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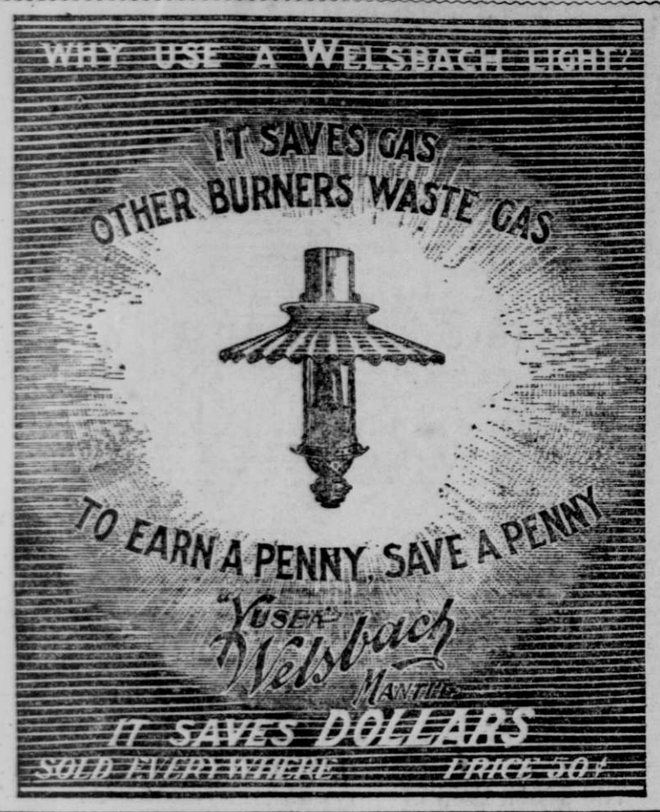

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ALL THIS WEEK.
Mrs. Edwin F. Mayo's Superb Company and the Brilliant Actor, MR. BURR McINTOSH.
Commencing SUNDAY AFTERNOON NEXT,
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A Story Pure as a Snowflake. A Play Sweet as an Orange Blossom.
The Greatest Success of the Season.
SEATS NOW ON SALE.

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FIRST AFTERNOON RECITAL
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THE GREATEST LIVING PIANIST.
ENTIRE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.
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Every Night, Including Sunday. Matinee Sat.
Smyth & Rice Present Comedian

WILLIE COLLIER
IN HIS OWN NEW FARCE,
MR. SMOOTH

GRAND OPERA HOUSE
LAST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEASON
ONLY THIS WEEK.
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Saturday Next, Last Matinee of the Present Company.
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USUAL POPULAR PRICES.
Good Reserved Seat in Orchestra, Saturday Matinee, 25c.
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Laughable comedy which created a furor in London and New York.
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THE ONLY FREE VAUDEVILLE SHOW IN THE CITY.
ALICE RAYMOND
America's Greatest Cornet and Bugle Player.
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AND OUR CELEBRATED STOCK COMPANY.
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AMATEUR NIGHT EVERY FRIDAY.
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1900—CALIFORNIA JOCKEY CLUB—1900
MARCH 26 to APRIL 7, INCLUSIVE.
OAKLAND RACE TRACK.
Racing Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Rain or shine.
Five or more races each day.
Races start at 2:15 p. m. sharp.
Ferry-boats leave San Francisco at 12 m. and 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2, 2:30 and 5 p. m., connecting with trains stopping at the entrance to the track. Last two cars on train reserved for ladies and their escorts; no smoking. Buy your ferry tickets to Shell Mound. All trains via Oakland mole connect with San Pablo avenue electric cars at Seventh and Broadway, Oakland. Also all trains via Alameda mole connect with San Pablo avenue cars at Fourteenth and Broadway, Oakland. These electric cars go direct to the track in fifteen minutes.
Returning—Trains leave the track at 4:15 and 4:45 p. m. and immediately after the last race.
THOMAS H. WILLIAMS JR., President.
R. B. MILROY, Secretary.

"STUDENTS' LECTURE COURSE."
SECOND LECTURE, March 29, 8 p. m., Y. M. C. A. Auditorium. RABBI JACOB VOORSANGER. "The Literary History of the Old Testament." Admission 50 cents. Tickets at Elder & Shepard's.

AMUSEMENTS.

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IT'S ANOTHER | GREAT TRIUMPH!
YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS
The Musical Extravaganza,
Manila Bound!
THUNDERS OF APPLAUSE GREETED THE WONDERFUL PATRIOTIC SECOND ACT FINALE.
And the songs, jokes, duets, trios and
"The Hoot Mon Golf Ballet!"
Evenings at 8. Matinee Saturday at 2.
POPULAR PRICES—25c and 50c.
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Watch for "THE WIZARD OF THE NILE."

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MATINEE TO-DAY, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 28.
Parquet, 25c, any seat; balcony, 10c; children, 10c, any part.
ANOTHER BIG VAUDEVILLE TRIUMPH.
CHARLES SWEET.
KENO, WELCH and MELROSE;
A. L. GUILLE; LONEY HASKELL.
THE MISSES McCOY and SAM MARION;
W. C. FIELDS; NEILSON SISTERS; WESTON and YOST.
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8:25—SENOR VARGAS.
8:50—SIGNORINA BARDUCCI.
9:22—SIGNOR BADARACCO.
9:31—MISS AGNES FRIED—10:49.
9:51—SIGNORINA POLLETTINI.
10:38—MASTER LEO HICKMAN.
11 TO 11:45—"IL TROVATORE."
AUGUST HINRICHS' ORCHESTRA.
ADMISSION 10 CENTS.
Next Week—"LA BOHEME" and THE BEAUTIFUL SALVINI.

CHUTES AND ZOO. Every Afternoon and Evening.
The 3 Celebrated Cherry Sisters.
Most Original Performance on Earth.
AND GREAT VAUDEVILLE SHOW.
"Hoot Mon" and the Amateurs To-morrow Night.
Seats by Phone—Park 23.

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A PERMANENT CURE
of the most obstinate cases of Gonorrhœa and Gleet, guaranteed in from 3 to 6 days; no other treatment required.
Sold by all druggists.

NEW WESTERN HOTEL.
KEARNY AND WASHINGTON STS.—Remodeled and renovated. KING, WARD & CO. European plan. Rooms, 50c to $1 50 day; $5 to $8 week; $8 to $20 month. Free baths; hot and cold water every room; fire grates in every room; elevator runs all night.

CAFE ROYAL Corner Fourth and Market, S. F. Try our Special Brew Steam and Lager, 5c. Overcoats and Valises checked free.

BOARD CHOSEN TO ADMINISTER AFFAIRS OF ART

James W. Byrne Slated for President of the Association.

Annual Meeting at Mark Hopkins Institute—Hint Given That Searles Will Do Something More for the Institution.

The annual election of the San Francisco Art Association yesterday resulted in the choice of the following board of directors: James W. Byrne, Joseph D. Grant, W. B. Bourn, Willis E. Davis, Henry Heyman, L. P. Latimer, James D. Phelan, Horace G. Platt, Irving M. Scott, William G. Stafford and Clinton E. Worden.

The new directors at their first meeting will elect a president. It is quite well understood that James W. Byrne will be the unanimous choice of the board for the presidency. He is a Pacific Union Club man, who has served in the directory of the Art Association.

At the annual meeting of the association at Mark Hopkins Institute last evening the election returns were canvassed and the result was officially declared.

The annual reports of Curator Robert Howe Fletcher and Assistant Secretary J. R. Martin were presented. The documents show the membership to be 634, a gain of 85 members during the year. The financial condition of the institution is creditable. In the permanent art fund there is the sum of $18,000, in the general fund $6000 and the house improvement fund $1000. The classes of the school of design are self-supporting. The instructors, Mathews, Latimer, Stanton, Judson, Tilden and Yelland, are now known to the board as professors. The greatness thrust upon them has not impaired their usefulness as teachers.

The net profit of the Mardi Gras ball was $1363. A resolution was adopted recommending that the board of directors transfer $1000 of the amount to the permanent art fund and apply the residue, $363, to the support of the magazine.

Joseph D. Grant presided at the annual meeting and incidentally mentioned that good news would soon be imparted to the members. It was indicated that Mr. Searles would do something more for the institution.

Cheering accounts of zeal and enthusiasm in the Alumni Association were given.

RECOMMEND RAISE IN ELECTRIC LIGHT RATES

Supervisors' Committee Regards the Sum of Eleven Cents Per Lamp as Too Low.

The Supervisors' Committee on Artificial Lights yesterday decided to recommend that the maximum rates to be charged on electric lamps be raised from 11 cents to 13 cents. This decision was arrived at after Attorney Bishop of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, W. G. Summerhayes of the Mutual Company and Expert A. M. Hunt of the Independent Light and Power Company had been heard on the subject. There were present Supervisors Hotaling, Dwyer and Brandenstein of the committee, Supervisors Jennings, Tobin, Helms, Connor and Boxton and City Engineer Grunsky, who were present by invitation.

Attorney Bishop represented that the 11-cent rate for each electric lamp in the district west of Larkin street and southwest of Tenth street was too low, as it cost 9 8-10 cents to distribute the current. The rate had been reduced from 20 cents, and he made an urgent plea for a 15-cent rate because of great loss owing to the isolated service in the outside district.

Expert Hunt opposed the proposition on the ground that the rate established was fair and equitable.

"I will grant," said Mr. Hunt, "that it costs 9 8-10 cents to supply each lamp with the electric current, but that could be reduced were the San Francisco Company to install adequate transformers in their system. The plant is inefficient on its alternating current plan, and the loss in electricity is due to antiquated transformers. It is not right that the people of San Francisco should be saddled with the blunders and losses of the company."

Mr. Summerhayes said that it was not fair for the company to charge inhibitive prices, and contended that the 11-cent rate was sufficient for residences in any part of the city.

Chief Engineer Grunsky was of the opinion that the profit in the downtown districts might compensate for the loss in outside localities, and he asserted that the stated cause of the increased cost in the latter portions of the city was not definite.

The committee went into executive session and at its conclusion announced that it was convinced of the merits of the petition for an increased rate and had decided to recommend that it be raised to 13 cents per lamp throughout the city. It was deemed inadvisable to set a rate of 11 cents for downtown and 15 cents for the residence district, so the compromise rate was agreed upon. The minimum rate to be charged for electric service was fixed at $1 50 per month, a reduction of 50 cents on the old rate.

MISS DARCHY SPOKE OF THE ANTIPODES

Described Australian Peculiarities and Told How Washington Could Have Lost Reputation.

Miss Darchy of the Sydney Daily Telegraph staff delivered the first of two lectures on Australia in Golden Gate Hall last evening. She has a melodious voice and a pleasing stage presence, and these qualities lent interest to her treatment of the subject. Her theme was "Australia Civilized." She began with an account of the old convict days, then came to bushranging, then passed to the time when the wilderness was subdued. Finally she described Melbourne "the marvelous" and picturesque Sydney. In describing the physical characteristics of the land she dwelt on the great plains, which after the rains are covered with grass that grows higher than the head of a mounted horseman, and in the dry season are barren, parched and cracked. In a time of great drought as many as a million sheep were ascertained to have perished from hunger and thirst. The Australian, she said, was not a provident man. The country produced so plentifully that there was no incentive to economy. The land was large and the population small. Manufacturing was backward, but would largely increase in the next decade. She described the pests of goats and rabbits. George Washington, in her opinion, if he had tried to supply the people with statistics about the Australian rabbits, would not have been able to set up as the father of his country because he would have forfeited his reputation for truth. Rather would he have been thought fit for a mining expert or real estate boomer. The lecture was interesting and instructive.

Danziger-Wise Imbroglio.

The case of Dr. Adolphe Danziger, charged with battery by Attorney Otto I. Wise, was dismissed by Judge Cabaniss yesterday. The battery was committed in Justice of the Peace Groezinger's courtroom on January 17. Danziger was a witness in a case and Wise was one of the attorneys. There had been so many continuances asked by both sides that the Judge got tired of having the case on his calendar.

Watered His Milk.

Joseph Enos, a dairyman, was yesterday convicted by Judge Mogan on the charge of watering his milk and was fined $25, which he paid. He was arrested at the Tiburon ferry.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

BRAIN FOOD

Is of Little Benefit Unless It Is Digested.

Nearly every one will admit that as a nation we eat too much meat and too little of vegetables and grains.

For business men, office men and clerks, and in fact every one engaged in sedentary or indoor occupations, grains, milk and vegetables are much more healthful.

Only men engaged in severe outdoor manual labor can live on a heavy meat diet and continue in health.

As a general rule, meat once a day is sufficient for all classes of men, women and children, and grains, fruit and vegetables should constitute the bulk of food eaten.

But many of the most nutritious foods are difficult of digestion and it is of no use to advise brain workers to eat largely of grains and vegetables where the digestion is too weak to assimilate them properly.

It is always best to get the best results from our food that some simple and harmless digestive should be taken after meals to assist the relaxed digestive organs, and several years' experience have proven Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets to be a very safe, pleasant and effective digestive and a remedy which may be taken daily with the best results.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets can hardly be called a patent medicine, as they do not act on the bowels nor any particular organ, but only on the food eaten. They supply what weak stomachs lack, pepsin diastase, and by stimulating the gastric glands increase the natural secretion of hydrochloris acid.

People who make a daily practice of taking one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after each meal are sure to have perfect digestion, which means perfect health.

There is no danger of forming an injurious habit as the tablets contain absolutely nothing but natural digestives; cocaine, morphine and similar drugs have no place in the stomach medicine, and Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are certainly the best known and most popular of all stomach remedies.

Ask your druggist for a fifty-cent package of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, and after a week's use note the improvement in health, appetite and nervous energy.

ARE YOUR NERVES UNSTRUNG?

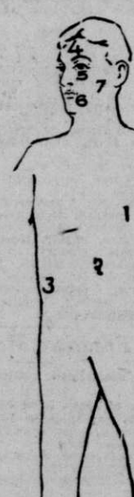
Take Hudyan. It Cures.

When your nervous system becomes weakened and the vital forces impaired, then exhaustion results. "Nervous Exhaustion" is a dangerous disorder, for it often leads to complete Prostration, Apoplexy or Heart Disease.

Guard against it, for help is at hand. HUDYAN is the help. The mind is usually first to show evidence of a letting down of the nerves. Your memory becomes impaired, your intellect clouded. You become despondent and melancholy, you shun society, you become morose, irritable and unable to apply yourself to business. You will have headache (Fig. 1), hollow eyes (Fig. 2), a pale face (Fig. 3), coated tongue (Fig. 7), bloating of stomach (Fig. 5), torpid liver (Fig. 6), weakness of limbs (Fig. 4), all as a result of weak nerves. HUDYAN cures one and all these distressful conditions.

Hudyan is certain
ALL DRUGGISTS 50¢

Perhaps you were of a joyful and gay disposition. You are now sad and sober. Unnatural fears take possession of your mind. Your strength is lost, your appetite poor, your back pains you and is weak. You wake in the morning tired and bleary-eyed. You have dizzy spells (Fig. 4), dark rings under eyes (Fig. 5), sunken cheeks (Fig. 7), offensive breath (Fig. 6), palpitation of heart (Fig. 1), indigestion (Fig. 2), an inactive liver (Fig. 3), and costiveness. Your limbs tremble, muscles of face or eyelids twitch, your knees shake, you lack energy and have no confidence in yourself. These symptoms, one and all, tell you that you need HUDYAN. HUDYAN strengthens the nerves and gives recuperative capacity to all the organs of the body. HUDYAN gives health, strength and happiness, because HUDYAN insures a correct discharge of every bodily function.



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FIGG WILL STILL PREACH HIS RELIGION

Fanatic Undaunted by a Coat of Tar and Feathers.

Refuses to Prosecute Two of His Alleged Persecutors and the Cases Against Them Are Dismissed.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

OMAHA, March 27.—The outrage perpetrated upon Mr. and Mrs. Louis Figg by a frenzied mob at Gretna Friday night is the second instance wherein a woman has received a coat of tar and feathers in Nebraska in recent years. In the last instance the deed was far from justified; in the former case at Osceola no sympathy was wasted upon the scarlet woman who was made black by a party of prudish women prominent in social circles.

It was a comparatively light coat which the Gretnaites spread upon Mr. and Mrs. Figg, for both were able to be about the next day. In fact, Mr. Figg hurried to the county seat, where he filed informations before the County Attorney and the Sheriff went to Gretna to serve the warrants, which called for three well-known men, said to have been the leaders of the mob which invaded the sanctity of the Figg home, dragged Mr. Figg and wife out of bed and noiselessly but quickly doped them with tar and feathers. It was plainly the intention of the men to warn but not to injure their victims. Should the warning not be heeded the outrage may be repeated in true Western style.

The Figgite sect has caused a great deal of public scandal in the little village only a few miles south of Omaha. It was founded four or five years ago. To describe its adherents as fanatics is not overstepping the bounds of truth. Mr. and Mrs. Figg are the acknowledged leaders and they have gradually won over quite a number of well-meaning persons, mostly women, to their beliefs. They believe that every unsanctified person possesses a personal devil or is the personification of satan. They claim to have the power to discover in sinners the existence of a devil and upon making such discovery they hold it to be their duty to chastise the body holding it until the evil spirit shall be driven out. Three years ago several husky citizens of Gretna objected to having the devil driven out of them in this manner and after certain enthusiastic Figgites had gone to the hospital they began doubting the efficacy of their methods and quit the chastisement feature.

But it was in the power of a Figgite to discover the devil while he was yet invisible to the unsaved. So a delegation of them went to one of the Gretna churches and during the middle of the service suddenly saw the devil standing out on the edge of the platform just in front of the preacher. Three or four women at once began screaming and made a dash for the devil, who sought safety up one aisle and down another till he finally escaped from the church and across a corn field, where the women soon became exhausted from running over the soft ground. Regular members of the church, who didn't see the devil at all, were much incensed.

These remarkable demonstrations by the Figgites continued at succeeding church services and camp meetings in Sarpy County, until finally the Figgites came over into Douglas County and discovered the devil at one of the meetings. The preacher, however, preferred the devil to the Figgites, and had the women arrested for disturbing a religious meeting. At a trial before Justice Cockerell in Omaha each woman in turn entered the plea "Guilty in the eyes of man, but innocent in the sight of God," while shrieks of "Glory to God" and "Hallelujah" made the courtroom ring. The Justice, however, viewed the situation with the eyes of man, and heavily fined the women, each of whom refused to pay, and served out her term in jail, living martyrs to the undying faith within them.

Fanatical Demonstrations.

Rev. Charles W. Savidge, pastor of the People's Church, Omaha, tells of an episode in which the Figgites figured.

"I first knew the Figgs in 1884," said Rev. Mr. Savidge, "and at that time they were recent converts to religion. They started out on the right track and were highly regarded. That was at Springfield, Sarpy County. The next I heard of them was three years ago when I went to Gretna to hold a meeting. I noticed that my audience was inclined to watch the church doors throughout the service. I asked the reason why. The reply was: 'The Figgites are likely to come at any time and break up the meeting.' 'Who are the Figgites?' I asked. On being informed I announced that I would go to see them. I called at their home the next morning. Mr. Figg was not at home, but Mrs. Figg admitted me. We talked pleasantly for a while, but when a difference of opinion was expressed she began to scream; at the top of her voice she shouted: 'You've got the devil in you.' She carried a young babe in her arms, and as she danced about the room, in what I would call a fanatical can-can, it was to me a most shocking sight. I excused myself, saying I would call again when I could see her husband.

"A few nights later the Figgs came to my meeting. I saw at once that I had to deal with combustible material, for they were tinctured with wildfire. There was no violent demonstration, however, until just before the close of the service, when Mrs. Figg went into a hysterical fit of screaming and reiterated her charge that I had the devil in me. I acted as calmly as I could and announced to her that while she had broken up the meeting that time, she must never do it again. I told her I expected to have her arrested, which I did, after consulting legal authority.

"That ended my experience with the Figgs for the time, but a year later I was at Gretna and somebody broke my carriage to pieces. It was the general opinion of my friends that the followers of the Figgites were responsible for the vandalism. The carriage was cut loose from the horses and broken up one night while I was in church.

"I believe the people of Gretna had sufficient provocation to cause them to take extreme measures against the Figgs. I do not say that I indorse the tar and feather plan, but I do say that something ought to be done to rid the State of such people. They have been a menace to society."

Mr. Savidge relates an anecdote of how Figg, soon after he became a professed Christian, predicted that unless the inhabitants of the village of Springfield repented immediately the town would be swept away by the hand of the Lord.

Cases Dismissed.

PAPILLION, Nebr., March 27.—Chapter two in the history of the Figgites ended to-day in the court of County Judge Wilson, when Louis Figg announced that he would not prosecute the two men, John Woods and William Browning, arrested on the charge of being star actors in chapter one, when the two leaders of the Figgites were given a coat of tar and feathers by irate neighbors. The cases were therefore dismissed. Louis Figg said:

"I propose to stay in Gretna and will not give up my religion. I am a property owner there and have lived in that community a good part of my life. As to my future course," he added earnestly, "I intend to go right on preaching my faith as I have done in the past. Threats will have no effect, and if my neighbors choose to lynch me for adhering to my religious convictions, all well and good."

Last Week.

All shoes in store, 717 Market street, must be sold this week; Saturday will be the last day for sale of shoes. 717 Market street, near Third.

A. Schilling Appointed.

Mayor Phelan yesterday appointed A. Schilling to be the representative for San Francisco on the committee of three in connection with the Chinese celebration of the Feast of the Dragon on July 9, 10 and 11. The other two members will represent the State and nation.

Anyvo Theatrical Cold Cream insures a refined complexion. Druggists, 15c and 50c.

GOLDEN AGE OF ITALIAN LITERATURE.

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GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE.

XII. DANTE AND HIS RELATION TO MODERN LITERATURE.

BY C. W. BENTON, PH. D.

The philosopher Gioberti has compared Dante to the acoatha tree in India, which, by throwing out from its branches new shoots into the ground, becomes of itself a forest. "The middle ages," says Lowell, "were reflected in his soul as the universe in a drop of dew."

As the materials of different geologic ages entered into the composition of his favorite church of San Giovanni, the gates of which Michael Angelo declared were worthy to be the gates of paradise, so the "Divine Comedy" embraced earth and heaven—a cui a porto mano e cielo e terra.

Italy had been the center of the crusades. Her Popes had given the order to march. Her ships had furnished the means of transport. The enthusiasm of that conflict of centuries had not fallen with the heroic figure of St. Louis, but was turned in other directions—to the building of cathedrals and great systems of thought. Armies as well as ideas had crossed the national boundaries. The conflict between Gregory VII and Henry IV of Germany was still shaking the Continent, a distant echo of which was recently heard in the remark of a German Prince that there was no more going to Canossa.

Frederick Barbarossa and Henry VII were still fighting to maintain the imperial power. In England from the weak hands of King John was being wrested the Magna Charta. In Spain Alphonso X heard the first strains of the poem of the Cid. In France the Troubadours of Provence were producing the first outburst of lyric poetry in any language of modern Europe, while the north was singing of the prowess of the paladins of the great Emperor and covering the land with its white mantle of churches.

DANTE.

In Italy the free air of the sea brings to Venice and Genoa the sense of liberty and the commerce of the Orient. Nominally under the suzerainty of the Emperor, in fact independent republics, most of the Italian cities of the north, electing their own magistrates while many of the nations of Europe were still under the rule of despotism, show that boldness of character and thought which are fostered by the institutions of popular liberty. Together with this political ardor were other influences of culture, chief among which was the memory of ancient Rome. Although the empire was no more, Rome still lived in her splendid ruins and in her literature. Her monuments, visible on every hand, still spoke of a greatness and a dominion which Italy blushed to have lost and dreamed to regain. The German Emperors, who inherited the title of the holy Roman empire, given by the Popes to Charlemagne, promised that dominion, and Italy followed the Emperors. This was the Ghibelline party. The Popes, on the other hand, with the title of spiritual governors of the universe and makers of Kings, promised that dominion, and so Italy followed the Popes. This was the Guelf or popular party. Moreover, many of the Popes themselves sprang from the common people. Hildebrand, the greatest of them, was the son of a carpenter; Sylvester II, who as the Monk Gerbert had introduced into Europe the Arabic numerals and encouraged learning, was the son of farmer peasants of Lorraine; Urban IV was the son of a shoemaker; Celestin V was a hermit.

While the nobles had some shadow of excuse in calling in the Emperor, who was their sovereign, to settle their disputes, the Popes, on the other hand—Boniface VIII, for example—had called in the aid of the princes of France without having any such excuse. Thus Italy became the battle ground of Europe and the Papacy was fighting to take back a dominion which itself had formerly bestowed. The Popes found more than once reason to regret their having evoked from the tomb the imperial shade. By so doing they had darkened the history of Italy. It was because they had not limited themselves to spiritual weapons, but had used corrupt means for dominion, that they aroused the wrath of Dante, who consigned some of them to the fiercest penalties of the infernal world. The poet stood where all the influences of the century met. His star is always on the horizon. His ancestor, Cacciaguida, had been knighted for heroism by Conrad III in the third crusade, so that he not only breathed the air but in his veins flowed the blood of the great movement. Warrior at the battle of Campaldino, Embassador, Prior of Florence, a political exile and wanderer, his home was the world and humanity his song. Out of the wars and tumult of his life sprang one of the serenest works of human genius. Over the storm appeared that perfect arch of many colors uniting two hemispheres. Through his work the memories which thrilled his generation re-echo still. As the statues of stone on the cathedrals still radiate their lessons of faith, so in the "Divine Comedy" the faces of Giotto and Cimabue and the musical strains of Casella become articulate with speech. Like St. Paul, he had a vision of divine perfection; like Bunyan, he traces the pilgrimage of the soul. With him, as with Homer, a whole age, otherwise forgotten, comes to life again. He holds the same relation to modern literature that Homer does to that of antiquity. Both gave that heroic impulse to literature and art which carried them through a three-fold development, from the sublime to the beautiful, and finally to a search for the true.

What would the literature of Greece be without Homer? The ideals and forms of classic art are all there. The breath of the morning and the brightness of day. There are no shadows, no darkness without stars. The earth and Olympus, Jupiter and the council of the gods, the temples and the cities, Ulysses wandering over the resounding sea, Agamemnon the king of kings, the words of Nestor, falling like flakes of snow; the war of Troy and the conflict of heroes, fable and history, fancy and science, all the depths of the traditions of ancient Greece, lighted up with an immortal smile. Over all the rustling of divine wings. Minerva with her shield, Apollo with his lute, Thetis rising from the sea, Mercury flying through the air on some message of the gods. Reading him, the world feels young again. Said Michael Angelo, "When I read Homer I look to see if I am not twenty feet tall." With Homer awoke Greek literature and art. His ideals were realized in the beautiful forms of Phidias and Praxiteles, the tragedies of Sophocles and the ideas of Plato. Then came the third period, which ends with Aristotle and the search for the true. Greece had accomplished her work and the torch passed on to other hands.

The same three periods appear in Italy. From the sublime in Dante art passes on to the beautiful in Petrarch and Raphael, when the whole noonday glory of the Italian renaissance burst upon Europe and kindled the flame of devotion to art and letters which, beginning with Italy, surrounded the world. Then came the third period, with the search for new worlds by Galileo and Columbus.

It was in the "Divine Comedy" that all the elements of culture which were at work in the middle ages, each in its own sphere and possibly in a different language and in a different clime from all the others, meet for the first time and combine in one living and perfect whole. Dante is at once a creative and a traditional genius. He said what everybody else was saying, but in a language and in an artistic form that no one thought of using. He takes the common dialect spoken by the women and children of Italy, thought unworthy for any serious work, and in it he treats the great themes of science and philosophy hitherto confined to Latin and the quiet of the cloister. There was the fine wheat of the Latin, he said, but there was also the barley bread of the vulgar dialect, and it was in this alone that the common people could be fed the bread of life. The "Divine Comedy" contains a record of all that concerned Europe in the middle ages, a complete system of what was thought and felt on politics, on art, on astronomy, on religion. These elements which each existed separately would probably have disappeared, certainly would have been outgrown or supplanted, were they not combined through the mysterious principle of life by the personality of the poet.

It was this faculty of harmonizing what were opposing tendencies of civilization, the power of expressing the thought of all time in the language of to-day and in faultless form that make an era in literature, for Dante first showed in an eminent degree that openness of mind which appreciates and appropriates the good wherever it is found, and which always must remain the mark of the highest culture. It is this universality which characterizes the work of Dante which has given so many theories as to the contents of the "Divine Comedy."

It is a textbook on astronomy and medieval science. All these and other theories have been given, and all are true. It depends on the side from which the work is approached. Like the Bible, every one found in it what he wished to find. Some read it because it placed their enemies in hell; others with the hope of finding their friends in heaven; others because they find there the thought and feeling of many centuries, compressed, like the gifts to humanity in Pandora's box, into the compass of one "mystic, unfathomable song." No danger that the spirits of the deep or the odors of the celestial plains shall ever evaporate, for they are held secure as by plates of triple steel. Each perfect in itself, they follow each other, like the waves of the sea, those shafts of glowing rhyme revealing the wonders of the deep until the travelers have reached the further shore. And when they ascend the laborious mount, and later, in company with a heavenly guide, the poet continues his flight through circles of infinite space, there is no touch of weariness until the great song is done and ends with the word stelle—the stars.

"The central man of all the world," says Ruskin, "as representing in perfect balance the imaginative moral and intellectual faculties all at their highest."

We receive from Dante the same impression of universal intellect as from Shakespeare, with this difference: that while Shakespeare conceals his own personality behind a moving multitude as broad as humanity, Dante himself is always present with his undying love as "transcendent as his scorn."

"A little philosophy," said Bacon, "leads away from religion, but much philosophy brings back to religion." Sainte Beuve has similarly remarked: "There is a certain degree of poetry which carries away from reality, and there is a greater amount of poetry which brings back to it, which embraces all history." Such is the poetry of Dante. From him poetry is the very soul and utterance of truth. In his is the character of Hebrew poetry. The prophets and the psalmists and the sublime author of the book of Job did not write history as such. They had another motive. But this view was so vast and so deep that it includes all history in one lasting lesson for all the centuries. And so in Dante are contained in germ all the forms of modern literature. He has inspired the artists and the thinkers of the modern world. The dramatic, the realistic, the romantic, the psychological school of art are all there. As he is the father of the romantic school by the power of his imagination and the abundance and intensity of his personal feeling, yet as he always subordinates fancy to reason, he has reached that simplicity and perfection of form which is the mark of the classic genius. Both of these tendencies which have divided all literature and art unite in him. This is why his book is of interest to all classes of men—the historian, the artist, the dramatist, the philosopher. His statue holds the place of honor in the ancient court of the College de France, which at the beginning of the French renaissance was founded by Francis I to teach the humanities. And in the Hotel de Ville on the other side of the Seine, in the Salon des Beaux Arts, is the first poet of Italy to symbolize the intellectual life of the artist.

In the famous picture of Raphael in the Vatican, representing the holy sacrament, he again finds a place among the doctors and theologians of the church.

Note—This study will be continued tomorrow.