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SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1912.

THE SYSTEM TO BLAME.

The sixty-day life of the General Assembly of 1912 ended yesterday. It was a Legislature which left undone many things it ought to have done, but all Legislatures have been more or less subject to that criticism. It was well called "the county Legislature," for when broad issues came up, and the welfare of the whole State was involved, its perspective was short and its horizon limited. The people can profit by the omissions of this General Assembly and elect men who will do at least some of the constructive things that this body which ceased to exist yesterday could not do. The inherent defects of our legislative system limit a Legislature to accomplishing at best very little. The Times-Dispatch does not criticize any one man for the failures of the General Assembly, nor can it indict the General Assembly as a whole. The fault lies deeper.

"Where there is a regular scheme of operations carried on, it is the system, and not any individual person who acts in it, that is truly dangerous," declared Edmund Burke. That criticism applies to the General Assembly of Virginia. In another sense, it must be said that there is no system at all, no general plan to be followed, no definite general policy of procedure. The legislators act in a haphazard way; a multiplicity of detail befogs the substance; no well thought out plan of proceeding and acting prevails. The lack of constructive legislation is justly chargeable to and is the almost unavoidable result of the present system under which the lawmakers act.

The executive power should not be divided. Part of it is vested in the Governor and part in the Legislature. The General Assembly is primarily elected to pass laws and not to administer the various agencies and activities of the State. The lawmaking body ought not to supervise the departments of the State; that power should be vested in the Chief Executive. As it is, he has control over only a few, and those the least important. There is a lack of co-ordination in the administrative affairs of the State which can only be cured by making the Governor in fact as well as in name Chief Executive. The Constitution expressly provides that the Governor shall see to it that the laws be faithfully executed, yet he is without the power to enforce this mandate in many departments technically under him. If all the departments were organized with heads in control and with all of the heads responsible to the Governor and liable to removal by him for cause; if the Governor be made responsible to the people of the State for the wisdom and efficiency of the administration, the State would be vastly better off and the State would have better legislation, because the lawmakers could devote their time to making laws instead of cumbering themselves with administrative policies and questions.

The Chief Executive should also be placed in close contact with the General Assembly. He should be made more than a neglected adviser and a negligible objector. He and his subordinates, if they be made responsible to him, ought to be allowed to participate in the deliberations of the General Assembly, though not allowed to vote. In such a way the Legislature would act more efficiently, because it would act upon fuller information, and the Executive might place before the Legislature its plans, difficulties and needs.

Professor Raleigh C. Minor, of the University of Virginia, said in an able address before the Virginia Bar Association in 1911:

"Could we have one chief executive, with a council of advisers, consisting of the heads of the departments of executive activities, appointed and removable by the chief and responsible to him for their acts, each executive function being referred to its appropriate bureau or commission for investigation, study and final action, or recommendation of legislation where existing legislation is antiquated or insufficient, great energy and activity would be developed in the conduct of the State business, needed and wise reforms in executive and judicial procedure would be made easier, and the problems of statecraft and the obstacles in the way of progress might be subjected to an expert analysis and study impossible under a decentralized government."

The prime defect of our present legislative system is its lack of a plan, its failure to have a constructive policy. Senator Folkes, with that ability and foresight born of long experience, has realized this fault, and he wisely caused to be enacted a resolution which will require the Senate Finance Committee to meet some time before the next session of the General Assembly to formulate an appropriation bill after hearing representatives of all the institutions, charities and departments of the State. By such action, a definite policy can be determined upon and a general plan adopted, while the General Assembly will lose no time in hearing from the institutions and departments. The Times-Dispatch wishes that the principle could be carried further, and that this same committee could consider the problem of taxation and report a bill to meet the situation. Comprehensive tax measures should be formulated and agreed upon by the legislative leaders before the session begins, so that early information and agreement would construct good laws and shape wise reforms. It would be well if a committee could be likewise appointed to formulate bills as to general reforms and measures demanded by the people. The Governor should be joined in all these councils, and should participate in their deliberations. He should be consulted in all such work.

Kansas and Ohio have wise and effective laws, the efficiency of which has attracted national attention and commendation, but the good effects wrought were not brought about by the administration of the Legislature. The proper study of the lawmaker is lawmaking; so long as the departments and agencies of the State are operated by an individual who is responsive to the will of the people and responsible to them, the legislator has no complaint to make.

If the people are dissatisfied with legislation they are responsible. The system which they have erected is to blame, and until it is altered and made more effective, Legislatures will still meet with popular discontent. Only when there is a righteous system will the people rejoice.

MR. JEFFERSON ON A THIRD TERM.

"With men to whom everything older than the day before yesterday is outgrown and obsolete, if not 'reactionary,' it's probably quite useless to say a word about Thomas Jefferson. His name, however, is often enough on the lips and pen nibs of some of them," says the Hartford Courant, after a careful study of what the man of Monticello thought about a presidential third term.

As the Courant says, Mr. Jefferson "long thought it a grave defect in the Constitution that the President was left free to seek a second term," and a third term was wholly abhorrent to him. In 1778 he wrote from Paris to General Washington: "I dislike strongly the perpetual re-eligibility of the President." In the same year he wrote to William S. Smith, "I fear much the effects," and to A. Donald, "It will be productive of cruel distress to our country"; to E. Carrington, "Our jealousy is only put to sleep by the unlimited confidence we all repose in the person (Washington) to whom we all look as our President. After him inferior characters may perhaps succeed and awaken us to the dangers which his merit has led us into." Mr. Jefferson's excuse for offering for a second term himself was "the unbounded calumnies of the Federal party." He would not think of a third term—the idea was unspeakably repugnant to him. "At the end of the next four years I shall certainly retire," he wrote in the summer of 1804 to Philip Mazzei. "Age, inclination and principle all dictate this." It was principle that actuated him, not that lust for office which has characterized our only living ex-President. Mr. Jefferson willingly left the White House, with no thought of a possible return. He felt as a prisoner released from his shackles at last. He wrote of the presidency to Elbridge Gerry as "but a splendid misery." To Edward Rutledge he wrote, "No man will ever bring out of the presidency the reputation which carries him into it." In the winter of 1807 he wrote to John Dickenson, "To myself, personally, it brings nothing but unceasing drudgery and daily loss of friends. Every office becoming vacant, every appointment made, me donne un ingratet cent ennemis. My only consolation is in the belief that my fellow citizens at large will give me credit for good intentions."

That he was tired of office was not, however, his only reason for retirement. "General Washington set the example of voluntary retirement after eight years," he wrote shortly before his second inauguration. "I shall follow it." In letters to his friends he expressed his wish that the Constitution might be strengthened by an explicit prohibition of third terms for Presidents. "Behind the third-term President he saw the sinister shadow of the President for life and the possible subversion of the republic," says the Courant. He said so in his reply in 1807 to the address of the Vermont Legislature. He refused to regard himself as indispensable, as the only man to guide the country in the right course. There were many others, he said, and the country could go on very well without him. "I resign myself as a passenger with confidence to those at present at the helm," he wrote to Samuel Kerchival in 1816, "and ask but for rest, peace and good will."

Ex-Presidents thought very differently in 1812 from what they think in 1912. Has that "inferior character" of whom Mr. Jefferson spoke so prophetically appeared?

ABOUT OLD MAIDS.

"When does an unmarried woman become an 'old maid'?" This plaintive appeal, brief as a tragic climax, came to light in The Query Column. It was signed "X. Y. Z."—the unknown initials of a human longing rather than those of a real woman. It was arresting, poignant, elemental. It stuck out on the page, amid questions as to dates and old coins and spelling, like the sombre crape on a house of mourning in a jocund street. The name black makes the wind chillier and the sun light paler. The crape on the doors of dead hopes is a thing for silence and swift pity, too.

"When does a woman become an 'old maid'?" Little children ask questions like that. Only they and good women have faith enough to look into the heart of reality. And sorrier folk find in these questions something to laugh at. They have forgotten. But the X. Y. Z.'s are the questions that count—the kind doctors and ministers have to answer. Sophocles faced them, and Shakespeare, and the newspapers, every day. Yet the only answer seems to lie in the faith that brought them forth.

For age doesn't make an old maid. It is how she feels. The jects are only about those sour creatures who have lost love from their lives. As long as affection for another—or even for a cat—lingers, then "old maid" means only that the right man hasn't happened along. Cynics might say this is something to be glad about, but sages seem to think it is only the queer way Nature works. At any rate, Nature works so well that she always leaves handy, a stray child to be petted. Old maids are like orchids, beautiful perhaps because they live in the air and do not touch the earth. They have dreams still, and friends, and while their hearts remain young they are never "old," but only maids.

THE FUTURE OF EXPLORATION.

"With the discovery of the South Pole is exploration virtually finished?" In the March number of the North American Review, Sir Ernest Shackleton, who came within ninety-seven geographical miles of reaching the southern goal, and only turned back when his supplies had been exhausted, anticipated both its attainment by Scott or Amundsen, and that question. Also, he anticipated the assertion that "the race is over; ergo the work of exploration is done." The question he answers positively in the negative; the assertion he antagonizes most vigorously. Than the conclusion implied in both, he argues, no more foolish mistake could be made, and none more disastrous in its consequences, should it dampen the ardor of exploration.

Sir Ernest believes and contends that practically exploration has just begun, and fortifies his position with a most interesting and illuminating grouping of the worlds yet remaining to be conquered. After pointing out that in and around the ice barriers and suspected lands of the Arctic region there is still much beyond the ken of man, Sir Ernest turns to Antarctica, and says it cannot be too emphatically impressed that the interior behind its 8,000 miles of coast line, an area considerably larger than Europe, is practically terra incognita, a few spots only having been touched by the four expeditions that have so far wintered on the frozen continent. The zone yet holds most luring secrets.

Having directed attention to the confidence of Dr. Mawson that there are immense mineral deposits in Antarctica, and to the determination of that explorer and scientist to endeavor to prove his faith by heading another expedition into the challenging field, Sir Ernest passes to some of the theories regarding what further exploration of the continent will disclose, among them these: That there is a mountain chain right across the polar stretch from Graham Land, the point nearest South America, to Mount Erebus and South Victoria—a continuation of the South American Andes; that a vast inland canal extends from the Weddell Sea to Ross Sea, dividing the continent into eastern and western masses; that Enderby Land, opposite South Africa, is a third continental fragment; and, as opposed to all these, that the continent is a unity. Here are fascinating, tentative geographical problems to be solved, to say nothing of geology and the contributions to meterological science and knowledge possible from future investigations. Dr. Mawson considers it entirely practicable to make Antarctica the base for invaluable weather predictions affecting Australia and India, which may be sent by wireless.

Sir Ernest passes in review the projected Scottish national Antarctic expedition, the work of Charcot and its stimulus to others to emulate him and broaden the lines of that French explorer's research, and then carries us to the unknown reaches of the Siberian coast and the unsolved mysteries of Northern China, Thibet and Mongolia. Coincidentally with Sir Ernest's article and these references we find in a London paper a dispatch from Bombay noting the arrival there of three explorers who have been working in Mongolia, Dzungaria, Chinese Turkestan and the Himalayas, and who, along the upper Yenezei, west of Lake Baikal, found some tribes, neither Mongol nor Siberian, which they took to be the remnant of an ancient folk with considerable civilization that had been driven into these inaccessible regions by a Tartar migration. Here, again, is the suggestion of a most interesting puzzle, ethnological and historic.

Next, Sir Ernest reminds us that there is New Guinea, an island as large as Great Britain, whose wild forests and mountains are still mostly closed to their nominal Dutch, British and German owners, which are inhabited by pygmies, among other races, and which promise startling revelations. Sir Ernest admits that the Dark Continent has, save for a few desert wastes, been nearly explored, though it is still an inviting domain to the achaeological student of ancient history and civilizations, zoology, etc. He notes that large sections of territory north of Canada have never been trodden by the foot of the white adventurer, and then bring his readers to the confines of the vast, mysterious, unwrapped, unvisited jungles of South and Central America. Embraced in these, he shows, are a wealth of archaeological, architectural, anthropological, ethnological, religious and historical enigmas, tantaling the spirit of exploration, which will at the same time beckon it on with a magical seductiveness it cannot and will not resist.

In summarizing, Sir Ernest expresses the conviction that "exploration then will not be played out in our time;" that "the great chapter in human history is yet far from being closed; that it has much that is strange to reveal, and much of benedt and beauty." No one can read after him and not concur with him; not partake of his enthusiastic confidence that the romance of adventurous and sacrificing seekers after the world's hidden knowledge is just commencing to unfold, and not recognize that it will be long, long years ere the Alexanders of exploration conquest will have cause to weep!

DROWSY CHRISTIANS.

[Selected for The Times-Dispatch.]

"Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."—St. Matthew, xxv, 13.

One of the many lessons found in the Parable of the Ten Virgins is a warning to drowsy and inert Christians. The virgins slept when they should have watched, and thus neglecting their lamps, when the sudden summons came, they were not ready. This parable is not addressed to the godless and unbelieving, or those who know not God. The virgins were friends and followers of the bridegroom, and they hoped and intended to go to the marriage feast. However, out of the ten only five were ready when the bridegroom came.

It is, then, a lesson for those of us who think they love God, and call themselves Christians, and pray and go to church, but do it all in a desultory way. Many of us are like the five foolish virgins. We neglect our work as Christians; we doze when we should be alert, watching and active. We become easy-going, drowsy Christians, and go through with our religious duties in a sleepy, perfunctory way, with our consciences slumbering, so that the warnings of God have no effect. Often as we see those about us in church comes the thought: "What are their lives and ours at home and during the week? Do we leave the service roused to our Christian duty? Do we go out with a strong and earnest desire to live each hour and day according to the Word of God as we have heard it? No help can come to us through a mere superficial observance of church-going, almsgiving, family prayer, Bible-reading, self-examination, watchfulness of tongue and temper. What we need is a waking up to these obligations so that they become a vital part of our lives.

God alone can awaken the sleepy soul; Jesus, who raised Lazarus, and said, "I go to awake him out of sleep," can do the same for us. Let our prayer be that He arouse us in time! Think of some who fell into grievous danger through sleeping when they ought to have been watching. The sluggard of the Proverbs asked for a little more slumber. Meantime his garden was overrun with weeds and his property spoilt. So the sluggard Christian neglects his vineyard—the spiritual state—and while he is sleeping his enemy, the devil, comes and sows foul weeds, and his soul is ruined. Sisera, the great captain, slept in the tent of Jael. He was in danger, in the neighborhood of enemies, yet he slept on, and the fatal nail was smitten through his temples.

So with the sleepy Christian going carelessly into bad company, mixing thoughtlessly with ungodly things, and from this indifference his faith and character receive their deathblow. Jonah slept in the storm, when he ought to have arisen and called upon his God. Others were praying, but he was sleeping, and knew not that there was but a step betwixt him and death. So with us all, if we go on neglecting to pray constantly, drowsy as to the welfare of our souls, one day misfortune or death will come suddenly upon us and find us unprepared.

King Saul slept in the trench on the battlefield, when he should have kept watch. His deadly enemy, Abishai, and his generous foeman, David, came in the night watches and looked on the sleeping King. He was in their power, close to death, and he knew it not. Abishai would have slain him with his own spear, and he grimly promised, "I will not smite him a second time."

Then again, the disciples of Jesus slept in Gethsemane whilst our Lord was in His agony of suffering and prayer, in spite of their promises of devotion. If we cannot watch with Jesus and suffer with Him, we shall forsake Him in the hour of trial, and deny Him in the time of danger. Let us bethink ourselves and take warning from the foolish virgins, and not rely just on the name of Christian instead of trying to live the life of a Christian. This life need not be one of sorrow and gloom; it should be one shedding about it continual sunshine and brightness because of its inward well-spring of the Holy Spirit.

God will judge us by our lives, our words and works—by our fruits we shall be known. The final cry of warning must come to each of us, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet Him." "Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

It is a good thing the Legislature has adjourned. Another thirty days and it would have conflicted with the baseball schedule.

So long, Solon!

President Taft says that woman's suffrage is doubtless coming. Can this be a far-sighted bid for the election in 1924?

The proof of the Pole is in the writing.

Voice of the People

Second Auditor Speaks Up.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In the discussion of the fee system, which has occupied the attention of the General Assembly for some time, it seems to me that you have done violence to the good name of the best men that I have ever known to hold office in Virginia. I mean the clerks of the courts.

I am under no obligation to a single one of them except as a lawyer who has received courtesies at their hands, for which I have in turn been always grateful, and paid the fees allowed by law. But I know many of them, and I know no better class of men. Nor do I believe there are any anywhere more faithful to the interests of the State.

It may be all right to pay salaries instead of fees; and the act of the Legislature which requires reports may be wise. But do not imagine that the objection that the clerks have to the change is necessarily based upon improper grounds. It will be discovered that there are about a dozen clerks who receive large salaries, but that the greater number of them, after paying their deputies, make no more than business men of equal ability in the community.

Publicity is all right. Too high salaries are all wrong. But Virginia has no better citizens than the clerks of her courts. So why harry them because they differ from you?

ROSEWELL PAGE.

A Living Force for Conservation.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—To-morrow morning's press will carry the news that the Moncure-Rutherfoord bill was killed in the House of Delegates on the last day of the session.

We spent two or three hundred dollars trying to get the farmers of Virginia to understand the provisions of the law which would give them a protection against the so-called sportsmen, black and white.

We had less than forty-five days to do this in, but the fact that the bill passed the Senate and only lacked a few votes of passing the House shows that our work was not entirely lost, and forecasts the passage of this bill at our next legislative session. We are satisfied that had the progressive farmers of Virginia fully understood this bill that it would have passed at this session.

The defeat of the bill can be attributed to the activity of that element which stands against progress. We have no right to censure the members of the House of Delegates who voted against this measure, because we are satisfied that these men were voting to the best interest of their constituency so far as they understood the proposition.

The Audubon Society of Virginia and the Game Protective and Propagation Association of America assisted us in the work by having men of national reputation in game protection come to Richmond and explain the real need that Virginia has of a modern method for the conservation and protection of its game and bird life; in addition to this nearly the entire press of the State treated the matter editorially and otherwise, and it seems to me had any member of the Legislature so desired he could have informed himself and voted accordingly. The sportsmen of Virginia should be careful in their selection of the delegates for our next General Assembly, and see that nobody represents their district who is not in accord with their interest.

The Virginia Audubon Society has proved to the sportsmen of Virginia conclusively its interest in game protection, and every sportsman in the State should join this society in order that the society may have a fund sufficient to continue the campaign of education it has started for game protection.

This organization, with less than 500 members in the State (not including the junior membership), is destined to be a factor in the conservation and protection of game and bird life in Virginia, and is an instrument by which the sportsmen of Virginia can eventually have this wise and beneficial game law passed.

M. D. HART.
Treasurer Virginia Audubon Society.

Carnegie in the Woodpile.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Referring to an editorial in The Times-Dispatch of the 6th inst. in connection with the agitation for a free public library, the comparison was made between Charlotte, N. C.; Louisville, Ky.; Montgomery, Ala.; Nashville, Tenn., and Richmond, it may be of interest to note that those cities owe their library facilities to the generosity of no less a man than Andrew Carnegie.

Charlotte, with 34,000 population, accepting $15,000; Louisville, with 223,000 population, accepting $250,000; Montgomery, with 38,000 population, accepting $50,000, and Nashville, with 110,000 population, accepting $100,000.

Verbum Sap.
H. W.
Richmond.

Mr. Harwood for Fee Bill.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I notice in your editorial of to-day that you have, I suppose, unknowingly done Colonel John S. Harwood an injustice in reference to his position on the West fee bill. Colonel Harwood, as a member of the Finance Committee, supported the bill and voted against every amendment which had a tendency to impair the usefulness of the bill. I make this statement in order to correct a wrong impression in reference to the position of Colonel Harwood on this bill.

R. L. BREWER, JR.
Member House Finance Committee.

A Spring Symphony.

All nature rejoices,
For winter is dead—
In glorious voices,
For winter is dead,
With music's abandon
The choir is led
In the aisles of the towering forest cathedral,
The March wind sings his stave,
To the tremulous swell of the forest organ,
When the evergreen pine trees wave.

When April comes
The sweet birds sing—
The sun is warm,
The sweet birds sing,
With life and joy
In everything;
Then skip the lambs on sunny banks,
The hollyhocks are blooming.
The rain-frogs by the rushes sing
A chorus in the gloaming.

I tread the May
With my sweet Girl,
The meadows green
With Mary Girl;
What is so fair
As Mary Girl?
For she hath in her womanly graces a charm
More sweet than the blooming spring,
And her soulful eyes, and her magical tones,
Athrill with the beautiful spring.

EDMOND FONTAINE.
Charlottesville, February 9, 1912.

Nature's Puppets.

When nature pulls the strings
A myriad shapes take wings,
And up from old earth springs
Buds and flow'rs and things.

Her puppets nod and prance,
And in the breezes dance,
Wooed by the sunshine's glance,
Which beauty doth enhance.

The daffys in earth's mold
Enough of glory hold
To change the winter, cold,
Into a path of gold.

Shy violets so blue,
Awaken thoughts all true,
Anemones washed with dew
Greet the fair world anew.

When nature pulls the strings,
My heart a love song sings,
And springtime's joy it flings
On happy fancy's wings.

JOHN INGLETON.

NEW DEVELOPMENT IN FIGHT FOR FORTUNE

No End to Romance in Connection With Scott Bequest.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

THERE seems to be no end to the romance in connection with the large fortune alienated in 1870 from the now terribly impoverished Marquisate of Hertford, and certainly the most recent development, namely, the bequest by the late Sir John Murray Scott of art treasures and other property to the extent of several millions of dollars to the wife of Lord Sackville, who will be remembered at Washington as Josephine Victoria Sackville-West, when her father, the late Lord Sackville, was English envoy to the United States, is the most extraordinary development of it all. Lady Sackville is a rather fascinating woman, with a grown-up daughter. When her brother and sisters sought to prove judicially that their father, Lord Sackville, had been duly married to the Franco-Spanish dansense, Josephine, or Pepita Olivarez, and that they were therefore legitimate, she, in that cause celebre, sided against them, strove with all her might and main to prove that her mother had been her father's mistress, instead of his wife, the reason being that she had married her first cousin, Lionel Sackville-West, who, owing to the illegitimacy of Henry, the son of his uncle, had succeeded both to the Sackville peerage and to the Sackville estates. Consequently, if her brother and sisters had won their case, and proved that their mother had been lawfully married, she herself would have ceased to be a peeress of the realm, and her husband would have been obliged to surrender the celebrated Knole Park estate, in Kent, to her brother.

It seems that some four years ago the late Sir John Murray Scott made a will in favor of Lady Sackville, to whom he was devoted at the time—to the extent of millions of dollars. Subsequently this devotion cooled considerably, so considerably that he made another will, from which it is understood the bequests to Lady Sackville were eliminated. This second will has been lost, and has been advertised for in every direction by Sir John's brothers, one of whom is a retired major-general of the army, General Douglas Scott, and by his sisters, Alicia and Mary Scott, who have kept house for him, and who nursed Sir John through the illness which culminated in his death. Unless this second will can be found, much of the property, including Castle House, in County Antrim, and Sir John's London mansion in Connaught Place, will go to Lady Sackville, his two sisters will be left without a home, and they, as well as Sir John's brothers, nephews and nieces, will inherit but little of his property—that property which was bequeathed to him by his employer, Lady Wallace, to the exclusion of the children of her only son, Captain Wallace, of the French Cuirassiers; that property which Lady Wallace had inherited from her husband, Sir Richard Wallace, and the latter from his half-brother, the fourth Marquis of Hertford, and from his mother, Maria Fagniani, the famous, or rather infamous, wife of the third Marquis of Hertford. Thackeray's "Lord Steyne." Sir John was the private secretary of Sir Richard and Lady Wallace, and received his title after succeeding to their property.

Count Camillo Pecci has been the commander, not of the Noble Guard, as stated in the dispatches from Rome, but of the Palatine Guard, and if he has been relieved of the command thereof by the Pope, it is not because he has refrained from vindicating his personal honor by means of a duel, but because, although a member of the pontifical household, he violated the laws of the church by sending a challenge to single combat to Prince Altieri. The trouble seems to have begun at the Hunt Club at Rome, where, while Prince Altieri was playing cards, Count Pecci came and stood behind him, making remarks about the game. This ended by grating to such an extent upon the nerves of the prince, who was barely on speaking terms with the count, that he rose from his seat and ordered him to desist. Receiving an insulting answer from the count, he slapped his face, whereupon the other members of the club who happened to be in the room interfered and parted the two men.

According to the laws of honor, Count Pecci should immediately have sent a challenge to the prince to meet him in single combat for the purpose of avenging the blow which he had received. But the count, realizing that if he sent the challenge, it would cost him his papal rank of general of brigade and his command of the Palatine Guard, hesitated until three days had elapsed, and then only sent a challenge because he was given to understand that he would be expelled from his clubs at Rome, as well as barred from every club in Europe, and subjected to the most cruel form of social ostracism at home and abroad, unless he fought.

Prince Altieri, however, refused to accept the challenge on the ground that its dispatch had been delayed beyond the time required for the sending of a cartel. Having many reasons to dislike Count Pecci, their feud dating back to the days when the late Don Emilio Altieri was commander of the Noble Guard, the prince was only too glad of the opportunity of placing his adversary in a most painful position. Altieri is perfectly within his right. He is under no further obligation to accept a challenge from Pecci, and the latter is left with his blow unavenged, that is to say, subjected to the same social disqualifications as if he had never issued a challenge at all.

On the other hand, the fact that the count did send a challenge, though too late, and against the strict injunctions of the Holy Father published in the official organ of the Vatican, the Osservatore Romano, and in defiance of the laws of the church, renders his continuation as a member of the pontifical household impossible.

Count Camillo Pecci is no stranger in America, for he married a daughter of the Cuban Marquis Buenoy Gazzon, and became through his wife the owner of large sugar plantations in Cuba, which received terrible treatment at the hands of the insurgents, the count and countess being partly ruined thereby. The count is not a particularly popular personage, either at the court of the Vatican, or even in that section of Roman society which is composed of the old "Black," that is to say, pro-Vatican, aristocracy, namely, the Altieris, the Massimos, the Chigis, etc., among which the name of his uncle, Leo XIII., is held in affectionate remembrance. He was a source of much trouble to Leo XIII. during the early portion of his career, and it was only towards the close of his uncle's reign that he managed to recover his good will by devoting much care and attention to him, and especially by endeavoring to entertain him with news of what was going on in Rome, beyond the walls of the Vatican, in the Black and White divisions of Roman society. It is from motives of regard for his uncle that he was retained in office as commander of the Palatine Guard by Pius X.

The Palatine Guard is composed of the Petit Bourgeoisie of Rome, as distinct from the Noble Guard, composed exclusively of nobles, and the Switzer Guard, recruited entirely from among Swiss Catholics. Formerly it was a sort of papal militia, and whereas the Noble and Swiss Guard are particularly fine bodies of men, the Palatine Guard, consisting mostly of well fed Roman shopkeepers and purveyors to the Vatican, presents the most unmilitary appearance that it is possible to conceive.

Curiously enough, no one was more severe in his denunciation of duelling than Count Pecci's uncle, Leo XIII., who in his encyclical entitled "Pastorales Offoli," declared: "From two points of view the Divine law forbids a man, as a private person, to wound or kill another, excepting when he is forced thereto by self-defense. Both natural reason and the inspired Holy Scriptures proclaim this Divine law." In this he was only following the reasoning of Pope Benedict XIV., who in his bull "Detestabilem," dated 1752, denied that any occasion could arise to justify a duel. This pontiff, in turn, based his view upon the decision of the Council of Trent, of 1542, which declared that "the destestable custom of dueling, which the devil had originated, in order to bring about at the same time the ruin of the soul and the violent death of the body, shall be entirely uprooted from Christian countries."

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QUERIES & ANSWERS

Old Coins.

Mrs. A. W. Jones, T. R. and Mrs. Shinault send lists of old coins in which there is nothing of value.

Washington School Board.

Where can I learn whether Virginia certificates are accepted in the public schools of Washington, and get other information about Washington schools?

F. S.

Write to the Superintendent of Public Schools, Washington, D. C.

Grammatical.

Should you say a setting of eggs or a sitting of eggs; a setting hen or a sitting hen?

J.

Sitting of eggs; sitting hen.

Number of Employes.

Which railroad system in America employs the largest number of men?

S. D. MAYS.

The New York Central.

Pronunciation.

Please tell me which syllable is accented in the noun "address"?

H. H. N.

The last.

Thermometers.

Please tell me what would be 145 degrees Fahrenheit on the other two thermometers.

H. S. D.

63, Centigrade, and 50, Reaumur.

Cement Blocks.

Will you give the best proportion of sand, cement and stone to make concrete blocks and tell me whether the condensation of moisture is an important consideration?

C. B. GREER.

1, 2, 3, in the order in which you name them. It is. Almost any considerable cement company will send you a handbook of just such information as you will need for the proper making of these blocks.

W. U. Tel. and Indians.

Has the Western Union Telegraph Company a school at Goldsboro, N. C.? If so, how may I get full information about it? Do Indians have beards? Why are men more often bald than women?

J. O. C.

(1) It has. (2) Address the manager. (3) Not as a rule. (4) Men keep their heads more closely covered than women and give less attention to the hair.

Tobacco Markets.

Please state what is the largest tobacco market in the world; in Virginia; in North Carolina.

LEAF TOBACCO.

Louisville, Ky.; Richmond; Winston.

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