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Improvement of the City.

Why Not Attend to the Places Which Need Improving?

The bill providing for the purchase of the block on the west side of Lafayette Square is to be pushed vigorously by Senator Fairbanks. In opposition to it are arrayed, among others, many residents of the houses in this block, who naturally object to being turned out of their homes, and whose objections are based partly on reasons which concern the public.

There are blocks within the territory included in these improvement plans which are in no sense historic except in an unsavory sense. There are others which are now occupied by respectable but commonplace structures, whose tenants would not object to moving if it were in any way profitable.

The purchase of lots along that part of Pennsylvania Avenue which is lined with unsightly rockeries, and the erection there of a handsome Government building, would add incalculably to the beauty of the Avenue, which, as our chief parade street, deserves more attention than it has ever had.

To return to the feelings of the people in the houses in danger of being condemned, there are many of the residents whose fathers and grandfathers lived in these houses, and to whom the order to move is something more than an eviction.

Is Coal Contraband?

And Is Its Sale to Belligerents a Breach of Neutrality?

Two quite distinct questions arise with reference to coal during a war. One is, Is coal contraband? The other is, Is the sale of coal to belligerents a breach of neutrality?

or both of the belligerents; yet it has never been doubted that these munitions of war, if seized by the belligerent against whom they were to be used, could have been condemned as contraband.

The "London Economist," which quotes Mr. Bayard upon this point, reviews briefly other official declarations as to the status of coal. Thus Lord Brougham, in 1861, declared that coal might be contraband "if furnished to one belligerent to be used in warfare against another."

Germany went further than Great Britain and the United States, and during the war of 1870 maintained that the British government should not only regard as contraband of war all cargoes of coal bound for the French fleet in the North Sea, but that all export of coal to French ports should be prohibited.

A Georgia Peon.

Startling Revelations of Peonage in the South.

"The Independent," which has already got itself well hated by statement of the Vardaman type for its willingness to tell the truth about things in general, publishes this week a statement from a Georgia peon, which is decidedly startling, and, in view of other testimony which cannot be and has not been discredited, is more than likely to be true in every detail.

He was bound out until he was twenty-one. Not long after the son of his former owner, who had inherited the estate, induced him to sign a contract for ten years, in which he virtually sold himself into slavery.

Lincoln and College.

What Effect Would a College Education Have Had on Abraham Lincoln?

A somewhat remarkable statement is made in "Harper's Weekly," to the effect that if Abraham Lincoln had been a college graduate he would have been a smaller and less forceful man, though he might have been more polished.

THE LADY OF SLEEP.

The Lullaby Lady she's sometimes called When we liep with a childish tongue, When manhood's stature's a wish foregone.

He had to deal with plain men, who understood his plain stories better than they could have understood more polished and classical speeches; and he could not have spent his time in college and at the same time have learned to understand every phase of the life of the people as he did learn to understand it while yet a struggling lawyer.

If our colleges were all what they should be the influence of any one of them on the life of a public man need not be feared. But none of them is ideal, and some are very far from perfect. As things are now, the young man without means, who spends several years "getting an education" and then several more getting into a position in which he can use it to advantage, has to wait until middle age before he can make the sort of home and society for himself which his tastes demand.

NO PLACE TO CALL HOME.

It is a sad thing not to have some place in this wide world that we can call our own, some place that we have a distinct claim upon.

PRAYER BEFORE TESTIFYING.

Mrs. Jennie E. Wheeler started Register's "Hill Dent, who was sitting Friday last as special auditor in the settlement of the estate of Henry Schaefer, when she was called to testify. Before she was sworn she asked the indulgence of Mr. Dent while she offered a prayer.

DETECT IN VISION.

Because he would not wear glasses and believes the navy should not be burdened with officers who have defective eyesight, Midshipman Blaine G. Harrison, of Indiana, has resigned from the Naval Academy.

DID NOT SEE THE JOKE.

Representative Connor of Iowa has a great deal of humor in his make-up, although he never displays any of it on the floor of the House.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR WILLIAMS.

The report, by the way, is true—that the Hon. Bourke Cockran, recently elected to Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. McKim, is to be assigned to the "Committee on Adjournment."

FIRE DISCIPLINE IN RUSSIA.

A terribly dramatic scene was witnessed a few days ago in a theater at Wolslaesk, in Russia. During a performance in the town, a bouquet was being presented to the leading lady, when by some accident a petroleum lamp became upset.

QUEEN HAD TO WAIT.

The news that a solemn vote of censure has been passed by a Canadian ecclesiastical assembly on Lord Minto, the governor general of the Dominion, for using the railway on Sunday, would probably not be paralleled in these liberal days, ever in Sabbatarian Scotland.

WEST IN BOSTON.

District Commissioner West is in Boston. He delivered an address before the Beacon Society last evening.

THE PERSONAL SIDE

MISSOURI DEMOCRATS MAY NOMINATE FOLK

Attorney Who Pursued St. Louis Boodlers Is Popular With the Reform Wing of the Party.

A gubernatorial contest of somewhat more than usual interest is now being waged in Missouri. Generally in Missouri the Democratic candidates graduate up to the honor of a nomination for governor, which, for a generation has resulted in an election.

This was true of Governor Dockery, who served many terms in the House of Representatives before he sought to round out his political career with the governorship. His predecessors, the Hon. J. W. Stephens and ex-Gov. David R. Francis had both been prominent in political affairs in the State for many years before they were elevated to the office of governor.

Nearly a year ago his campaign for governor was launched, and is now in charge of Representative Vandiver. Mr. Vandiver declares that 75 per cent of the Democrats of Missouri are for Folk for governor, and that if he is nominated he will receive such a large independent and Republican vote that he will have perhaps an unprecedented majority.

The anti-Folk Democrats have not united upon anyone, but are endeavoring to draw strength from the circuit attorney by bringing out several candidates in the hope that a combination may be effected which will defeat Folk for the nomination.

There is said to be nothing against the record of Mayor Reed, of Kansas City, who is the unanimous candidate of his party for a third term.

SAYS GREEK CHURCH HATES THE RUSSIANS

Father Hodobay Says Believers in His Faith Have No Reason to Sympathize With Czar's Tyranny.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 25.—No sympathy for Russia was expressed by Father Hodobay, abbot of the Greek Catholic Church, in an interview yesterday. He said in part: "I am a Greek Catholic and I have no sympathy with the Russian tyrant."

GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOTHAM.

When Charles M. Seay, of the Proctor stock company, was a callow youth sporting amid the old red hills of Georgia, where his native village was situated, he was looked upon by his friends as lacking so much in histrionic ability that he was not even allowed to take any sort of part in charades, tableaux, or school house exhibitions except that of spear-bearer, torch-bearer, or "omnes."

PARROT AS A HERO AT A FIRE.

A parrot owned by Mrs. Rudolph Leier, of Mount Vernon, N. Y., aroused the tenants in a fat building the other morning by its shrill cries of "fire." The bird was locked in an apartment. Every tenant got out without injury. The fire was caused by the lower part of a pipe kept up a continual screaming until it was extinguished.

HARBORS, SCHOOLS FOR PHILIPPINES

Plan to Issue Bonds for Public Improvement.

GUARANTEE FOR RAILROADS

Islands Free From Debt and Bill for Development Should Be Paid by Posterity.

Secretary Taft will ask Congress to authorize the Philippine government to issue between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000 worth of bonds for the purpose of making extensive harbor improvements, building schoolhouses and hospitals, and making other much needed general improvements.

The Secretary of War and Colonel Edwards, chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, had a long conference with Representative Cooper, chairman of the House Committee on Insular Affairs, yesterday, and were assured by Mr. Cooper that he would introduce a bill providing for the issuance of these bonds.

Congress will also be asked in the same bill to allow the Philippine government to guarantee railroad builders an annual income of 4 per cent on money invested in the islands. It will be stipulated that the total sum guaranteed in any one year is not to exceed \$1,500,000 or the interest on nearly \$4,000,000.

All improvements made in the Philippines so far have been paid for from the revenues of the islands. The work on harbors and all similar work has been a drain on the revenues, which are decreasing, said Secretary Taft, in discussing the proposed measure.

It has been pointed out by the Secretary of War that the islands now have no real indebtedness which is not adequately secured. The money raised to pay for the friar lands is offset by the lands which can be sold for more than the amounts invested in them. All the money required to establish the new currency system is well secured.

The only money which the United States has actually given to the islands was the \$200,000 for relief purposes. This was a gift and the islands are under no obligations to reimburse the United States in that sum.

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM READERS OF THE TIMES

DICK AS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN.

In the effort to secure a successor to the late Senator Hanna as chairman of the Republican National Committee, why not fix upon Gen. Charles Dick? Several reasons suggest themselves:

1. He will succeed him as Senator from Ohio, and that with a majority in the Legislature as great as was given to Mr. Hanna.

2. Mr. Dick demonstrated as chairman of the Ohio State Republican committee his ability as a successful campaign manager. Trained under Mr. Hanna's direction, and acquainted with his methods and spirit, he is thoroughly qualified for the higher position.

3. His selection would do much to secure and hold the recognized large following Mr. Hanna had in the direction of a nomination. Policy, it seems, would suggest him as a desirable chairman, and that, too, without disparagement of the various others suggested.

GLAMIS CASTLE, SCOTLAND.

There seems to be a great interest in Glamis Castle at this moment. I have some relics from there, and would willingly lend them for exhibition to any church fair or bazaar for charitable purposes.

They consist of a lady's handkerchief (silk worked, with lace and beads) made by Mary Queen of Scots (1569 A. D.), a piece of fringe of a large bedcover, made by the same unfortunate lady and her maids, and presented to the King of Scotland. A piece of silk bedcover, of the bed upon which King Duncan of Scotland was murdered by Macbeth (1067 A. D.); also a piece of silk bedcover, which was used by King Malcolm III of Scotland, who died at Glamis Castle (1070 A. D.).

WASHINGTON VS. NEW ENGLAND.

As a visitor in the Capital City I am moved to inquire what manner of "visitation of Providence" has recently afflicted the people? Have you an active Pelee that has so covered the town with ashes? Or threatening land dunes nearby? Or adjacent sawmills that are permitted to dump refuse all over your pavements?

The smallest republic in any New England State would not allow any such an aggregation of filth on its principal streets (or on its open commons). Both citizens and tourists would be disgusted. BOSTONIAN.