and the cruel prohibitionists will be forced to give in to a certain extent.

The Baltimore American thinks the weather man is laboring under the impression that it is a Baptist and not a Methodist gathering now holding forth in the Monumental City.

The Louisiana legislature was opened with eight executive messages. When again casting about for "a Southern Presidential candidate," what's the matter with Blanchard?

Nevertheless, we suppose somebody who is always "agin the government" will want to abuse Congress for transferring that statue to the Smithsonian Institute, and demand to know, "Ain't it a shame, a measly shame, to yank G. Washington out of the rain?"

Senator "Bob" Taylor will deliver the closing speech of the session for the Democrats. We don't know a better selection for the delivery of a swan-song.

This is certainly a dull leap year, girls. A Washington town has fixed an annual license of $100 per year on all bachelors, but even that isn't likely to help the situation much.

What's the use, anyhow? Senator "Jeff" Davis has "beat it" out to Arkansas again!

"Thaw said he was pleased by his wife's annulment suit," says a current news item. Evidently, Harry has been well coached in the matter of playing perfectly sane.

An Iowa dog sits on the bank and snaps up unsuspecting fish, as they swim along in the water. If this dog lived in Texas, he would most likely play the role of snapee in that game.

A movement is on foot in Kansas to have the name of the Agricultural College at Manhattan changed so as to make the word "Agricultural" less conspicuous. Bulging prosperity bids fair to develop an abnormally large streak of that aristocratic feeling in erstwhile plain old Kansas.

A Brooklyn woman who recently captured a burglar received seventy-two proposals of matrimony within the following twenty-four hours. This should serve to depress seriously the burglar business.

Congress, Congress, six days more of Congress!

"One curious thing in connection with the career of 'Fighting Bob' Evans is that no New York life insurance company has ever offered him $200,000,000 per year to become its president," says the Chicago Record-Herald. It isn't curious at all. The admiral is not, and never has been, a member of the Cabinet.

There are some streaks of lean and some streaks of fat in the "pork barrel" just completed by Congress. For instance, Danville, Ill., gets $275,000; that's one of the streaks of fat. By the by, who is it that lives in Danville?

"What is the biggest nuisance in New York?" inquires the New York Mail. Why, the native who thinks everything a howling wilderness West of Jersey City, of course.

That Day.

From Puck.

There was a pink and blue smell, and, listening, she heard a cool noise in the garden, while before her eyes came the delicate perfume of orchids. Daintily she pulled the petals from a cauliflower and fed them to the silken-furred teakettle which coiled cozily in her lap. The kettle gave a short yelp of delight, and, looking up, she beheld the man coming toward her.

He was lazily puffing at a fragrant icicle. Then he saw her, and, drawing near, he gently stroked her fair bent head with a pick-ax.

"How natural it all seems," she breathed.

Taking off her face, he looked at it tenderly, and answered:

"Yes. It is the day of tariff revision."

America's Great Future.

From the Omaha Bee.

The United States has been called "Nature's storehouse of wealth," but records show that such drains have been made on the storehouse that an early future generation will find it empty unless prompt plans are adopted for keeping it replenished for future needs. It is estimated that the United States will have a population of 125,000,000 in 1925, but seventeen years away, and at least 200,000,000 by 1950. The population in the future will need all these resources.

All Sides Are Seamy.

From the Boston Transcript.

A Harrisburg (Pa.) newspaper wants a suitable park around the State capitol, "so that it may be viewed from all sides." The investigating committee has already done that.

They Will Be Found.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

We violate no confidence in saying that candidates will be found somewhere for the Vice Presidency.

A SUNDAY TALK.

For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then I shall know even as I also am known.

This verse from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, one of the best-known and oft-quoted in the Bible, points us to the urgent need of faith. "Mystery on all sides! And faith the only star in the darkness and uncertainty," said Amiel; and other philosophers have voiced the same cry, which is but a rephrasing of the words of St. Paul. For all of us "see through a glass darkly," and of the road we have to travel we are not sure of even one short step ahead. Even though we do not acknowledge it to ourselves, it is only faith that moves us; for if we had not faith that by our striving and endeavor we might get nearer to the much-to-be-desired goal, who of us is there would have courage to stir about his duties?

Said Benjamin Franklin:

My faith leads me to hope that the divine goodness will still be exercised toward me, either by prolonging the duration of my happiness to the close of life, or by giving me fortitude to support any melancholy reverse which may happen to me. My future fortune is unknown, but to Him in whose hand is our destiny, and who can make our very afflictions subservient to our benefit.

There can be no real happiness in this world without a measure of faith, for without faith to what end shall a man strive? Why shall a man toil and take pains and labor all his days, combat sin, avoid temptation, and practice virtue save for the ultimate reward? And we, seeing "through a glass darkly," cannot perceive the goal! It is alone the eye of faith that assures us that all worthy effort, all fine ambition, all honest striving in sincerity of purpose, leads us at last to the throne of God. At every epoch there lies, beyond the domain of what man knows, the domain of the unknown, which is in the hands of God, and it is there that faith dwells. Faith, which has no proofs to offer; no evidence to adduce; faith that can only offer itself and which can appeal, not to the mind, but to the soul of man. Faith is certitude without proofs. It is the divine light that shines through the darkened glass of finite sight.

It will help us all greatly if we have but faith to know that in everything we do, everything we think, everything we hope for, we are in God's hands; that we are doing in our humble way the work that He appointed us to do, and that it is to Him, the Master, that when the work is done and the opportunity has passed we have to account. It will help us if we recall what Robert Browning wrote—

God smiles as he has always smiled;
Ere suns and moons could wax and wane,
Ere stars were thundergirth or piled
The heavens, God thought on me his child;
Ordained a life for me, arrayed
Its circumstances, every one
To the minutest; aye, God said
This head, this head should rest upon
Thus, ere he fashioned star or sun.

To have faith in such a doctrine is to feel oneself more than a man; more than one of a multitude of human beings, each with a selfish end. It is to know oneself as an agent of the Most High, and to be stimulated by the thought that it is not one's own work that a man is doing in the world, but God's. To have faith in this is to be able to say with joy in the heart—

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

DOOM OF BETTING RING.

Wide Range of Agitation Against Race-track Gambling.

From the Atlanta Constitutions.

One of the most curious and impressive symptoms of the wave of moral regeneration sweeping America is found in the attack upon all forms of gambling, confined now to no single part of the country.

The temporarily unsuccessful fight of Hughes in New York is of recent record. Of equal or larger significance is the attack on race-track gambling in New Orleans and Louisville, each showing current signs of reaching a crisis.

The race-track interests of New York, intrenched with money and political influence almost as powerful as that wielded by the gambling element in the New York Cotton Exchange, have succeeded for the time being in defeating the movement for their extermination.

In New Orleans the most substantial elements are lined up in battle array against the tracks, and it appears probable that the forthcoming Louisiana legislature will be driven to decisive measures.

The world-famous tracks about Louisville, the very home of the thoroughbred and of racing, are at their wits' end to forestall action aimed at their overthrow.

Thinking citizens need no special guidance to find the reasons for the national dimensions of this agitation. The news story from New Orleans gives the pith of the cause in all cases.

It is estimated, says that report, that $100,000 is lost annually in New Orleans by reason of thefts, defalcations, and other crimes on the part of clerks and employes crazed by the lure of the "ponies."

It was knowledge of their criminal-breeding potentialities that did for the race tracks around St. Louis. The larger possibilities for mischief in New York have crystallized sentiment in that State.

Everywhere the betting ring, as a business, seems doomed, regardless of whether it is "legitimate speculation" or avowed "gambling."

Fire Losses a Disgrace.

From the Philadelphia Record.

One conflagration destroying four or five million dollars' worth of property makes a great display in the newspapers, and yet fire losses aggregating that every week occur in this country year after year. Last year the fire losses were not quite four millions a week, the year round, but for the past five years the average loss has been five millions every week, a total for five years of a billion and a half dollars. That owners of property were partially indemnified by insurance does not affect the fact that the country as a whole suffers this enormous and preventable waste. Most of our building is a gamble between the owner and the insurance company. The enormous fire losses amount to a national disgrace, for other countries do not experience any such waste.

Out of the Car Window.

From the Providence Journal.

Mr. Bryan and Gov. Johnson, traveling on the same train over the Pennsylvania system to the Washington conference, both expressed themselves to interviewers as satisfied with the outlook. It is, indeed, particularly pleasing at this season, from the car windows.

FROM A "CHANT OF DARKNESS."

Once in regions void of light I wandered;
In blank darkness I stumbled,
And fear led me by the hand;
My feet pressed earthward,
Afraid of pitfalls.
By many shapeless terrors of the night affrighted,
To the wakeful day
I held out beseeching arms.

Then came Love, bearing in her hand
The torch that is the light unto my feet,
And softly spoke Love: "Hast thou
Entered into the treasures of darkness?
Hast thou entered into the treasures of the night?
Search out thy blindness. It holdeth
Riches past computing."

The words of Love set my spirit aflame.
My eager fingers searched out the mysteries,
The splendors, the inmost sacredness, of things,
And in the vacancies discerned
With spiritual sense the fullness of life;
And the gates of Day stood wide.

—Helen Keller, in the Century.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

It was some time before Speaker Cannon gave permission to the Delegates from the Philippines to occupy seats on the floor of the House. After much argument and persuasion by Secretary Taft and others, the right was accorded them. One of the delegates is Pablo Ocampo de Leon, of Manila. He studied in St. Thomas' University, from which he graduated in 1882, since which time he has practiced law. During the Spanish occupancy of the islands, he was secretary of the royal court of Manila, prosecuting attorney of the district of Tondo, and secretary of the bar association of Manila.

DELEGATE OCAMPO.

In the Filipino government at Malolos, he was a representative of the provinces of Principe, Infanta, Lepanto, and Bontoc, and was secretary of the Filipino Parliament.

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities between the Americans and Filipinos he was appointed by the government of the Filipino republic its representative in Manila. He was known to the Americans as an "irreconcilable," and deported to Guam, where he remained two years. He was pardoned and returned to Manila, after taking the oath of allegiance to the American government.

During the revolution, and after the Malolos' cause became hopeless, a meeting was called by those who were willing to submit to the American government. At this meeting Ocampo de Leon was the only one who stood firmly against giving up the struggle. The position of resident commissioner in the United States is the first office he has ever held under the American government.

He was editor of La Patria, a publication that was suspended by order of Gen. Otis. Mr. de Leon is also counsel to the economic association of the Philippines.

* * * *

Any one who has ever seen any other legislative body, especially in any country like unto England, or any one who has ever read Bryce's great book on America, or perhaps a number of other people who have done neither, are at times startled by the disorder that reigns supreme in the American House of Representatives.

At any time except when any one of perhaps five men is speaking, there is noise. Possibly it's only the murmur of a few men conversing; possibly there are a dozen or twenty, but most of the time there are from 100 to 391, all but one talking in half-tones. The one has the floor.

It isn't often that there is such a scene as might have been witnessed, or rather such an outbreak as might have been overheard—with ease—as one which came upon the boards in the House yesterday afternoon.

Chairman Fowler, of the Banking and Currency Committee, the sworn foe of the Vreeland bill, had arisen to make a ten-minute talk on a motion to confer with the Senate on that bill, as amended.

In a minute or two the center aisle, which Mr. Fowler partly faced, became choked for ten feet or more with members anxious to hear the slow roasting of the Vreeland bill or whatever else might be coming.

Some one on the minority side, becoming disgusted, ejected in an exceedingly cross tone, "Down in front."

Just like a show, the American House of Representatives is at times.

* * * *

Already movements at the Capitol indicate the approach of get-away day. Clerks are straightening up things, filing away papers, clearing up correspondence, and the anxious look that has been on their faces for some time has disappeared. Work will soon be over; the powers that be have decreed that Congress must adjourn not later than Saturday, May 23, a most appropriate day.

Both bodies have passed about all the important legislation they intend to pass (except the currency bill), the President to the contrary notwithstanding. The appropriation bills that remain either in conference or in committee will be rushed through. The statesmen are now in that going-home mood, and will not do much talking about anything that comes up before either the Senate or the House. They are like a lot of schoolboys, anticipating the last day of school; their steps are more elastic, their looks more pleasant, and their greetings much more cheerful. The grind will soon be over, but—then the campaign.

* * * *

Speaker Cannon got word Friday that he had come in for a severe rating at the hands of some of the governors who were attending the White House conference. They accused him of holding up the White Mountain Appalachian forest reserve bill, and appointed a committee of eight governors to go to the Capitol and beard the old lion in his den. What they would do to him when they met him face to face would be a-plenty, according to the report brought to the Speaker.

"When they come, show them in," were Uncle Joe's directions, and he smiled grimly when he said it.

Not long after that a tall, handsome gentleman, wearing a frock coat and a slouch hat, put his head through the doorway of the Speaker's reception room and looked around anxiously.

"Have any governors been here?" he asked Private Secretary Busbey, with a note of timidity in his voice.

"No, sir," said Busbey.

"Are you expecting any?"

"Not exactly," said Busbey, "but we heard that some might come."

"I'd like to stop here awhile," suggested the tall, handsome gentleman. "I'm sort of waiting around for some friends."

Shortly thereafter another gentleman in a frock coat and a slouch hat put his head through the reception room doorway and inquired in faltering tones if Speaker Cannon had his office there.

"Hello, governor," called the first comer, before Busbey could answer.

"Why, hello, governor," was the response. Then they shook hands like long-lost brothers.

"Are you a governor?" asked Busbey.

"Why, yes," admitted the first arrival, rather reluctantly, with one eye fixed watchfully on the door of the Speaker's private office. "I'm Glenn, of North Carolina."

"Are you a governor?" Busbey inquired of the other.

"Yes; I'm Noel, of Mississippi," was the response.

"Do you wish to see the Speaker?" asked Busbey. "He's on the floor of the House, but I can get him in a moment."

Both governors arose hastily.

"Wouldn't trouble him for worlds," said one. "Must be going," said the other. Then they shook hands with the astonished Busbey and started for the door.

"Sir," said the governor of North Carolina, as he was about to step into the corridor, "if you see any other governor looking for us, tell them we couldn't wait."

"But the Speaker will be disappointed not to have seen you," suggested Busbey.

"No, thank you," responded the governor of North Carolina. "If you think we two are going to see the Speaker alone, after what we said about him up at the White House, you're mistaken."

The six governors who composed the remainder of the committee haven't showed up at the Speaker's office yet.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

NO MORE CONSERVATORIES.

In old-time novels of the heart
Conservatories played their part,
As well you know.
'Twas there the hero said his love
And told his troubles to the dove
In accents low.

But novelists, ere very long,
Will find their troubles coming strong—
No doubt of that.
How will an author novels pen
When every one within his ken
Lives in a flat?

Unusual Susan.

"Sue Brette says——"

"That she's going to star next season?"

"That she has her doubts about getting back her old job in the chorus."

Burlesque Implements.

"He says the duel was a burlesque."

"What does he mean by that?"

"I dunno. Maybe, instead of swords, they used slapsticks."

A Friendly Inquiry.

"When will the obsequies be?"

"Obsequies of what?"

"Of your business. I notice you've stopped advertising."

The Tardy Suitor.

May often weds December's snows,
So reason I,
Because July
Fails to propose.

The Wherefore.

"He refuses to join the actors' club."

"But why?"

"Such action would constitute tacit admission that there are other actors."

A Suburban Scheme.

"Who got up those hanging gardens of Babylon?"

"Some king."

"For what purpose?"

"I judge he wanted to outwit the neighbors' chickens."

On the Rialto.

"Yes," remarked Hamlet Fatt, "I may say I have inherited the mantle of Kemble."

"That settles the clothes question," responded Yorick Hamm. "Now with a good free lunch route, you'll be fixed for the summer."

NOTHING SERIOUS.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Not His Specialty.

"I suppose in your varied theatrical experience," said the matinee girl, "you have seen life in all the big cities. What is your favorite haunt?"

"Well, really," replied the actor, "you see, 'haunts' are not my specialty, although once I did play the ghost in 'Hamlet.'"

Warning.

"Jimmy," said Tommy, "what's the matter with you? You don't never go in for any fun nowadays."

"No, I'm bein' good because I'm goin' to have a birthday soon an' I want to git a present," replied Jimmy.

"Better not be too good or mebbe they won't give yer nothin' but a Bible."

Deeper Yet.

Tommy—I suppose he's deep in love's young dream.

Browne—No, he's past that stage. He's troubled with insomnia now.

His Specialty.

"Bragley tells me he's doing wonderful work for his present employer. I didn't know he was particularly strong in business."

"He isn't. He's merely particularly strong in talking about business."

Necessary Properties.

Miss Romany—It's funny that all these love stories open in the early summer.

Mr. Crabbie—Oh, that's natural. How, else, could the heroine be discovered standing among the roses "none of which are fair as she?"

Rest at Last.

"It is only too true," remarked the man who was fond of moralizing, "that we do not appreciate our blessings until they take their flight."

"Of course," replied Popley, "they keep up such a racket during the day that we enjoy them most when the nurse has tucked them in their little beds."

A GAMBLER'S CAREER.

Good and Bad Traits of Wickedest Man in New York.

From the Brooklyn Standard-Union.

Perhaps the greatest gambler that this country has ever produced passed away when Theodore Allen died. Certainly no man now living has spent the time at the business that he did or attained the notoriety that resulted from incessant clashing with the authorities, whom he fought with dogged persistence and remarkable success. Allen continued to run the poolrooms despite repeated efforts of the police, whom he is said to have steadily refused to bribe. There might be some truth in this statement, but very likely he bought immunity at times the same as other gamblers have done.

While the "poolroom king" earned the distinction of being the "wickedest man in New York," he had some virtues of heart and mind that shone brightly and which endeared him to a great many people. He was far from being entirely sordid or callous, and a warm and generous heart beat in his breast, notwithstanding the fact that his calling was calculated to make him indifferent to the wants and sufferings of others. He gave his money freely to the poor, and to his everlasting credit it can be said that he paid the funeral expenses of some 400 penniless people. In addition to this he adopted five children and aided his wife, who was a very religious woman, and a practical Christian worker.

The son of a Methodist minister, Allen started out right, but struck the wrong path, from which he never branched off. His leading characteristic was determination, and once having arrived at the conclusion that the world was against him because of his gambling habits, he decided he would fight it alone rather than retreat, a virtue which, put to a better use, would have made him a man admired and respected. Strangely inconsistent with his whole career, "The" made two campaign contributions, one to elect Abraham Lincoln and the other to help Jerome along to victory. The Jerome contribution was made a couple of years ago, about which time Allen gave up gambling; otherwise it could not have been understood. By reason of his business of selling pools on horse-racing the deceased was an enemy of the Percy-Gray law, contending that it was unjust to permit gambling at the tracks and make it a felony elsewhere.

Returning Confidence.

From the Indianapolis News.

Another evidence of the return of confidence is shown by the way the rubber trees are once more venturing to stay out all night on the front porch.

An Artful Dodger.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Many things are coming Speaker Cannon's way, but he feels it necessary to dodge most of them.

AT THE HOTELS.

"Things are improving rapidly in the Southwest," said Mr. J. B. Kremer, at the Arlington Hotel, last night.

"In my home city, Louisville, Ky., I believe all trace of the recent flurry in money circles has passed. Of course, there is still a little tightness, but it is so slight as to be hardly noticeable.

"Louisville is coming to the front rapidly. To-day it is one of the most thriving cities on the Ohio River. For the past two years there has been a big boom in the building line. Even during the worst stages of the financial flurry there was but little cessation.

"There are a number of men idle, as there is in every large city. But business is firm and showing steady advancement. One thing which I think is a good criterion of the stability of conditions there is the fact that the realty prices hold firm and there are few transactions in large mortgages.

"The population of the entire State of Kentucky is steadily increasing. Take it all and all, the Bluegrass section is in a most healthy condition in every sense."

"London is not the slow-pokey place you Americans imagine," said Mr. M. E. Giles, of London, England, at the New Willard last night.

"We are rapidly adopting the so-called American ways over there. As a result, there is a briskness and expediency about business now that was unknown twenty years ago.

"This is in large measure due, I believe, to the introduction of American ways in the emporiums of American companies who have branches there.

"One of London's systems, which is rapidly stamped out in many of the stores, is the 'boarding in' of the employes. That means that the employes have rooms and eat their meals in the building in which they work or in one close to it conducted by the proprietors of the store. This has long been in disfavor with the London people in general.

"When the American branches, none of whom, so far as I know, follow that system, began paying their clerks big salaries and giving them perfect freedom as to where they desired to eat or sleep, and as to their conduct after working hours, the discontent became wid spread. Many stores are dispensing with it and allowing their clerks to provide their own board and lodging.

"There are, of course, a number of places in London that are run to-day as they were a hundred years ago and will be run the same a hundred years hence. That is what you would call old fogyism, but in many instances it is sentiment. These businesses have been passed down from father to son for generations. The methods that first prevailed will prevail just so long as the concern is making money.

"Then again there are many Londoners who prefer the old style. For example, a solicitor who installed a stenographer and a typewriter in his office was startled, after he had sent out the first bunch of letters under the new system, to receive letters from half a dozen clients, informing him, if he wanted to handle their business in future, please write them personally, as they did not want every one to know their private business. So the typewriter had to go.

"But in the main we are progressing."

"Politics is the entire subject of conversation in the West just now," said H. E. Page, of St. Louis, at the Ebbitt, last night. "Of course, all the favorite sons have been discussed, but the general impression out my way is that Bryan and Taft will be the nominees of their respective parties.

"The talk of a third term for Roosevelt is little heard in the West. In fact, it is hardly discussed at all. Those who do talk it are certain he will abide by his decision not to accept it, and that another will lead the Republican party next November.

"Of course, opinion is largely divided. I believe, if Taft is the nominee, that Bryan will have the best chance of election he has ever had. I believe Bryan will beat any man in the Republican party—save Roosevelt."

"Roosevelt will be nominated," said Frederick O. Perkins, of Boston, at the Raleigh last night. Mr. Perkins is a banker of the Hub, and is here on business.

"Although Roosevelt," continued Mr. Perkins, "has hit the financial interests pretty strong, there is no man in the Republican party who denies he is not the best-fitted man for the office.

"He is honest, he is independent, and he is patriotic and thinks he is doing his best for the welfare of his country. Furthermore, he can defeat any Democrat, which cannot be said of any other candidate whom the Republicans may nominate."

William Volkhardt, of New York, who has been in attendance as a member at the Waterworks Association convention, said yesterday, at the Arlington, that municipalities, as such, should take more interest in the aims and work of the association, as the latter was performing a service for public welfare.

"It is the constant aim of the association to improve the water service, to serve purer water, and in every way to bring the water service to a standard of highest efficiency. The public is benefited by our work. We meet every year and read papers relating to the water service and its improvement.

"A poor and careless water supply will always tell on the health of any community. The fact that our association is using every effort to improve the water and its service, and thereby benefit the public, is a strong reason why municipalities should assist our aims in a more tangible manner than has been done heretofore.

"It is true that there are some municipal water works superintendents enrolled on our membership rolls. But there are many more who are not members, and who thereby neglect their duty so far as it relates to the protection of public health."

"The farmers throughout Indiana are having a pretty hard time of it just now," said Mr. J. O. Briggs, of Indianapolis, Ind., at the Shoreham last night. "The cold weather and the heavy rains have made it impossible for them to attempt any planting.

"From what I can learn, there is not a section of the entire State in which ground has been broken for planting so far. If this weather continues for any length of time the entire country will be in bad shape.

"Rainfall and unprecedented cold has been general. The rivers in Indiana are also swollen, and many of them are out of their banks. I don't believe the damage has been of any great extent so far."

"There is nothing to it but Johnson out our way," said W. G. Bennett, of St. Paul, Minn., last night. Mr. Bennett was en route from Boston to his home, and took a stop-over, dining at the Raleigh.

"Johnson has made a good governor. The people like him. He will have the solid support of the State, I believe, as well as a good many others in St. Paul, that if nominated he will be elected.

"Of course, we don't forget Mr. Bryan, but we are for Johnson first.

"General conditions are brightening up wonderfully out there, and we are enjoying a most healthy business. The weather has delayed the crops some, but when the farmers get started they will make things hum."