

The Washington Times

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More Kipling Stage Thunder.

The Poet's Anti-German Philippic Only Emphasizes His Maladroitness as a Factor in British Diplomacy and Politics.

We should have expected to see the Anglo-German alliance against Venezuela tottering ere this, were not the ears of two continents already somewhat dulled to the particular variety of stage thunder conjured up by Rudyard Kipling.

Mr. Kipling's veto on the joint debt-collecting enterprise into which the Balfour government has been lured, breathes a petulance and a passion truly alarming to the hapless sponsors for the Anglo-German compact.

Knowing the papier mache character of these missiles, however, we cannot think that the whole fabric of the Anglo-German blockade will crumble under Mr. Kipling's broadside.

In his judgments Mr. Kipling displays a truly British insularity and arrogance. He can see in German sympathy with the people of the South African Republics in their heroic struggle for nationality and independence only the workings of a coarse and narrow jealousy of British greatness.

Mr. Kipling's Boer war extravaganzas certainly ruined whatever credit he may have enjoyed prior to that period as a thoughtful critic of British tendencies and British policies.

The intolerance and insularity of his attacks on the Boer republics, and on Russia in "The Truce of the Bear," are now again reflected in his savage discontent with the British government's Venezuelan policy.

Mr. Kipling's poem may echo some vehement undercurrents in English antipathy to Germany, and in English resentment at Germany's outspoken sympathy with Boer fortunes and aspirations.

A New "Cry of the Children."

A Melancholy Story of Child Labor Under the Most Heartrending Conditions.

There has been much stir of late regarding child labor in the cotton mills in Georgia and other Southern States, and energetic measures have been taken for an amelioration of existing conditions.

But no story of child labor in the South equals in needless cruelty the narratives which were given the other day before the anthracite coal strike commission. These narratives were merely an episode of the general investigation.

There would seem to be need of some American Mrs. Browning to sound a new "Cry of the Children" to arouse American legislators and courts to a keener perception of these cruelties.

It is said that there are laws in Pennsylvania which forbid such practices, but that they are not enforced. If that is the case, the pitiful tales told before the strike commission should awaken a sentiment in the State which will compel their enforcement.

SUPREME COURT AS ARBITRATOR.

An American arbitration for American issues is on all accounts desirable, if it can be secured. Objections may exist to President Roosevelt's accepting the proposal that he should be arbitrator; but what objection can exist to the acceptance of the principle of arbitration by this country and the proposal that the issue be referred, not to President Roosevelt, but to a member of the Supreme Court?

The Anglo-American arbitration treaty provided for a selection from the court. One of its members is on the list of The Hague arbitrators. The Supreme Court is known to all the world. Its decisions and its judges command a universal respect.

A co-ordinate branch of the Government, the decision of one of its members can raise no embarrassment for the diplomatic and executive action of the Government. Issues, diplomatic and judicial, legal and international, would be kept apart. When a decision was reached upon it would come before all concerned, including our Government, free from all entanglement.

A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WIVES

By JULIA D. EGGLESTON.

ONE of the most indefatigable advocates of woman's rights used to say that it was the greatest possible mistake for girls to be brought up to regard marriage as a profession.

The danger nowadays seems to lie in the opposite direction, and women appear to think that no kind of training is necessary in order to fit them for the duties that will devolve upon them if they do become wives and mothers.

That mothers should train their daughters to snare husbands and to regard matrimony as their predestined end is unquestionably a mistake; but that our modern system does not make for domestic felicity is, unhappily, only too evident.

However, we get over all our troubles at this end of the century by the use of serum, or by technical schools, and it is therefore not in the least surprising to learn that a training college is in course of formation in England where girls are to be taught their duties as matrons.

Naturally, housewifely duties come first in the course of studies, then the care of children, then the preservation of personal appearance.

And it may be here noted that this is by no means an insignificant subject for wives to study.

Every wife cannot have unlimited dress money or credit

at her modeste's; but she can be careful to keep wrinkles and dowdiness at bay.

One can easily imagine that the classes for this subject will be well attended at the school for wives; but it is impossible to imagine how pupils are to be practically trained in tact, which is also included in the curriculum.

How is it to be done? Can the leopard change its spots or the Ethiopian his skin.

And Edwin and Angelinas all the world over are daily giving each other all manner of provocation for making those rifts within the domestic lute wide and widen until the music, that at the outset of their matrimonial life was so full of harmony, becomes altogether mute.

When Edwin shows a disposition to seek society away from home, when he grumbles unceasingly and unreasonably, when he flings his relations, so to say, to Angelina; when he sulks; when, in short, he does any of the aggravating things that he always does, Angelina must hit the happy mean that lies between absolute silence—which goods a man to madness—and the addition of fuel to the fire which inevitably results from "answering back" and argumentation.

But if women are made so perfect as to hold their tongues when provoked, it is difficult to see where the material for plays and novels is to be found.

In the Public Eye.

The Rev. Whitwell Elwin, at one time editor of the "Quarterly Review," was an intimate friend of Thackeray, whose pet name for him was "Dr. Primrose."

"I've helped him to pen many a line for bread, To joke, with scorn, about his lead; And make your laughter when his own heart bled!"

"I cannot give you the pen with which I wrote it," said Thackeray, "for I let it fall at Naples and broke it, but I will give you the pencil case." The case, which he then presented to Elwin, together with a gold pen, had been used by him for years.

The Noah Webster Memorial Association has been formed in West Hartford, Conn., with General Hawley as its chairman, for the purpose of erecting a library building in memory of Noah Webster, who was a resident of the place, and whose home is still standing.

A new book by Charles Wagner, author of "The Simple Life," the book so highly praised by President Roosevelt, is to appear next spring. It will be called "The Better Way." Wagner is the pastor of the Lutheran Church in Paris and it is possible that his musings on simplicity gathered force from contrast with the peculiarly complex life of the French capital.

An experience of Thomas Hardy in Florence may serve to enlighten some Browning devotees who have searched there for the original works of art mentioned in the poem, "The Statue and the Bust." Hardy and a friend found the statue of the Grand Duke Ferdinand, but no trace of the bust.

IN BOOKLOVERS' LANE. NEW BOOKS. I. Change falleth on Booklovers' Lane—And so old neighbors move away; To one who lingers by 't is plain Change falleth on Booklovers' Lane. Here stood an arch, and there a fane—An old house topples to decay; Change falleth on Booklovers' Lane—And so old neighbors move away.

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD. A Wellesley Girl's Marriage to a Bankrupt Nobleman—His Estate Worth \$2,500 a Year, and His Character Worth Less—Distinguished Continental Physician Dead—English Divorce Law May Be Extended—German Archaeologist Says "America" Is of German Origin.

A Title and No Money. Lord Donegal's marriage to Miss Violet Twining, who is a graduate of Wellesley College, is one of the most amazing matrimonial alliances between the Old World and the New that has ever taken place.

It is to be hoped that the new Lady Donegal has some money of her own. For when her husband was last brought up in bankruptcy proceedings with liabilities to the tune of some \$3,000,000, and assets that realized but \$700, it was stated on oath that he had not a cent to his name save an income of \$2,500 a year derived from the office of clerk of the county Antrim, the duties of which were performed by a deputy.

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Was Much Married. It is no exaggeration to assert that Lord Donegal is one of the least creditable members of the British peerage, and while on several occasions he has contributed to the divorce scandals of the day as co-respondent, he has at least on two occasions presented himself before the public as a petitioner.

The first time was when he applied for the dissolution of his marriage to a lady who had become his bride only a few months previously. He bore at that time the title of the Earl of Belfast, his father being still alive. The proceedings were of the most extraordinary character, and during the trial it was brought to light that the Countess of Belfast had previously been married to a William Mure, her union with the latter having been pronounced by the courts null and void on grounds identical with those upon which Lord Belfast had based his petition.

The entire issue is instantly lifted above the stormy and selfish turmoil of international disputes to the serene air of a tribunal which for 113 years has passed upon great questions and held the balance of justice between States, associated in the Union, any one of whom is of a larger importance in the work of civilization than Venezuela.

The world, and most of all the world of the Americas, will be led to look on the Supreme Court as the natural tribunal of last resort on American issues. Character, position, training, and tradition fit its members for this great task far better than the course and career which led to the Presidency, high as that post is.—Philadelphia Press.

Unconsidered Trifles

An Old Proverb Revised. When distance lends enchantment to the view there is compound interest to be paid on it some time.

Not Wasted. "My son, I am afraid you have wasted your opportunities."

"Not a bit of it. Somebody's got 'em that can use 'em better."

The Difference. The main difference between the old-fashioned novel and the new is that in the former the villain says "Ha!" and in the latter the heroine says "Huh!"

Past and Present. "And now," said viscount, languidly, "we may as well discuss—aw—the settlement you intend to make upon your daughter. I could not think, of course, of considering less than—aw—a sum sufficient to keep up the castle, and maintain my position in society, you understand. Then I should expect her to buy her own gowns, of course, and you might as well throw in a steam yacht, if we should spend the winter in the Mediterranean. Of course, the money was made in—aw—trade, but you have retired, I understand. By the way, you were in the—aw—hog business, were you not?"

Chicago father, dryly: "Yes; and you seem to be in it now. You are retiring enough to take your fore-foot out of the trough, and maybe we can talk sense."

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Charles Palmer, but also with a groom, an habitual drunkard like herself. Estate Is In Bankruptcy. Lord Donegal's first appearance in the bankruptcy court occurred near half a century ago, and since then he has been coming up periodically, the total of his appearances there amounting to about a round dozen.

A Far-Reaching Divorce Case. The divorce case of Sir Charles and Lady Hartopp, which, as my readers are doubtless aware, has resulted in the dismissal of the petitions of the husband as well as of his wife, has had a rather unlooked-for outcome. It has led to a movement, inaugurated by the principal members of the bench, in conjunction with the great law officers of the crown, for the purpose of devising legislation to extend the grounds for divorce.

The judges and law officers hold that the divorce law of 1857 is no longer suitable to the present conditions of society, and that there is nothing to be said in favor of a system which insists upon the unity of two persons who are so irreconcilably estranged as Sir Charles and Lady Hartopp, which keeps fettered two young people, who, though legally bound, are living apart. A system such as this, they declare, is conducive neither to morality nor yet to the dignity of the marriage tie. So that we are likely to see ere long a very liberal extension of the grounds on which decrees of divorce are granted by the English courts.

"America" a German Name. There is nothing sacred to the Germans, not even the name of this country. For a claim has just been put forward by the Count Hochberg, the director general of all Emperor William's theaters, and a distinguished archaeologist, to the effect that the name of America is of German origin. History, until now, has taught us that Uncle Sam gets the name of America from the Italian Amerigo Vespucci. But Count Hochberg declares he is able to prove that Amerigo Vespucci belonged to a German family of the name of Emmerich, which, in turn, was derived from Heimerich, and of which a number of descendants are still to be found in the Rhine district. Heimerich and Emmerich mean "lord of the home," and Amerigo is merely the Italian corruption thereof. There is still an old town in the Valley of the Rhine known as Emmerich.

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Statesmen and Their Ways.

Chandler's Disappointment.

The Hon. William E. Chandler has experienced another sore disappointment. The late New Hampshire constitutional convention, of which the former Senator was a member, refused to incorporate in the fundamental law of the Granite State a provision prohibiting the use of transportation passes. The erratic ex-statesman made a strong fight for an amendment of this character to the constitution, but a majority of his fellow revisionists decided they could not refuse to accept, or oblige anyone else to refuse to accept, free rides upon the railroads, or more particularly the one great railroad which traverses the State.

Instead of giving its indorsement to Mr. Chandler's proposition to prohibit free rides, the convention adopted a number of other important amendments which will be submitted to the people at the next general election. One of these, and perhaps the most important, for it is rather remarkable for a staid old Commonwealth like New Hampshire, is a proposition to permit women to vote at all State elections.

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THE SYMBOLISM OF "LOVE AND LIFE."

To the Editor of The Times: Sir: Most of the people who object to the painting by Watts, called "Love and Life," are deficient in imagination, untrained in art, and ignorant of both life and love. They may lack a few other useful endowments, but the only one I can think of at the moment is the praiseworthy quality of reticence that fears to criticize what it does not understand, and has sufficient modesty to dread the exhibition of its own prurience by attributing indecency to what is as innocent as an undraped infant.

THE BROOKLAND CAR LINE SERVICE.

To the Editor of The Times: Sir: Some rigid measures should be taken in reference to the street car service of the electric line running on G and North Capitol Streets, known as the Brookland line. Without a doubt, in my mind, it is the poorest car service in the city of Washington. The idea of office people and business men being compelled to wait for a car fifteen minutes on a cold and disagreeable day, and this in a populous section of the city.

It is an outrage on the generosity of a non-suffering public. There is absolutely no reason or excuse for not giving better and quicker service; for any ten-year-old child could easily compute the income and output of such a road. Cars run every five minutes would be accepted with one accord by all, and would be more extensively patronized in proportion—many persons now walking to office and business—while yet others take cars going a round-about way rather than put up with the inconveniences and hardships that a ride means on the Brookland line.

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