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The Right of Petition.

Not Even in the Case of the Standard Oil Company Is It Abridged.

Under the First Amendment to the Constitution the right to petition Congress is assured to every citizen of the United States. If that right has in any way been abridged we are not aware of it.

Of other telegrams, said to order, instruct, and direct their recipients to vote against pending bills, not a single one has as yet been produced.

What is all this uproar about, anyway? Hasn't the Standard Oil Company the right to express its views? Have its officers to stand idly by while some philanthropist inserts the knife and feels for its fifth rib?

Many of the methods employed by the Standard Oil Company and other corporations are reprehensible, no doubt, and, in some respects, short-sighted. We express no judgment on them. Our concern is solely to guard against the clamor of trieksters he-fuddling—even for a time—the sense of fairness and justice which has been and ever will remain, we hope, the distinguishing mark of the American people.

Auto-Traction Lectures.

Study of the Automobile to Be Added to Our University Courses.

The automobile has gained a new dignity. It is to form the subject of a course of lectures at Columbia University by Prof. Frederick R. Hutton, dean of the School of Applied Science, under the title of "Traction Engines and Automobile Carriages."

Equipped with a knowledge of the scientific theory as well as of the practical working of the various forms of self-propelled vehicles, the graduates of the school who have taken this course will be valuable to the makers of automobiles and to themselves in bringing trained intelligence to bear on the improvement and development of the motor car.

English Army Hazing.

Brutal Practices Brought to Light by a Recent Military Scandal.

It is many years since the flogging of privates was abolished in the British army. The discovery that the flogging of British officers is still countenanced by high military authority, and is practiced at the present time, has naturally amazed and irritated public sentiment in England.

The practice is described in some quarters as hazing; but it is a good deal more than that. It appears that in the Grenadier Guards and other court regiments there are subaltern courts-martial for the trial of young officers for charges brought against them, military as well as social.

That this practice is no mere brutal horseplay on the part of the subalterns is shown by a case which occurred a few weeks ago, which Admiral Cochrane describes in detail. The

victim was the admiral's nephew, and his only offense was that in seeking leave of absence for a few days' visit to a comrade he applied to the chief staff officer under whom he was serving and omitted to ask leave, as well of the colonel of the battalion, as he should have done.

The court-martial sentenced him to be beaten, and the sentence was carried out. When the conditions were called to the attention of Lord Roberts, the latter placed Colonel Kinloch on half pay, and told General Oliphant that he should look to him to see to it that young officers through whom the flogging was brought to his notice were protected.

Just criticism has been passed upon the "courts of honor" in the German army, which assume to determine when officers shall challenge each other to duels. But in duels at least each man has an equal chance, and the practice, deplorable as it is, is not so brutal and degrading as this which has been brought to light in the British army.

No Park Additions Needed.

With Other District Needs Unsatisfied, Such Luxuries Can Wait.

We are not surprised that the District Commissioners returned to the Senate an unfavorable report on the proposed amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill establishing a new park on Columbia Heights, near the corner of Columbia Road and Fourteenth Street.

We believe sincerely in developing the city along the broad and generous lines which have hitherto controlled its growth. We want to see it made a model among American municipalities for beauty, for healthfulness, for architectural charm.

But there must be some limit in every scheme of beautification, and every other interest of the community must not be sacrificed to dreams of a too rounded and artistic growth. There are other things which Washington needs much more than public parks.

The Last of a Great Office.

Commanding General of the Army Succeeded by Chief of Staff.

The signing of the general staff bill will mark an important change in our military system. Although the act does not become effective until August 15 next, the necessary preparations for revising the administrative system are to be made at once so that everything will be in readiness for beginning operations on the date named.

Out of respect for the high character of the officers who from time to time have occupied the office of senior general under the titles of General-in-Chief or Commanding General of the Army, a constant effort has been made to soften the asperities of a situation repugnant to all business principles.

The new general staff system is based entirely upon business principles. Its success for war purposes seemed to demand that the office of Commanding General of the Army be abolished, and the administrative business of the army concentrated in a chief of staff, serving directly under the Secretary of War.

passed by nearly three-fourths majority in the House of Representatives, and unanimously by the Senate. When it was first laid before Congress it was regarded as an innovation to be classed among visionary schemes.

The new chief of staff will have a wide field of usefulness and opportunity, as compared to the mere shadow of authority hitherto exercised over the army by the Commanding General. The great business bureaus through which the vast appropriations for the army are expended will be brought into harmony of action.

There should be no sentimental regret at the passing of the office of Commanding General of the Army in view of the fact, generally conceded to be a fact by those competent to judge, that none of the great civil war trios, Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, added a single leaf to his battle-won laurels while in the office. The opportunities for winning distinction in the field are at least as great as ever, and victorious generals will no longer be isolated in a position affording no legitimate opportunities for their talents.

Premier Balfour, in a speech delivered yesterday before the Conservative Club of Liverpool, implored all those who had any command over the sources of public opinion to refrain from indulging in the easy task of embittering the relations between nations and creating jealousies, so easily formed and so difficult to allay.

The usual gossip about an extra session is being indulged in at this time. For some reason or other, however, the extra session rarely materializes.

The country isn't tired of this Addecks business—oh, no! It is simply nauseated.

The death of Dr. J. L. M. Curry, of the South loses one of its soundest and most successful educators. This city loses at the same time one of the most genial and accomplished of its winter residents.

Senator Gallinger promises, if alive next winter, to introduce a resolution of inquiry concerning the management of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. We venture to express the hope that the Senator will long continue in the enjoyment of the best of health.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

It is not I, it is not I. That crown beside this dining fire. That tells how all my hopes expire. And heart and heart's love burnt-out lie. I died last spring, when the world was new. And buds burst, and the sky was blue. I died where I was born to life before. On my love's lips and on his heart. He gave me life to love him, and once more He took it, when he said that we must part.

The term "mealier" has a determined meaning in this country, whether he eat the boarding house Sunday dinner of turkey and ice cream throughout the year, without fear of cold storage and preservation acids, or whether he room in one house at a summer resort and "meal" at another. But in England today a "mealier" is one who drinks not ale, wine, or strong waters except at his meals. A Londoner knows "mealiers" that do not deserve the title; "their day is, as the Oxford undergraduate's Sunday is said to be, an imperceptible gliding from meal to meal."

Count Robert de Montesquiou was invited to a dance in New York, which by the card was to begin at 10 p. m. He was punctually at the house. The hostess sent down the afternoon newspapers and the message that she was not ready. An hour and a half later she appeared. We give the conversation as reported by the "Sun," whose reporter was no doubt hidden in a vase or in the grand piano.

"My card said 10 o'clock," he remarked. "But that means 12 in New York." "In Paris," the count observed, "it is good manners to accept invitations punctually at the hour one is invited." "And he went home." "After his speech we do not see what else there was for the count to do; but the rebuke was eminently proper. This saying formally one thing and meaning another is a symptom of chromo-civilization. Whether the appointed hour be for a ball, a dinner, a concert, or a funeral, the performance should begin at that hour. Otherwise words are without meaning, and that which should be formal is merely go-as-you-please.

The "Fall Mall Gazette" is amused at the thought of football as a penal offense in South Dakota. "It is not stated what exactly constitutes football in the eyes of the law, but we suppose it is the American variety of the game, in which the player becomes somewhat like an armored train padded with pneumatic buffers. In the event of the proposed bill passing, if a man even collects football or looks at a shingard he will be arrested and bound over in a heavy bond to keep the peace by refraining from football. While if anyone is caught in flagrante delicto he is to be fined a thousand dollars and suffer imprisonment for five years. We have occasionally seen Cup-ties in this country which have resulted in one or more players being laid up; but at present we do not remember anyone, not even the referee. After all, there are advantages in dragging on life under an etiquette monarchy, instead of luxuriating in the invigorating atmosphere of a free republic."

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD.

The Hague Tribunal to Have an International Law Library—The House of Tuscany and Emperor Francis Joseph's Treatment of the Ex-Crown Princess Louise—The Stolberg Stolberg Tragedy—The Tremouilles and Their Family Papers.

Carnegie Library for The Hague.

From The Hague I hear that Queen Wilhelmina and her government are in communication with Andrew Carnegie concerning the gift by the Dutch crown of a site for the Library of International Law which has offered to present to the International Tribunal of Arbitration at The Hague. Andrew Carnegie has made an offer of a quarter of a million dollars for the purchase of the necessary books and records, and an additional \$100,000 for the construction of the library building, providing that Queen Wilhelmina shall give a suitable site for it. The necessity of a library of this kind is obvious, and the offer of Mr. Carnegie is one which is not only timely, but in every sense of the word useful.

The Crown Princess Louise's Future.

A semi-official notification has been issued at Vienna to the effect that the action of Emperor Francis Joseph in depriving the ex-Crown Princess of Saxony of her rank, status, titles and prerogatives as an Austrian archduchess, as a princess of Hungary and as a princess of Tuscany, is for the present merely temporary, it being pointed out that the monarch has merely for the present suspended her rights, and that he will determine later on whether to deprive her of them or not.

This, taken in conjunction with the withdrawal of the ex-crown princess to the sanitarium at Nyon, on the Lake of Geneva, would seem to indicate that the relatives of the unfortunate woman are disposed to take a sensible view of the situation and to ascribe her conduct in connection with Prof. Girou to temporary dementia due to her delicate condition of health and approaching motherhood.

The ex-crown princess will probably live in Austria, enjoying the society of her children during a portion of the year, and having restored to her all her prerogatives as an Austrian archduchess.

"Keep Off the Grass" Signs.

They Serve No Wise or Useful Purpose in Our Public Parks.

To the Editor of The Times: Sir: As a lover of children, I am greatly interested to note that an effort is being made to give the little people of Washington privileges that never should have been denied them. It is well known to those familiar with the growth of bluegrass that to thrive it should be thoroughly tramped and packed, and the parks and lawns of the city, instead of being an injury to the sod, would be a positive advantage.

In passing through St. Louis recently I visited Shaw's Garden, one of the most delightful parks in the world, and in conversation with James Gurney, the venerable superintendent, I spoke of the numerous "keep off the grass" signs in Washington, at the same time noting their absence in the garden.

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S HOME LIFE.

Interesting Incidents Related by His Former Gardener's Daughter.

"My father, William Bogie, was with Sir Walter Scott fifteen years. At first he was gardener, and old Tom Purdy, the gamekeeper, had charge of Sir Walter's affairs—a sort of a private secretary. Tom didn't have a great deal of an education. He had been a shepherd. But he was a comical little fellow, and he behaved about as he pleased. He used to take liberties with Sir Walter that the master would never have taken from anyone else, and it was just because he was so much like a clown at a circus. But one time Tom got his records mixed, and he had £50 that he couldn't account for. He didn't know whether the money belonged to Sir Walter or himself. Sir Walter allowed him to keep it, but he afterward took the business out of his hands and gave it over to my father. My mother lived on the estate ten years before Sir Walter's death, and she was housekeeper at Abbotsford three years after he died.

"Sir Walter always picked out his friends to suit himself. One of them was George Thompson, the one-legged clergyman. He had a cork leg, but he was a fine horseback rider for all that. He talked to everybody that he met. He preached at the Abbotsford Chapel, and he preached strange doctrines. The rich people liked him as much as the poor disliked him, and when there were no rich people at Abbotsford there was always a slim attendance at his meetings. When Sir Walter was paralyzed and unable to wield his pen, George used to do his writing while Sir Walter dictated to him. One day he was in a hurry, and my mother heard him say, 'Yes, yes; what next? 'Be patient,' she heard Sir Walter reply. 'I have it all to make.' Poor George, he went to bed one night and never woke up.

"I remember the young poets that used to come to Abbotsford. They came to get advice, and they got it. Sir Walter used to tell them to give up their dreaming and go to work. He liked to talk to people, and he always stopped everybody that he met. That's the way he got most of his material for the 'Waverley Novels.' I remember an incident that my mother used to tell. Sir Walter purchased an axe and stopped to get a man to paint his name on it. A cousin by the name of Scott was in the company. Sir Walter handed out his card. 'If you'll give me this card I'll paint a dozen axes,' said the man. 'Will not my friend's card do as well?' His name is Scott," asked Sir

possibly, too, as a member of the house of Saxony. For if the ground is taken that she has not been in her right mind during the last few weeks, and therefore not responsible for her actions, she cannot be held accountable for them or be punished either by Emperor Francis Joseph, as head of the house of Hapsburg-Lorraine, or by the reigning family of Saxony.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany's Millions. Incidentally it may be as well to mention that there is no truth in the story according to which the ex-crown princess was forced by her father into the marriage with the Saxon crown prince in consequence of the immense wealth of the latter, her own poverty, and the strained resources of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. The latter, on the contrary, is very wealthy. When the grand duke retired to Austria after the loss of his Italian throne, he brought a considerable fortune with him, no account being made by his former subjects to prevent him carrying off his possessions. Much of this money he invested in land in Bohemia, and near Salzburg, which has proved most profitable.

Moreover, no step was taken by the Italian government to confiscate his private estates in Tuscany, which consisted of immense tracts of forest in splendid condition, and at least two dozen castles. About eight years ago all this property of the grand duke in Tuscany was disposed of in a most advantageous manner, for a sum close upon \$10,000,000, so that neither he nor his children can be looked upon as paupers.

A Melancholy Suicide.

It has now been established that the death of Prince Wolfgang Stolberg Stolberg, who was found the other day with the top of his head blown off in the park of his chateau of Rottelberode, near Nordhausen, in Prussia, was a clear case of suicide, and not, as has been stated, due to an accidental dis-

charge of his gun, which was found beside his corpse.

His father, the late Prince Alfred, head of the Stolberg Stolberg branch of the Stolberg family, had died about ten days previously, and on reading the will he had discovered for the first time that provision had been made therein, with the consent of the other agnates or adult members of the family, for the restriction of all sorts of rights and prerogatives which he, Prince Wolfgang, would otherwise have been entitled to as principal heir and successor in the chieftainship of the family.

This action against him by his father and relatives had been taken in consequence of the fact that he was afflicted with a nervous ailment which at times rendered him entirely irresponsible for his actions. Prince Wolfgang was entirely ignorant of the intentions of his father in the matter, and felt so profoundly humiliated and pained by what he described as this post-mortem injustice done him by his father, to whom he had been deeply attached, that he blew his brains out.

Prince Wolfgang was a man of fifty-three, leaves a wife and a little girl. But his next brother, Prince Vollrath, will not succeed to the family estates and honors until it has been ascertained whether the child to which the widow of the suicide is to give birth some three months hence, is a boy or a girl. The Stolbergs are among the most ancient and illustrious of those formerly reigning houses whose sovereignty over the petty States of the German empire was abolished a hundred years ago, the families themselves being mediatised, that is to say, permitted to retain a number of the privileges and prerogatives of the sovereign families of Europe. The family is divided into two branches, that of Stolberg Wernigrode, of which the head is Prince Christian, who has his portrait published in the current issue of the "Almanach de Gotha," while the other branch is that of Stolberg Stol-

berg, whose chief has just committed suicide.

Souvenirs of the Revolution.

Of all the great French nobles there is not one who displays more pride of birth and ancestry than the Duke de la Tremouille, who has just published at Paris a very interesting volume concerning the great revolution of 100 years ago, entitled "Souvenirs de la Revolution—Mes Parents." It is almost wholly based on family papers and family documents, the value of which will be readily understood when I mention that both the father and the grandfather of the duke were driven from their native land by the terrorists, that one of his uncles, the Abbe de la Tremouille, was guillotined in Paris, that another uncle, the Prince de Talmond, the most chivalrous of the Vendean leaders, was shot at Laval, that his maternal grandfather, Count Walsh de Serrant, was the colonel commandant of the Irish regiment of King Louis XVI, and that the de la Tremouilles lost nearly the whole of their property by the revolution. How great was this property may be gathered from the fact that during the century immediately preceding the revolution, no less than 1,700 proprietors in lower Poitou did homage to the Dukes de la Tremouille.

The dukedom is one of the most ancient in France, dating back to the sixteenth century, and while the present duke is a kinsman of the reigning Grand Duke of Baden, there have been several matrimonial alliances between his family and the formerly reigning house of Naples, as well as with some of the minor sovereign houses of Germany.

In spite of the pride of birth of the duke, and his insistence on his descent from the Crusaders, he is one of those members of the great French aristocracy who have been most intimate with the "haute finance," and he was for years one of the most devoted admirers of Baroness Alphonse Rothschild.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION BARRED

Architects May Object to Mr. Cannon's Capitol Extension Plans.

If the provisions in the sundry civil appropriation bill for the construction of an office building for members of the House and for remodeling and extending the Capitol building become law as they now stand there will be no opportunity for the great architects of the country to compete for the designs and plans.

The paragraphs in the appropriation bill which Chairman Cannon had adopted in the House, provide for the construction of the office building and for the extension of the Capitol according to plans and designs already submitted. The remodeling of the Capitol is to be ordered in accordance with the plans of the late Thomas U. Walter, architect of the Capitol building, and the office building is to be constructed according to plans drawn by Elliott Woods, superintendent of the Capitol building and grounds.

Mr. Cannon's admiration for Superintendent Woods is equalled by his lack of confidence in other architects who have been engaged on schemes for the beautification of Washington. He showed his dislike for Architect McKim, who designed the improvements of the White House and the new Executive offices, by alluding to the latter today in a slighting manner. He pretended to have forgotten the architect's name and criticized his design of the Executive offices.

As a certain rule of courtesy obtains between the Senate and House, under which each body is permitted to manage its own affairs, the provision in the appropriation bill for the House office building is likely to stand as it is. That is a matter affecting the House and the convenience of its members, and the Senate undoubtedly will not interfere with it after it has been adopted by the House. As the improvements to the Capitol building are to be in accordance with the original plans, the Senate probably will accept that provision also.—Washington Dispatch in Philadelphia Press.

RELICS OF OLD NEWGATE.

Cood Prices at the Prison Rummage Sale.

Not since the days of public executions in England have the curious thronged so densely about the fast disappearing walls of old Newgate Prison as they did on Wednesday, when several hundred relics of the gruesome past came under the hammer of the auctioneer. A great number of people, at a shilling a head, among them many Americans, had the privilege of exploring the dilapidated building before the sale began. It was curious to see women scaling steep ladders, creeping over rickety planks, carrying with them wherever they went the dust and lime of the broken prison.

An object of special interest to sight-seers was the great bell, which tolled the death knell for hundreds of the condemned. This relic was purchased for Tursaud's Chamber of Horrors for \$500. The auctioneer stirred up some interest by an appeal to "Dickens' worshippers." "Now, gentlemen," he cried, "surely you remember 'Barnaby Rudge'! Here's the cupboard to which Dennis, the hangman, went for the keys." An old oak iron-faced warden's key and a cupboard went together for \$70.

In the Public Eye.

Clyde Fitch, the playwright, is taking a ten days' rest in Atlantic City.

Dr. J. A. Irwin, of New York, former president of the British Schools and Universities Clubs, has gone to Europe for a two months' trip.

Very Rev. Dean Joseph Costa, of Galesburg, Ill., will celebrate on February 19 the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Gen. M. W. Ransom, a former United States Senator from North Carolina, is devoting his time to farming, and this year will run about 250 plows.

James H. Wolf, a colored man, has been elected junior vice commander of the G. A. R. of Massachusetts, the first time a negro has been so honored in that State.

Unconsidered Trifles.

Test of Altruism. Little Willie—Pa, what is an altruist? The Father—A man, my child, who carries his umbrella all day without using it, and then is glad it didn't rain on account of the people who had no umbrellas with them.—Judge.

Poverty Itself No Disgrace. "At the same time, you do not contend that poverty is a disgrace." "Well, no; not unless it drinks and borrows money."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Dampier to Genius. "Alas!" exclaimed the poet. "I've sat here three hours, but haven't written a line." "I'm sorry for you, dear," said his wife, "but what you need is exercise. Come and help me with the week's washing."—Atlanta Constitution.

HE IS NOT UNWORTHY.

If one has failed to reach the end he sought, If out of effort no great good is wrought, It is not failure, if the object be The betterment of man; for all that he Has done and suffered is but gain To those who follow seeking to attain The end he sought. His efforts they Will find are guideposts on the way To that accomplishment which he, For some wise purpose, could not be The factor in. There is a need Of unsuccessful effort; 'tis the seed Whose mission is to lie beneath The soil that grows the laurel wreath, And he is not unworthy who Falls struggling manfully to do What must be done, in dire distress, That others may obtain success. —William J. Lampton, in Success.