THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON.

SUNDAY............May 12, 1912

THEODORE W. NOYES.....Editor

The Evening Star Newspaper Company.

Business Office, 11th St. and Pennsylvania Avenue.
New York Office: Tribune Building.
Chicago Office: First National Bank Building.
European Office: 3 Regent St., London, England.

The Evening Star, with the Sunday morning edition, is delivered by carriers within the city at 45 cents per month; daily only, 25 cents per month; Sunday only, 20 cents per month. Orders may be sent by mail, or telephone Main 2440. Collection is made by carrier at the end of each month.

By mail, postage prepaid:
Daily, Sunday included, one month, 60 cents.
Daily, Sunday excepted, one month, 40 cents.
Saturday Star, $1 year. Sunday Star, $2.40 year.

Entered as second-class mail matter at the post office at Washington, D. C.

☞In order to avoid delays on account of personal absence letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office; but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Department, according to tenor or purpose.

Adjournment.

For a time the hope was expressed that Congress would be able to put up the shutters before the Chicago convention met. Now that hope is almost dead. Convention day is only some six weeks distant, and the tables of Congress are piled high with business. Even the supply bills are in a backward state; and Uncle Sam must have his rations. And so it is urged that Congress must stay on the job until it is completed with deliberation. No hurrying in the interest of politics.

This is good advice. With the two national conventions in view, the congressional leaders on both sides should have bestirred themselves for an early adjournment. But they did not. Some important issues have been neglected altogether, while others have been only "scratched." In a way, and to a degree, Congress has drifted.

Still, there is record enough upon which to base the two national platforms. Both parties are sufficiently committed on the tariff. Both have declared themselves on the subject of the navy. The economy cry is well understood. Currency reform goes over by mutual consent. The trust problem is about where it was when the session began, both sides favoring further legislation, but neither with recommendations well thought out. The platform makers at both Chicago and Baltimore will have all the material they need, even with Congress still in session, and the two parties still squared off on national issues.

The greater consideration in the matter is that Congress should transact with care all the business intrusted to it. If two or three more months are necessary, let the time be allotted. Suppose the session should not end before August. That will be early enough for the release of members for stumping purposes. Stump oratory is not very effective in July, and there is small if any call for it. Not until well along in August do crowds gather, even in presidential years, and respond to appeals about saving the country.

Complaint is made about listlessness in both House and Senate. In neither body are members giving evidence of interest in the proceedings. Well, why not try a change of speakers? Why not put forward men with a greater knack of waking up folks? The subjects are important, and decisions, soon or late, should be reached. Legislators are but human. Now and then they are apt to get drowsy, and when in that state they must be treated with everyday remedies.

Gun Traffic and Public Safety.

Grave apprehension is felt regarding the situation at Minersville, Pa., and other places in the hard coal district, where strikers are showing an ugly feeling toward mine owners and the public authorities. They are arming themselves by purchases of pistols, guns and ammunition at the stores, and they moreover have in their possession, for use in the mines when they are employed, quantities of dynamite. The latter is a constant and apparently unavoidable peril in the mining region, but the purchase of guns is not impossible of prevention. It is noted in the dispatches that the authorities feel themselves embarrassed by the fact that they are unable to stop the sale of firearms short of a declaration of martial law. This is true in the present state of the statutes of the commonwealth, but it does not follow that there is no way to stop the people from arming themselves in a case like the present. If Pennsylvania had a proper firearms law, such a law as every state should have, there would be no present difficulty on this score. The proposition has been advanced again and again that the only way effectively to control the traffic in deadly weapons is to require the purchaser to procure a permit from some designated official, a judge of a court or a justice of the peace, upon the presentation of which only is it possible for a dealer to sell without incurring a severe penalty. With the permit-to-buy system working in Pennsylvania there would be much less danger of rioting today and the state authorities would be assured of ability to keep the peace to a far greater extent. The truth regarding the traffic in deadly weapons will eventually be appreciated sufficiently to persuade legislatures—and it is to be hoped Congress as well for the sake of the District of Columbia—to enact laws that will really protect life without infringing upon the constitutional right of the people "to bear arms."

Times keep moving. Nobody hears now of "when grandma danced the minuet," but in a comparatively short time they will sing about "when grandma danced the turkey trot."

The idea that a judge might prefer to figure in important activities scarcely in keeping with his official dignity is at the bottom of the entire Shakespeare-Bacon controversy.

The vindictive sentiments developed make it plain that there will not be frazzles enough to go 'round.

The Colonel and a Boss.

"Cox, I'm out here thumping the bosses. You don't mind?"

"Not at all, colonel. Help yourself so far as I'm concerned. I'm used to it. I've been thumped for years, from soda to hock, from hades to breakfast."

"You see, old man, it's part of the game. The people like the sport. All seasons are open for hunting bosses.

"But you ought not to play favorites, colonel."

"I'm obliged to. A man—even a reformer—must consider his own. Why should I thump those bosses who are working for me?"

"Did the bosses you are now thumping refuse to work for you?"

"No. That is to say, there were no negotiations on the subject. But I gave them time to decide, and when I saw they were not for me, I put them down as against me, and opened fire. Lorimer, Penrose, Gallinger, Cannon and the rest all knew I was in the field, but made no offer. I heard nothing from you."

"I'm not in the business now."

"No more o' that, Hal, an' thou lov'st me."

"My name's not Hal, but George."

"Excuse my slip. I was thinking of Boston. Everybody speaks Shakespeare in Massachusetts."

"What are you going to do in case of your nomination? Accept the support of the bosses?"

"Why not? When such support passes to me it's purified. I wash it clean, and put it to good account. I did that, you know, all during my seven years in the White House. Why not again?"

"And in case of your election you'll work with the bosses who are in Congress?"

"Certainly. The leaders on my black list will be there, Lorimer, Penrose and Gallinger in the Senate, and Cannon in the House. I may need them in my business. The tools to the man who can use them. Suppose they are the tools of the 'interests.' If I can reach them I shall put them to my service."

"Well, I must say, colonel, that if anybody can turn that trick, you can."

"Thanks, old man. Praise from Sir Hubert, you know is praise, indeed."

"There you go again, colonel. My name's George."

"So it is. And now, George, I've got a favor to ask of you."

"Anything in reason, colonel, and with pleasure."

"If as the game proceeds you come to think I'm thumping too hard, don't take it out of Nick. I'm proud and fond of Nick, and I want him to stay in the House. He's succeeding there."

"I'm sorry you thought it necessary to ask that. I'm proud and fond of Nick myself. He's safe. I shall not visit the sins of the father-in-law on the son-in-law. Nick is one of the bright spots on my record, and I treasure him. I wish you were more like him."

Pennsylvania.

Over in Pennsylvania an old ceremony has just been performed. The annual burial of Col. Jim Guffy is an event. It produces mixed feelings. Some men rejoice in it. Others are mildly sorry. Still others simply approve of it.

Judge Rockwood Hoar and Ben Butler were enemies, and took no pains to conceal their feelings, either from each other or the public. On the day of Gen. Butler's funeral, a friend of Judge Hoar asked him if he would attend. "No," replied the judge, "but I entirely approve of it."

On the occasions when Col. Guffy is laid to rest, some of his opponents content themselves with approval. They make no stir. They know the man. He has a way of scratching out and showing up again in fighting form. He has been "killed dead" six or seven times since Mr. Bryan administered on the affairs of the democratic party. Truly, a remarkable man.

Some people wonder what such a man gets out of politics. He has never sought office for himself, and never been successful in securing office for others. His campaigns have looked like expensive dress parades.

Still, is there not something even in dress parades? Col. Guffy has always been well mounted, and rejoiced in his place at the head of the procession. And rather an interesting figure he has made. He has had his critics, as all such men have. Mr. Bryan has been one of them.

It may be that this time Col. Guffy has really been done for. New influences are active everywhere, and in both parties. In Pennsylvania Mr. Penrose has been unhorsed as well as Col. Guffy.

More is known of the men who have unhorsed Penrose than of those who have unhorsed Guffy. On the republican side the result seems to be a mere change of bosses. On the democratic side, will it turn out to be a mere change of "angels"?

The role of "angel" in the Keystone state calls for both coin and a generous spirit in its use. It is understood that Col. Guffy is out many a pretty penny for the pleasure he has had. But he has had it to spend. His business abilities have brought him large returns, and he has been able to afford the outlay.

So that, even if he is at last dead, Col. Guffy will rule his "angel" successor or successors from his urn. He has set the pace—or, more properly speaking, the price—and the establishment must be supported according to previous outlays and the expectations raised.

Had not Woodrow Wilson devoted his talents to education and statesmanship he might have become one of our greatest ad writers. He knows how to prepare striking material, and is alert in rejecting mediums not adapted to his interests.

In spite of certain discouraging comments on their efforts, Henry Watterson and George Harvey have refrained from enrolling themselves as students in a school of journalism.

Mr. Aldrich has declined to commit himself to any theory that half-cent and three-cent pieces will help much in solving banking and currency problems.

Numerous democrats are beginning to wonder whether W. J. Bryan has begun to organize an overwhelming demand for himself.

The relations of Brandt to the penitentiary may be described as those of an in-and-outer.

Base Ball and Betting.

From every side rises a protest against the activities of the professional gamblers who have undertaken to include the game of base ball once more among their agencies for the regularly organized laying of wagers. Time was, a good many years ago, when the daily base ball games were for six months in the year quoted in professional gambling odds freely and openly, and under the influence of this element the game degenerated until it well nigh lost favor with the public. The attendance fell off, and instead of drawing thousands daily the games were witnessed by hundreds, who were in large measure layers of bets. They bet on not only the result of the game, but the result of each inning and the nature of the next play. They made combination books on the results in different cities. The betting system was as highly organized as the poolroom has been of late years, with the horse races as the particular means of exciting the cupidity of gamblers.

It is to the credit of those who have managed the base ball business in this country that they have with remarkably few exceptions been free from the suspicion of catering to or winking at the enterprise of the gambling element. They wisely decided, a long time ago, to put a stop to open betting at the games. In the "big league" circuits betting has been until comparatively recently virtually unnoticeable in the ball parks. Lately, however, the professional gamblers have been working their way back into this field, until there is now grave danger of a revival of the evil which once so nearly put base ball entirely out of business. An enterprise has been discovered that has been selling pool tickets on the games in the American, National and International leagues, offering "prizes" for those who made the highest combination score of guesses on the outcome of the games during each week, the tickets selling at 25 cents each, and the prizes rising to $25. Thus for an investment of a quarter one might make 100 times as much. These tickets have been selling by the thousands in New York and other cities. Of course, those who are handling them are clearly subject to the anti-gambling laws. In addition to this form of base ball betting there has been a revival of open gambling at the games in one or two of the cities, notably Philadelphia, where the other day forty men were arrested in one of the grandstands for flagrantly open laying of wagers.

A most gratifying sign of public disapproval has been manifested, and if the authorities will act promptly and decisively base ball gambling will quickly be ended. The owners and managers of clubs presumably stand ready to co-operate as far as possible with the municipal officials to check these practices, for they recognize clearly that it is dangerous to temporize with an evil that, if tolerated in the least degree, is certain to grow rapidly and to injure the game in public estimation. Base ball has achieved its present high state of popularity because it has been regarded now for years as a clean, honest sport. It is inevitable that if the gamblers are permitted to use it for betting purposes it will fall under suspicion, whether justly or otherwise, of being maintained as a gambling adjunct and faith in the sport itself will be weakened. It is impossible to play base ball games that are above suspicion if they are used from day to day by the professional gambling element, just as it has been impossible to keep horse racing free of doubt as to its honesty under the baleful influence of the bookmakers and the poolroom owners.

An Outbreak of Petty Crime.

Either people are becoming very careless in the handling of their valuables, or else Washington is suffering from exceptional inflows of thieves from outside or an outbreak of activity on the part of the local pilferers. The news columns of The Star are unusually replete with reports of petty thefts, robberies from the person and housebreakings. Seldom has there been such a stream of announcements of this character. While the individual losses are comparatively small, the aggregate is mounting high and a word of admonition to both the people and to the police is in season. It behooves every one to take special precautions at a time like the present, when thieves are exceptionally active, to put into places of safe-keeping articles of value that are not of immediate use, to carry nothing about the person that is not required for present need, to keep firm grip on all reticules or purses—in short, to be on guard against pickpockets, sneaks and burglars. Certain recent happenings have indicated that locks are of little value in protecting the house from intrusion, but locks can be changed and other precautions may be taken in case it is necessary to leave valuable goods on the premises.

No clear reason appears for the unusual outbreak of petty crime here at this time. There is no lack of employment for able-bodied men, and a mild season has begun. Possibly the city is suffering from the attentions of the shifters, who move back and forth across the country with the seasonal changes, and who are just now, perhaps, on their way north after sojourning in the south. If so, it is in order to call upon the police to keep a closer watch on incoming trains and to scrutinize new arrivals. In any event, it would be reassuring to find the number of arrests for thievery equaling the number of robbery reports for a few days.

Bonci claims that a cold he caught while traveling on a railway cost him $50,000. A grand opera tenor talks big figures as naturally as a high financier.

The first straw hat does not look as funny as the derby that hangs over into hot weather.

The properly respectful and well regulated family recognizes the fact that every day is "Mothers' day."

A scientist claims to have discovered 400 different kinds of fleas. Some of the things that seem to amuse scientists are past understanding!

Perhaps it is fortunate for Gov. Harmon's career that the energetic Mr. Bryan did not select Ohio as his residence.

The candidate who is appealing in a matter of fact way to the plain sense of the common people should avoid getting excited himself.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Icebergs of the Highway.

"It is an exceedingly good rule to require every automobile to have a horn or bell," said the cautious man.

"Yes," replied Mr. Chuggins; "but we ought to go further and have an alarm clock on every brick wagon to keep the driver awake."

Nature Through a Monocle.

The leaves are on the trees so gay.
In autumn they will go away.
They will be back, by Jove, next spring.
Each year it is the same old thing.
A leaf once fastened on a tree
Should try to stay there, don't you see!
The way they're popping to and fro
Is trying to the nerves, you know!

Insinuation.

"Posterity will build a monument to that man," said the admiring constituent.

"I'll tell you what would please him more," replied Senator Sorghum. "Build something now, and give him a look-in on the contract."

A Reformer's Limitations.

"Don't you want to join in and reform public affairs?"

"Law, no!" replied the quiet woman. "I've had trouble enough reforming one man, let alone a whole political party."

A Generalization.

"Pa," asked the small boy, "what is a demagogue?"

"A demagogue, my son, is a smart, ready talker, who belongs to a party you're not in."

The Merry-Go-Round.

The blacksmith pays the grocer and the
grocer pays the freight
On the goods he brings to town.
The butcher pays the tailor for a coat
that's up-to-date,
Though he pays it with a frown.
The tailor takes the money and he buys
a horse and cart,
And when the horse goes lame
He has to pay the blacksmith ere he
makes another start.
It's an interesting game!

Now X is selling things to Y and Y sells
things to Z,
During all the busy year.
Z starts in with the alphabet and sells
to A and B—
It's a system very clear.
And everybody says the others' prices
are too great
And says they ought to fall;
Each human being seems to find himself an ultimate
Consumer, after all!

STATE SOCIETIES IN WASHINGTON

Miscellaneous Population.

Washington is a made city. Those of the present and some of the past generation can claim to be Washingtonians by birth. But how few can make the claim that their grandfathers were born here! Before the National Capital was created by law it was a stretch of rolling hills covered with trees and grass. The first comers were from Maryland and Virginia. Then there was no need to ask, "Where are you from?" for the two sister states were so closely allied that their families were interwoven. But as each state began to send its sons and daughters here, principally to fill government positions, there began to spring up in Washington such a mixed throng of Americans, those from the north, south, east and west, that they became merely "Washingtonians."

And so Washingtonians they are today, with one exception. To be a native of any one particular state means to owe allegiance to that state. And so it is here. Washingtonians they are, but if Montana, Mississippi or Maine is the native state, it is to it that a "Washingtonian" is likely to give the warmest loyalty. And then, too, there is ever present that phase of human nature which finds such keen pleasure in meeting "some one from home." No matter how broad the state or how at variance the habits and lives of its people, to be from a "home" state awakens a mutual comradeship and subject of conversation such as no other topic could bring forth.

But with the growth of Washington, and especially of the government, the chance of meeting casually "some one from home" grew smaller. So many states were created, with so many people, that the population has become thoroughly mixed. But there has ever been a strong tendency to cling to a fellow-man from the same state. Often this desire found expression in informal gatherings at which all present were from a single state. Or again it might develop into nothing more than a lifelong friendship between two people.

* * *

Societies Formed.

Within the last few years this desire has taken a more definite form, and today there exist in Washington numerous state societies. These, purely social in character, are composed almost entirely of government employes. In addition there are some political groups, but these are in no way affiliated with the social organizations. In the main, it can be said that all state societies are similar. Each is inspired by the desire to bring into closer touch those from the state for which it stands. Each, too, stands ready to render such aid as may become necessary in the case of its members. And in each the senators and representatives of the particular state are the special members of the society's list.

In point of number, those societies which are formed of the natives of the various southern states lead, as for example the Tennessee and Mississippi societies, both of which organizations have an unusually large membership roll. The Tennessee Society, its age taken into consideration, has perhaps the largest membership of any, in addition to having an interesting history.

To begin with, the Tennessee Society was organized by a woman who is not a native of Tennessee. Her husband came from that state, and consequently their friends were many Tennessee people. They would talk of forming an organization, but never really "got together." Then this woman said that if she was a Tennessean she knew what she would do. To this remark came the answer, "Well, do it anyway." And she did, with the result that at the end of a short time there was a Tennessee society, with a membership of more than two hundred. That woman was Mrs. I. N. Hammer, and it was in 1910 that the Tennessee Society was organized. It was April 5 of that year that the first gathering was held in answer to the summons sent out by Mrs. Hammer to all Tennesseans. More than two hundred were present, with James D. Richardson, sovereign grand commander of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite, presiding.

* * *

Distinguished Members.

Six out of the ten Tennessee representatives and the late Senator Taylor were present, most of whom added to the evening's pleasure by eulogizing Tennessee. "Col. Bob" spoke of Tennessee as "the land where the horses are fleet, the women are fair and the clover smells sweet." At this meeting a committee was appointed to draft a constitution. At the second meeting, April 26, the constitution which had been drafted during the interval was discussed and adopted. James D. Richardson was elected president and 159 charter members were enrolled.

At the same time four honorary members were elected, the two Tennessee senators then serving, Taylor and Frazier; Justice Lurton and the then Secretary of War, Jacob M. Dickinson. Since that meeting, more than a year ago, the Tennessee Society has been active.

The society held its annual election of officers last Tuesday, and the incumbents were all re-elected, with the exception of W. J. Cawthon, secretary; who declined re-election, declaring his objections to the "third term" idea in even social, to say nothing of political, office.

The officers are: James D. Richardson, president; Creed M. Fulton, first vice president; Laps D. McCord, second vice president; H. T. Tate, third vice president; Mrs. I. N. Hammer, secretary; Walter Lanning, treasurer; Mrs. A. E. Keeling, historian; W. J. Cawthon, chaplain.

Activity along organization lines is not confined to the south, however, and in the far northwestern corner of this country is a state well represented here by the Society of the Oregon Country. This organization, nearly ten years old, was first simply the Oregon Society. But gradually it grew to include those people who had lived in what had originally been the Oregon country, now comprising Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and so in time the name changed, too. It was the early part of December, 1903, that a meeting was held, with D. C. Sherman acting as temporary president, at which an organization was formed. At a later meeting the same month H. H. Gilfrey was elected the first president and Mr. Sherman the first vice president.

* * *

Oregon Country.

Like all the other state societies, this has for its object the same principles of closer friendship and aid. Its membership numbers almost 100 and includes many prominent people, such as Senator George E. Chamberlain and Col. J. A. Straight. One of the members, Max Pracht, has the distinction of being a native of the original "Oregon country" as well as the owner of one of the finest peach orchards in this country. Another custom, which is characteristic to all these societies, is that of giving an annual banquet. That of the Society of the Oregon Country was held the latter part of March, when John Barrett acted as toastmaster. Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, Senator Borah of Idaho, Senator Myers of Montana, Senator Heyburn of Idaho, Senator Poindexter of Washington, Senator Jones of Washington and Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, as well as several representatives, were among the speakers of the evening. The meetings of this society are held monthly during the winter, sometimes at a hotel and sometimes at the home of a member. The May meeting was held last night, and took the form of a story-telling evening, when prizes were awarded the best story teller by a vote of all those present.

Another society which is still in its infancy is the South Dakota Society, organized April 10, 1911. There are about one hundred and ten South Dakotans in the government service in Washington and these were all notified of the proposed formation of this society, a large number of them becoming actual members. The first social gathering was held in December of the same year, taking the form of a banquet. Sixty guests were present, including both senators from South Dakota, Gamble and Crawford; Representative Martin and other prominent natives of the state. John L. Erickson was toastmaster. On April 12 of this year the society met and adopted the constitution and by-laws, and at the same time arranged for another social gathering the 25th of this month. The officers of the society are: Harry T. Davison, president; B. W. Kumler, vice president; Edward K. DuPuy, secretary, and I. I. Chorpening, treasurer.

* * *

Mississippi Association.

The aims and objects of the original Mississippi Association, briefly stated, are: to foster state pride; to preserve traditions; to encourage patriotism and historical research, to aid those in distress, and to draw together in social intercourse all those who either by birth or adoption claim citizenship in the commonwealth of Mississippi. The constitution also provides that no questions regarding either religion or politics shall be discussed at the meetings. The Mississippi Association was organized in May, 1895, at the residence of Harry Peyton, who became the first president of the association. During the early days the meetings were held at the residences of the various members, but with the rapid growth of the association a hall became necessary.

Among those who are largely responsible for the early success of the Mississippi Association are Capt. Fred Beall, Maj. George P. Herdon, Gen. J. H. Brinker, Harry Peyton, Capt. John W. Fite, Percy Edmunds, H. C. Long, Carl Schoffer, Jesse Morgan, Mrs. Emily Van Dorn Miller, Mrs. Sarah McDonald, Mrs. Mary G. Quitman, and Mrs. Z. W. Pegram. Today the officers of the society are Capt. Fred Beall, president; Jose Colton, vice president, Miss Bennie Nabers, secretary, and W. P. Ramsey, treasurer. The senators and representatives from Mississippi are honorary members of the association.

In 1912, after seven years, the Mississippi Association was reorganized and the name changed to the Mississippi Society. At this time Carlton M. Clark was elected to the presidency. Under his guidance the society was given a new lease of life and a greatly increased membership. Today this organization ranks as one of the most important of the state societies. Like the other state organizations the usual custom is to hold monthly meetings during the winter, with an occasional banquet or reception. Of the latter, one of the most important ever given by the Mississippi Society was to the native-born Mississippians in Washington.

The guests at this function included several senators from other states who nevertheless were Mississippian born. Among them were Senator Francis G. Newlands of Nevada, Senator George E. Chamberlain of Oregon, Senator Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma and former Secretary of War Dickinson. At the present time those who represent Mississippi in the national government are among the active workers of the society here, and Senator John Sharp Williams, Representative Thomas U. Sisson and Representative Benjamin G. Humphreys are almost regular attendants at the meetings.

* * *

North Dakota.

To trace the organization and growth of the North Dakota Society necessitates going back a number of years to the time when a small group of men from that state who were prominent in Washington government circles used to get together for a quiet evening. At these gatherings it was of the home state that they talked, and of her sons and daughters in Washington. Col. C. A. Lounsbury, now in the general land office; Maj. J. H. Hamilton, doorkeeper at the Senate; Gen. Harrison Allen, now dead, but at that time auditor for the Post Office Department; Maj. James McLaughlin, in the Indian service, and for thirty-four years an agent among the tribes, making treaties, as well as being the author of "My Friend the Indian"; R. W. Farrar, clerk of the Senate committee on pensions, and James Anderson, who succeeded Gen. Allen as auditor of the Post Office Department, were the men who would thus assemble and discuss home ties and friends. At these gatherings it was often proposed to band into a regular organization of North Dakotans, but no definite organization was ever perfected until an event occurred which led directly to the formation of the society.

That was the death of a native of North Dakota, whose widow was left almost penniless with a family to support. The men who had come here from that state then realized that there was need of a regular organization which would aid North Dakotans, and so on December 31, 1907, the North Dakota Association came into existence.

Maj. John G. Hamilton was elected the first president of the association, being followed in turn by Robert W. Farrar, Col. C. A. Lounsbury and others who had been instrumental in its organization. The present officers consist of William A. Kelly, president; Maj. James McLaughlin, vice president, and Joseph F. Miller, secretary-treasurer. The board of directors is composed of J. M. Boardman, William R. Fitch and Williams E. Collis. The present membership is about 100. The meetings of the North Dakota Association are held once a year, on the 22d of each February. That date was chosen, not on account of its being the birthday of George Washington, but because it is the date of the state's admission to the Union. This meeting takes the form of a banquet, at which the North Dakota delegation in Congress and other prominent men from that state are the guests. On account of his former residence in North Dakota, Theodore Roosevelt is an honorary member of the association, having been elected during his term as President. President Taft is also an honorary member.

BRYAN VERSUS HARMON.

From the Troy Record.

Bryan has broken out again in opposition to Judson Harmon. The Nebraskan apparently finds it safer to attack the last fellow in the democratic race than to oppose Champ Clark or Woodrow Wilson. Meantime the Ohio governor goes about his own business, seemingly undisturbed by what is said for him or against him.

From the Jacksonville Times-Union.

Mr. Bryan asks Gov. Harmon if he admits he was wrong in opposing silver in 1896. Why doesn't he ask Gov. Wilson the same question?

From the St. Paul Dispatch.

Col. Bryan is out trying to defeat Gov. Harmon. The colonel has rare ability to defeat any one except his own opponent on a republican ticket.

From the Cleveland Leader.

Col. Bryan demands a new deal. But if it falls to Uncle Jud Harmon it can safely be assumed that he will insist on cutting the cards.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mr. Bryan calls the Governor of Ohio a dead one, but seems strangely concerned over what the corpse may do.

MARYLAND, WHOSE MARYLAND?

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Looks as if Maryland was trying to follow Massachusetts' enigmatical lead. So much for a bad example.

From the Utica Observer.

Taft and Roosevelt together, with all their strength, could not get out half of the Maryland republican vote. Each can claim that the stay-at-homes were for him.

From the Butte Inter-Mountain.

The Maryland primary form seems almost as conclusive as the Massachusetts pea-under-the-shell game.

From the Kansas City Times.

President Taft, of course, is sure that the despot's heel is on thy shore, Maryland, my Maryland.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

After the slight crunching jar following the Maryland voting, Gov. Wilson sent out the "S. O. S." signal.

From the Newark Star.

It's all in the punctuation. T. R. exultantly cries, "My Maryland," and W. H. T. mournfully echoes, "My! Maryland?"

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR

Jeff Davis' Coachman.

Information with reference to the state of the Confederate forces was sought by this government from all sources fifty years ago. In addition to the reports of spies, the statements of refugees from across the lines were eagerly scanned. In The Star of May 5, 1862, is an account of a telegram received that day by the War Department from Fredericksburg stating that a colored man had reached the Federal headquarters from the other side of the Rappahannock announcing himself as Jeff Davis' coachman. He repeated scraps of conversation overheard by him while driving the president of the Confederacy about in his carriage. One of these was between Davis and Gen. J. E. Johnston, Davis disapproving of the latter's retreat from Manassas. Later a conversation occurred between Gen. Johnston and Mrs. Davis, in which the former said that if he had not left Manassas when he did McClellan would have advanced on him and cut him to pieces. The coachman also overheard a talk between Davis and Dr. Gwin, former United States senator from California, in which the Confederate president explained his plan to resist the march of the Federals from Fredericksburg long enough to enable him to get his army out of the peninsula into Richmond and out of Virginia. The coachman also represented that Mrs. Davis had said that the Confederacy was about played out; that if New Orleans was really taken she had no longer any interests in the matter, as all she had was there; that it was a great pity they had ever attempted to hold Virginia and other non-cotton growing states. According to this man, Mr. and Mrs. Davis had all their books, clothing and pictures packed ready to move at short notice. Confederate money, he said, was not taken when it could be avoided, Mrs. Davis herself being refused when, in payment for something she purchased, she offered a ten-dollar Confederate bill.

* * *

Capitol Prison.

In The Star of May 9, 1862, is a description of conditions at the old Capitol prison on 1st street east, opposite the Capitol grounds, which made the prediction that this old building would become famous in history on account of the conspicuous part it was playing in the great national drama. The article proceeds:

"The number of prisoners of war and political prisoners at present is about one hundred, all of whom, with the exception of two in the hospital, appear as healthy and cleanly as any other collection of the same number of persons to be found anywhere. Each has his bunk cot, good mattress, blankets, sheets and bed cover, which are as clean as those of any hotel. There are two large bathing rooms, supplied with hot and cold water, for free use, which, of course, have much to do with the remarkable health, cleanliness and good spirits of the prisoners. The kitchen is supplied with a large hotel range, and the provision room is full of as good food as is to be found in that of any hotel, though perhaps not quite so varied—fresh meats, esculents of different kinds, rice, peas, beans, coffee, sugar, tea, fresh bread, etc. The dining room is supplied with tables, seats, plates, knives and forks and drinking cups. The dispensary reflects infinite credit on Brigade Surgeon Stuart and his hospital steward. * * * Mr. Wood, the superintendent of the prison, to whose capital management the prisoners are indebted for their many extraordinary comforts, has also charge of some 450 contrabands in a separate building nearby, who are well provided for and as comfortable as that class of persons can be made to keep themselves. He employs many of them in useful labor, to the great advantage of the government. As an instance, we may mention that for some time past he has kept 100 at work burying the multitude of government horse carcasses lying on the outskirts of the city. The yards for exercise are kept as cleanly as a gentleman's lawn should be, and seem to be enjoyed by the prisoners with a keen relish. On the whole, this old Capitol prison contrasts wonderfully indeed with the prison in Richmond in which, since the beginning of the rebellion, Unionists have been confined."

* * *

Captured by the Guard.

A news paragraph in The Star of May 10, 1862, affords an excellent illustration of one of the difficulties that confronted the provost guard in Washington during the civil war:

"Lieut Raymond of the 86th New York Regiment, while in the discharge of his duty yesterday morning as an officer of the provost guard, halted a man on E street between 13th and 14th streets wearing the uniform of an officer of the United States Army. He had no pass, and the absence of shoulder straps, commission or discharge or any other paper showing him to belong or to have belonged to any regiment in the service made Lieut. Raymond suspicious, and he arrested him for arraying himself in Uncle Sam's blue cloth and brass buttons without authority. The man gave his name as R. R. McBride, lieutenant in the 72d Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. While the lieutenant was engaged in examining the pass of a soldier who at that moment passed, Lieut. McBride bolted in an endeavor to escape. Lieut. Raymond gave chase, and with the assistance of a police officer found the gay Lieut. McBride secreted under an old lounge in a gambling establishment on E street. He was again taken in custody and closely grasped by the police officer, lest he should again make off, was escorted down E street and through Pennsylvania avenue to the central guardhouse, where he gave his name as Lieut. S. J. Murphy, and this time asserted that he belonged to the 71st Pennsylvania Regiment. He was placed in confinement to await further action of the provost marshal. Capt. Sherwood, who commands at the central guardhouse, afterward discovered that the man belonged to Baker's California Regiment. His regiment is not now in this vicinity, and perhaps the officer will be glad to learn its whereabouts."

A HAPPY LIFE.

I've never called my fellow man a liar,
I've never tacked his hide upon the fence;
I've never held him up as a pariah,
Nor spouted on his lack of common sense.
I've never had occasion to defame him,
Nor stab him with a keen-edged verbal knife,
I've never risen publicly to blame him,
I've lived a very happy sort of life.

I've never called him hypocrite or grafter,
I've never held my brother up to scorn
Nor made his work a cause for heartless laughter
The while I played a solo on my horn.
I've never called him crooked in his dealings,
I've never howled about his motives bad;
I've never hurt his wife's or children's feelings,
A very pleasant stretch of life I've had.

I've never had to term his methods vicious
Nor dig into the errors of his youth;
I've never had to call his friends pernicious
Nor label all his statements as untruth.
I've never had to publish old-time letters
Or in the slightest turmoil had to mix,
I've lived a life of gladness, without fetters,
But then I've never been in politics.

—Detroit Free Press.

HIS FAILING.

He has never tasted 'baccy,
He is always temperate,
He is never rude or quarrelsome,
And he never comes home late;
In all ways he is a model
With this one dissenting "Nix":
On the street car, going homeward,
He WILL talk politics.

His rating is unquestioned
As a model sort of hub;
He's the glittering example
In the office and the club;
But when he hits the street car
At just seventeen to six
His goodness is forgotten,
For he WILL talk politics.

He is good for blocks on iron
And for miles on Schedule K;
He will ride beyond his corner
And talk back the other way;
It matters not the subject,
Be it lead or tin or bricks,
It's a mania most distressing,
For he WILL talk politics.

—Denver Republican.

THE ITALO-TURKISH SITUATION

Italy Is Now Determined.

The bombardment and occupation of the Island of Rhodes by an Italian fleet on the 4th instant is proof that Italy has finally taken the bit in her teeth and proposes to fight the Turk from this time on. It is true the Turks claim to have resisted the Italian attack with the fury of desperation and put the Italian fleet to flight, but this dispatch is discredited.

On the 19th of April an Italian fleet appeared off the entrance of the Dardanelles and bombarded forts Koum-Kale and Toprakkald. The Turkish dispatches acknowledge that 180 projectiles were thrown by the Italians, but the Turks claim that no damage was done except to the barracks at Sedil-Bahr.

The result of the Italian demonstration, however, has been otherwise serious. On the retirement of the Italian fleet, Turkish ships proceeded to sink mines in the passages left open, and the government notified the interested nations that the straits were closed to all. The situation is highly prejudicial to the commercial world, and especially to Russia, Roumania and Bulgaria.

Besides, the closing of the straits is a violation of article 3 of the convention of London, March 13, 1871, which stipulates that "the Black sea shall remain open to the commerce of all nations."

War, it is recognized, creates a case of "force majeure." Nevertheless, it is not one nation which feels the pinching of the shoe, but all alike, and all the powers are in a bad humor. The Gazette de Cologne publishes an article in which the many inconveniences of neutral nations are exposed in detail. The English press remarks that England and Russia will suffer more from the closing of the straits than either Turkey or Italy. The Gazette says:

"There are actually shut up in the Black sea 150 ships laden with grain hailing from Russian, Roumanian and Bulgarian ports. The Turks cannot be blamed for closing the straits. On the other hand, the Italians may not be blamed for attacking."

* * *

Change of Policy.

Italy, it must be confessed, has conducted her operations, down to the past week, with careful regard to the sensitive feelings of Europe, lest she provoke a general war, and Turkey has profited largely by her consideration. But henceforth Italy will proceed to break something, and if Europe would avert the much-dreaded conflagration she must interview the Turk with the view of having him abandon Tripoli and recognize the fact that Italy is in possession of Tripoli.

Italy, it was said by the Italian press, after a war of six months, offered to the world a unique spectacle—"the spectacle of a power possessing an efficient and complete command of the sea, but unable for political reasons to use those advantages in such a manner as to compel her adversary to conclude peace."

The powers have been awakened by Italy's action to a sense of the threatened danger. The representatives of Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, England and France visited Assim Bey, the Turkish minister at Constantinople, and submitted a plea for the cessation of hostilities between Italy and Turkey. Assim declared that before any negotiations could be considered Italy must withdraw the decree annexing Tripoli.

Prior to this tardy effort on the part of the powers to induce Turkey to accept a situation that was inevitable, Mahmoud Chefket Pasha, Turkish minister of war, expressed himself somewhat as follows:

"Italy would force the Dardanelles. The attempt would be futile. There were thirty-six miles of submarine mines of all kinds. It would be fleet against fortress and dreadnought against mine. A singularly interesting lesson. Let the Italians come! The cession of Tripoli was a religious as well as a national question. If Turkey handed over Tripoli the caliphate in the eyes of the Moslem world would be discredited and Islam considered as having been betrayed!"

* * *

Closing of Dardanelles.

The Dardanelles dates from the treaty of Belgrade, in 1739, which closed the Black sea to the Russians, but which, thirty-five years later, were reopened to them by the treaty of Roustchouk-Kainardji. The treaty of 1856 neutralized the Black sea, and during the Franco-Prussian war Prince Gortschakoff demanded that the straits should be opened to Russian ships.

A commission established January 17, 1871, accorded Russia only half satisfaction; the neutrality was abolished, but the key to the straits was left in the hands of the sultan. The czar, on the other hand, was accorded the right to fortify the coast and construct ships. He modernized the armament of the batteries at Sebastopol, which were studded with guns on the sea front, and ships were placed on the stocks.

During the negotiations which preceded the annexation of Herzegovina by Austria M. Izvolsky attempted in vain to balance the advantages gained by Austria in that affair by securing the abandonment of the restraint imposed upon Russia at the Dardanelles.

Since the affair at Agadir several nations have had in mind the claiming of compensations. Spain occupied the north of Morroco, Italy seized Tripoli, and Russia, it is said, has dreamed of recovering her liberty in the Dardanelles. The question of the Dardanelles is of great importance to Russia and weighs heavily upon her policy. This was manifest in the attempt of Rojestvensky with the incongruous and inefficient vessels he undertook to go to certain destruction when for a fact there were six ironclads of 9,000 to 13,000 tons shut up in the Black sea, which, if freed, might have contributed to a very different story from that which is told of the fate of the Russian fleet.

The naval demonstration at the mouth of the Dardanelles demonstrated some of the arguments of the Turkish minister of war, but not all of them. It caused above all the intervention of the powers, and this was perhaps the main if not the single object of the demonstration. It was not possible that Italy would attempt the passage and lose perhaps the one-half of her costly fleet.

The occupation of Rhodes and other islands will prove amply sufficient to force the intervention of Europe and save the face of Turkey. Turkey has been encouraged until now by a garrulous and hysterical press in Germany, as well as in Turkey, by the assurance that Germany would side with Turkey and against Italy. Germany will do nothing of the kind. Italy is her ally, and as the time approaches for the renewal or rejection of the triple alliance Germany will not alienate Italy.

Italy's hands have been strengthened recently by the rumors of a rapprochement with Russia. And it is claimed in some circles that the arrival of M. Giers, the Russian ambassador at Constantinople, will be the signal of a renewed attempt at mediation to end at once, if necessary, the Italo-Turkish situation, which has become intolerable for the powers and Russia first of all.

It is certain that Russia more than any other power has encouraged Italy in her manner of conducting the war so far. The bombardment of Preveza was only an episode and no sustained offensive operation was undertaken by Italy on the Adriatic coast. Germany, England and France were doubtless joined in an understanding by which Italy would abstain from a general attack on Turkey. Italy has faithfully followed this friendly injunction and will hold her hand, a fact of which Turkey will be plainly advised in the renewed efforts of the powers which will be urged from this time on with emphasis.

The conflicts between Russia and Turkey in the matter of territory date back for half a century. The country south to Lake Urumiah belongs to the zone of Osmanli influence. When the porte attempted to establish her influence over the rich and fertile lands of Azerbeidjan Russia protested.

* * *

Conference of 1858.

Two years after the treaty of Paris, April 28, 1858, France, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, Sardinia and Turkey met in conference for the fixing of the Russo-Turkish frontiers. England supported the Turkish pretension, but Russia succeeded in obtaining that the differences between Persia and Turkey relative to the possession of Urumiah territory should be submitted to an Anglo-Russian committee. That commission labored during years without arriving at a solution of the conflict. The British delegates continued to maintain the Turkish pretensions, while Russia supported the claims of Persia.

After the Russo-Turkish war in 1878 England and Russia succeeded in elaborating an agreement by which the frontier was declared "neutral territory provisionally and until definite delimitation." Subsequently Russia assembled troops on the frontier and Turkey did likewise.

The Russians claim that the occupation by Turkey of the Khoi-Urumiah-Mavana-Van road constitutes a route of strategic importance enabling Turkey to transport troops rapidly and easily from Mozul, Darbekir and even from Bagdad to the Caucasian frontier. Moreover, Turkey may turn the left flank of a Russian army by the line Erivan-Kars.

Persia, the Turks say, has nothing to fear from Turkey, but, on the contrary, it has everything to fear from the Russians. While Russian and Turkish troops are confronting each other, it is announced that Gen. Soukhomlinow, Russian minister of war, is actually inspecting in the Caucasus an army of 100,000 men. From this distance it is not easy to forecast the action of the Turkish parliament. The only statesman who appears to comprehend the danger that menaces Turkey is Kiamil Pacha, the ex-grand vizier, who has recently addressed to the sultan a memoir, from which the following may be extracted:

* * *

Committee Blamed.

Kiamil Pacha declares that the difficulties and perils of government are due to the influence exercised by the committee of "union and progress," whose ignorance of the administrative and political situation exposes the Ottoman empire to partition. The great powers have found that the only way to preserve their rights, interests and international equilibrium is in contracting alliances. Turkey, in not following this example, finds herself isolated and an object of cupidity and aggression.

Kiamil declares frankly that the only European nations in which Turkey may have confidence are France and England. Kiamil had attemped in vain to bring the ex-sultan to this view.

The revolution and the proclamation of the constitution saved Roumelia, but did not prevent Bulgaria from proclaiming her independence and Austria-Hungary from annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina. The committee of union and progress was responsible for that situation. It seized the reins of government and thus provoked the retirement of Kiamil.

Capitalists who thus saw the government pass into the hands of the revolutionaries withdrew at once. Kiamil passed over the supervision of public works and the bloodshed during the insurrection that followed. Under the state of siege absolutism was re-established, capable functionaries were dismissed and replaced by the partisans of the committee whose incompetence provoked the insurrections in Albania and the Yemen, caused blood to flow uselessly and the waste of millions, attracting to the committee the hatred and contempt of the public.

The provocative attitude assumed by the committee provoked retaliatory measures and caused the invasion of Tripoli and Benghazi and the declaration of war, which the note of the Italian embassy declares is directed against the committee of union and progress and not against Turkey.

* * *

Neutrality of Powers.

The neutrality of England, France and Russia against the aggression of Italy is significant. If that lesson is not sufficient then Turkey must expect others. The end of it all, God forbid it, would be partition. Today Crete and Roumelia are exposed to that eventuality.

If the members of the committee were aware of the real situation, they would abstain from further influence in the affairs of government and occupy themselves only with useful works. If they do not it is certain that soon a counter revolution will crush out the actual despotism, and that with the participation of the imperial army, as in the case of the despotism of the ancient regime.

Although European public opinion may be opposed to the unjust aggression of Italy, that fact will not modify the actions of government. Germany will sustain the interest of Italy and Austria, her allies. Nothing should be neglected, therefore, to induce England to abandon her neutrality and maintain the rights of Turkey.

Kiamil Pacha believes that the moment is favorable to establish an understanding with England, but that is subordinate to the suppression of the committee of union and progress and the re-establishment of the constitutional regime.

Kiamil Pacha in conclusion insists upon the formation of a committee to prevent the ruin and partition of Turkey.

It is not impossible that Kiamil Pacha's memoir has received in anticipation the sanction of the powers, and first of all of Russia, and with the object of strengthening intervention which will permit Turkey to acknowledge the loss of the Tripolitan in order to save Turkey.

CH. CHAILLE-LONG.

THE SMALL-COINS BILL.

From the Chester Republican.

It will not be long after the half-cent pieces to be coined are in circulation before church officials will be convinced that the new coinage is a great mistake.

From the Syracuse Herald.

It's a mighty tight-fisted person who would join in an anti-tipping crusade now that half-cent pieces are to be coined.

From the Chattanooga Times.

There are enough nuisances in the country without the addition of a three-cent coin.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

The House has decided in favor of the three-cent piece. It will take ten of them to make some of the members feel right.

From the Columbus Ohio State Journal.

Save the half-cents and the three-cent pieces will take care of themselves.

From the New York Evening Mail.

If the government is desirous of minting a coin commensurate with our notion of the value of a hat-check boy's services, it will have to do better than the proposed half-cent pieces.

UNDERWOOD OF ALABAMA.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Speaking of accepting nominations, Mr. Bryan wouldn't, but Mr. Underwood.

From the Greenville News.

After reading some of the Underwood campaign literature, we can't understand how it was that such a good man failed to go into the ministry.

From the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

Mr. Underwood's strength in some of the southern states makes it quite clear that the fellows down there know their own.

From the Boston Globe.

By defeating Gov. Woodrow Wilson in Mississippi, Representative Underwood shows again that he is solid with the solid south.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Underwood's candidacy no longer appeals to Champ Clark's sense of humor.

From the Syracuse Post-Standard.

It is reported that Murphy favors Underwood. Mr. Underwood, being a wise politician, is keeping it dark.