ADVERTISEMENTS.

J. O'BRIEN & Co.

1146 Market Street,

The Largest Cloak and Suit House in San Francisco.

New Goods Arriving Every Day!

We are showing the latest styles in the following lines:

TAILOR-MADE SUITS, TAILOR-MADE JACKETS,
TAILOR-MADE SKIRTS,
BLACK SILK SKIRTS, SILK WAISTS,
SILK PETTICOATS,
FEATHER BOAS, FANCY NECKWEAR,
BLACK AND COLORED DRESS GOODS,
SILK CAPES, CLOTH CAPES,
LADIES' KID GLOVES,
LADIES' APPLIQUE SUITS,
LADIES' APPLIQUE SKIRTS.

SPECIAL BARGAINS For This Day!

50 BLACK AND COLORED TAILOR-MADE SUITS, value for $8.00; will be sold at $5.00

50 GRAY TAILOR-MADE SUITS, in all sizes; value for $10.00; will be sold at $7.50

30 SILVER GRAY SUITS, tailor-made; value for $12.50; will be sold at $10.00

LADIES' COLORED SILK WAISTS; will be offered at $3.50

LADIES' BLACK AND COLORED KID GLOVES; value for $1.75; will be sold at $1.15

50 dozen COLORED MOREEN SKIRTS; value for $1.00; will be sold at 50c

LADIES' TAILOR-MADE JACKETS, tan shades; value for $7.50, will be sold at $5.00

LADIES' BLACK AND BLUE ETON SUITS; value for $25.00; will be sold at $17.50

NOVELTY SUITS, at $20.00, $30.00, up to $50.00

OUR ENTIRE STOCK of PLAID DRESS GOODS will be offered at REDUCED PRICES. FUR CAPES marked down. ELECTRIC SEAL CAPES marked down.

All goods marked in plain figures. Suits made to order; perfect fit guaranteed. We are a strictly one-priced house.

STORE OPEN UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK THIS WEEK.

J. O'BRIEN & Co.

1146 Market Street,

Between Mason and Taylor.

AMUSEMENTS.

California Theatre THE POPULAR HOUSE

A HIT THAT RINGS TRUE!

MR. JAMES NEILL
AND COMPANY,
In Their Tremendous Success of
A BACHELOR'S ROMANCE.
Unanimous Praise From the Entire Press.

CALIFORNIA THEATER.
SEATS WILL BE ON SALE TO-MORROW.
THE MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR.
THE TWO GREAT RUSSIANS IN JOINT RECITALS.
PETSCHNIKOFF,
The Poet of the Violin.
HAMBOURG,
The Young Siegfried of the Piano.
AIME LACHAUME,
Distinguished Pianist and Composer.
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY — AFTERNOONS, =AT= 2:30 P. M.
Reserved Seats—50c, $1, $1 50, $2.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE
PHONE MAIN 532.
LAST NIGHT OF
Richard Walton Tully's Successful Farce,
"James Wobberts, I. S. S. Boston."
Characters by Students of the University of California.
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS and SATURDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING,
MINSTREL and VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINMENT
BY 100 STUDENTS—||—||—BY 100 STUDENTS
SUNDAY EVENING NEXT, April 15—Our New York Extravaganza Company in Henderson's Version of
"AN ARABIAN GIRL."
— USUAL POPULAR PRICES. —
Good reserved seat at all matinees, 25c.
Branch Ticket Office, Emporium.

ALCAZAR THEATRE
—EVERY NIGHT INCLUDING SUNDAY.—
Matinee Saturday and Sunday.
THEATER ALWAYS CROWDED.
THE FAD OF THE HOUR.
"QUO VADIS?"
SEATS SIX DAYS IN ADVANCE.
PRICES—15c, 25c, 35c, 50c.

NEW WESTERN HOTEL.
KEARNY AND WASHINGTON STS.—REmodeled and renovated. KING, WARD & CO. European plan. Rooms, 50c to $1 50 day; $1 to $3 week; $8 to $20 month. Free baths; hot and cold water every room; fire grates in every room; elevator runs all night.

AMUSEMENTS.

Orpheum
MATINEE TO-DAY (WEDNESDAY), April 11.
Parquet, 25c, any seat; Balcony, 10c; Children 10c, any part.
BOBBY GAYLOR;
DE FORRESTS;
EMPIRE COMEDY FOUR;
SI STEBBINS;
MATTHEWS and HARRIS;
HARRY COGILL and MAY ARLEA;
EARL and SHEPHERD;
CARRIE BEHR.
A Comedy Bill of Unsurpassed Excellence.
==LAST WEEK OF==
A. L. GUILLE.

COLUMBIA THE LEADING THEATER
Every Night, including Sunday—Matinee Sat.
FIRST PART. —10— NUMBERS. 10 HITS!
OLIO. —8— NUMBERS. 8 HITS!
Wm. H. West's Big Minstrel Jubilee!
==70==
GREAT FIRST PART!
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Here's where you get a run for your money.
18 BIG WINNERS.
SPECIAL PRICES—25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, $1.

★TIVOLI★
A PRONOUNCED ARTISTIC, A MUSICAL SUCCESS!!
Balfe's Beautiful Ballad Opera,
THE BOHEMIAN GIRL
EVERY EVENING. MATINEE SATURDAY.
SPECIAL!!—NEXT WEEK—SPECIAL!!
Frank Daniels' Great Comic Opera,
"THE WIZARD OF THE NILE"
Popular Prices - - 25c and 50c.
Telephone, Bush 9.

OLYMPIA EDDY ST., COR. MASON
THE ONLY FREE VAUDEVILLE SHOW IN THE CITY.
THE BLACK BARTONS,
The Biggest Hit of the Season.
ALICE RAYMOND,
America's Greatest Cornetist.
THELMA WINFIELD,
First Appearance of the Celebrated Violinist.
TRIXEDA,
Last Week of This Marvel of Beauty.
MLLE. THELMA,
In Poses Plastiques.
And Our Celebrated Stock Company.
MATINEE EVERY SUNDAY.
AMATEUR NIGHT EVERY FRIDAY.
ADMISSION FREE.

BRUSHES FOR BARBERS, BAKers, bootblacks, bathhouses, billiard tables, brewers, bookbinders, candy-makers, canners, dyers, flour mills, foundries, laundries, paperhangers, printers, painters, shoe factories, stablemen, tar-roofers, tanners, tailors, etc.
BUCHANAN BROS.,
Brush Manufacturers, 609 Sacramento St

French Cruiser Protet, on Her Maiden Voyage, Arrives Here.

Stopped at All the South and Central American Ports on Her Way. Is Bound for the Chinese Station.

The French cruiser Protet arrived in port yesterday morning and saluted the Stars and Stripes flying on Alcatraz as she passed up the bay. She is a vessel of the latest type and is now on her maiden cruise, her destination being the China station. As she steamed up the bay the warship was very much admired, and there is sure to be a rush to see her should her commander throw her open for inspection.

The Protet is classed as a second-class cruiser. She was built of steel and sheathed with teak in Bordeaux and launched in 1898, but did not go into commission until June, 1899. Her armament is composed of four 16-centimeter guns, ten 10-centimeter guns, ten 47-millimeter guns, four 37-millimeter guns, two torpedo tubes and four searchlights. She is 331 feet long, 58 feet beam and her displacement is 4055 tons. Her triple expansion engines drive her at a speed of 20½ knots.

The Protet left Rochefort, France, on June 5, 1899, and since then has stopped at Madeira, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Buenos Ayres and Punta Arenas; thence through the Straits of Magellan to Valparaiso and from there to the island of Juan Fernandez. Nearly all the crew went ashore there and visited the spots made famous by Defoe in his "Robinson Crusoe" adventures.

From Juan Fernadez the Protet went to Coquimbo, Iquique, Callao, Guayaquil, Panama, San Jose de Guatemala, Santa Rosalia and San Diego. At all the ports mentioned the officers and men had a good time, and they expect to enjoy themselves for a week or ten days in San Francisco. From here the Protet will go to Honolulu, if the plague has been stamped out, and thence to Hongkong via Yokohama.

Captain Paul Germinet is the chief in command on the Protet. On his arrival in Chinese waters he will take command of the fleet and the Protet will be the flagship. Captain Miron de l'Espiney is in command of the cruiser, and with him are Lieutenants Collard, Hue, Escudeer, Chelot, Labarre and Doney. The Protet carries a crew of 400 men all told.

Stowaways on the Moana.

There are three men on the Mail steamer Moana who consider that fate has dealt severely with them. After succeeding in stowing away at Sydney, N. S. W., and getting as far as San Francisco without mishap they find themselves prisoners and destined for the journey back to Sydney again.

Their names are J. J. Ford, J. Mahoney and J. Tingley. When the Moana was two days out from Sydney they were discovered. At Auckland they could not be landed because of the plague, and the same reason held good at Apia and Honolulu. Here they could not land because they are penniless, so the officers of the ship have them under lock and key and they will be taken back to New South Wales and given another chance in that colony.

To Have Her Trial Trip.

The handsome new steamer Robert Dollar is to be tried on the bay to-day. She was built for the coast lumber and passenger trade, but the rush to Nome has gathered her in, and as soon as the machinery and gear is proven to be in satisfactory order she will go to Puget Sound to be fitted out for the passenger trade to the gold fields. The Robert Dollar is built on the same lines as the Grace Dollar, but is a larger and more powerful vessel than the well-known coaster.

Wachusetts Storm-Tossed.

The ship Wachusetts, which left Hastings Mill for Melbourne in February last, arrived at her destination a few days ago after a very tempestuous voyage. She ran into a series of heavy gales and finally sprang aleak. The ship was in no immediate danger, but the crew had a hard time of it at the pumps. The Wachusetts will be drydocked and overhauled before coming back to San Francisco.

Water Front Notes.

Captain Alec Swanson, the Adonis of the pilot service, is now an expert checker player. While in quarantine on the Centennial he learned all about "crib," and while detained at Angel Island on the Sheridan Captain Pearce undertook to teach him checkers. When the vessel was released Alec had mastered the game and was beating his teacher two out of three games.

The ship I. F. Chapman will sail for Honolulu to load sugar for New York to-day. She has a makeshift crew and there is sure to be some fun aboard before the voyage ends.

The steamer Bloemfontein arrived from Hawaii yesterday and was placed in quarantine. She has been running between Honolulu and Puget Sound, but comes here on this occasion with a load of sugar for Alexander & Baldwin.

Chief Engineer Ed Mahoney, who has been for years on the steamer Sunol, has been appointed chief engineer of the Santa Fe's steamer Ocean Wave.

There is a rush to get freight aboard the barkentine Catherine Sudden for Nome. Merchandise that goes up on her will be landed a week ahead of any other vessel, it is expected, as the vessel is taking up all the latest machinery for handling freight. The tug Dorothy, that is to accompany the Catherine Sudden, will be launched to-day.

SAWMILL DISPUTE BUZZING IN COURT

The Pokegama and the Klamath Companies Making Golden Sawdust for the Lawyers.

The Pokegama Sugar Pine Lumber Comber Company vs. Klamath River Lumber and Improvement Company is the title of a suit filed a few days ago in the United States Circuit Court for an injunction and an accounting.

The complainant is in the lumbering and sawmill business at Klamathon, Siskiyou County, and has had some litigation in the State courts and in the United States Circuit Court concerning a lease with Hervey Lindley and the defendant corporation.

In the present suit the complainant alleges that the defendant has violated the injunction heretofore ordered by the court by refusing to allow the complainant the exclusive use of a barn and hostler's room on the premises, and asks for an accounting and that defendants be enjoined from prosecuting any suits against the complainants in the State courts.

School Janitors May Be Paid.

At the regular secret session of the Board of Education yesterday afternoon it was decided to take the necessary steps at this morning's meeting to secure the payment of school janitors' demands which have been held up by Auditor Wells because the Superintendent refused to sign them, on the ground that they should be paid by the Board of Public Works. The board is of the opinion that the janitors, who work hard for their pay, should not be made to suffer because of disputed law points.

Opening of the Bee Hive.

To-morrow the Bee Hive Shoe Co. will open for business. Men's $3 calf shoes will be sold for $2 a pair at the Bee Hive, 717 Market street, near Third.

Involuntary Insolvents.

Creditors of Aaron Nathan of Sacramento representing debts to the amount of $383 21 and of P. Dunkelman of 999 McAllister street, this city, representing debts amounting to $867 31, filed petitions yesterday in the United States District Court asking that Nathan and Dunkelman be declared involuntary insolvents.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HEART DISEASE.

Some Facts Regarding the Rapid Increase of Heart Trouble.

Heart trouble, at least among the Americans, is certainly increasing and while this may be largely due to the excitement and worry of American business life, it is more often the result of weak stomachs, of poor digestion.

Real organic disease is incurable; but not one case in a hundred of heart trouble is organic.

The close relation between heart trouble and poor digestion is because both organs are controlled by the same great nerves, the Sympathetic and the Pneumogastric.

In another way also the heart is affected by the form of poor digestion, which causes gas and fermentation from half digested food. There is a feeling of oppression and heaviness in the chest caused by pressure of the distended stomach on the heart and lungs, interfering with their action: hence arises palpitation and short breath.

Poor digestion also poisons the blood, making it thin and watery, which irritates and weakens the heart.

The most sensible treatment for heart trouble is to improve the digestion and to insure the prompt assimilation of food.

This can be done by the regular use after meals of some safe, pleasant and effective digestive preparation, like Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, which may be found at drug stores, and which contain valuable, harmless digestive elements in a pleasant, convenient form.

It is safe to say that the regular, persistent use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at meal times will cure any form of stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach.

BEECHAM'S PILLS
are the best and safest
FAMILY MEDICINE
for all
BILIOUS AND NERVOUS DISORDERS
10 cents and 25 cents—Druggists.

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

AMUSEMENTS.

FISCHER'S
CONCERT HOUSE
122-124 O'FARRELL ST.
E. A. FISCHER ..... Prop
GEORGE MOOSER ..... Manager
The Handsomest Music Hall in America.
The Best Orchestra in the City.
OUR TIME TABLE:
NEW BILL TO-NIGHT.
8:00—AUGUST HINRICHS' SUPERB ORCHESTRA.
8:20—SIGNORINA PUERERI.
8:35—SENORITA SALVINI.
9:07—BABY RUTH.
9:22—SIGNORINA POLLETTINI.
9:33—SIGNORINA BARDUCCI.
10:17—DUET—VARGAS-SALVINI.
10:24—BABY RUTH.
11:00 to 11:45—"CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA."
10c—ADMISSION—10c

CENTRAL PARK, Cor. Market and Eighth.
TWO WEEKS, Beginning Saturday, April 14th,
GENTRY'S World's Greatest
Trained Animal Show!
Larger and Grander than Ever. Twice its former size. Three Hundred Elephants, Ponies, Monkeys and Dogs. Giving positively the most unique and novel exhibition ever witnessed under canvas. Representing the highest possible development of animal intelligence. 75—WONDERFUL ACTS—75. More startling and difficult than ever performed by their human prototypes in the sawdust arena. The fad of the fashionables and an instructive show for old and young. A most moral and refined entertainment. The cleanest and best dressed exhibition on tour. Admission—Children, 10c; Adults, 25c. Performance at 3 o'clock afternoon, 8:30 night. See Grand Parade at noon each day. Show rain or shine.

WESTERN TURF ASSOCIATION.
TANFORAN PARK.
SIXTH MEETING, April 9 to 20, inclusive.
Six high-class running races every week day, rain or shine, beginning at 1:30 p. m.
The ideal winter racetrack of America. Patrons step directly from the railroad cars into a superb grand stand, glass-inclosed, where, comfortably housed in bad weather, they can enjoy an unobstructed view of the races.
Trains leave Third and Townsend streets at 10:00, 10:40 and 11:30 a. m. and 12:15, 12:35, 12:50 and 1:25 p. m., returning immediately after last race at 4:45 p. m. Seats in rear cars reserved for women and their escorts. No smoking. Valencia street, 10 minutes later.
San Jose and Way Stations—Arrive at San Bruno at 12:45 p. m. Leave San Bruno at 4:00 and 4:45 p. m.
RATES—San Francisco to Tanforan and return, including admission to track, $1.25.
W. J. MARTIN, President.
F. H. GREEN, Secretary and Manager.

BAY COAST ROAD MAY NOW OBTAIN ITS FRANCHISE

City Attorney Lane Holds a Charter Provision to Be Untenable.

Supervisors May Not Deny the Application to Enter City Because the Company Has Not Fifty Miles of Track.

The City Attorney yesterday informed the Board of Supervisors that the charter provision which states that "the Board of Supervisors shall have power (subdivision 20) to allow any transcontinental or other railroad company having not less than fifty miles of road actually constructed and in operation to enter the city and county with its road and run its cars to the water front at the most suitable point for public convenience" is untenable in law. The City Attorney was asked to report upon the petition of the Bay and Coast Railway Company for permission to operate a double track steam railroad along and upon certain streets. The company not having at the present time fifty miles of road entering this city was refused the franchise by the Supervisors, but under the interpretation of the City Attorney permission to enter the city may now be granted.

The opinion, which is very interesting, reads in part as follows:

One possible construction of this provision is that it is thereby intended to prevent the entrance into this city and county of any railroad not having fifty miles of road in operation at the time when the franchise is applied for. But the language of the subdivision is not of a character to make evident such intention; it is not in any sense initiatory, and it is not to be readily believed that it was the purpose of the charter makers to shut the gates of this city against all railroads except such as could show an established line longer than that from San Francisco to San Jose. Such interpretation would bar further electric and steam railroad connection with all the suburbs of the city to the south and give a permanent monopoly in such traffic to the roads already existing. The charter does not elsewhere contain evidence of so extremely conservative a purpose as would be manifest under such construction. And it is to be seriously questioned if such provision would not be contrary to State policy and beyond the scope of a municipal charter.

A more reasonable construction than that just considered is that subdivision 28 was intended as a protection against the acquiring by "paper" railroads of valuable rights along the water front; that it was a recognition of the supreme value to the city of its harbor and expressive of a determination to prevent railroads that were constructive but not constructed from obtaining privileges along the water front, which might later be sold to the highest bidder without the building of a single mile of track. Under such construction it would appear that the intention was to reserve such privileges for those roads which are of a transcontinental character or which at least extend for a considerable distance in the country.

In conclusion, the theory that all railroads whatsoever were intended to be excluded from the city excepting those with fifty miles of road already built is untenable; the construction which makes the provision a limitation but only applicable in roads extending to the water front is not one upon which there is occasion to express any opinion at this time, for the application for a franchise here involved as amended does not extend the road to the water line. It appears, therefore, that there is no provision of the charter limiting the power of the city to grant applications of this character.

HUNTINGTON GENEROUS TO FOREST PRESERVERS

Gives One Thousand Dollars to Help Impound Flood Waters of the State.

C. P. Huntington yesterday gave the California Water and Forest Association $1000 to assist in the work of impounding the floods of the State. The association's finance committee had previously secured subscriptions amounting to $7600 from the banks of the city and the representatives of various lines of business. Many had promised to donate if the railroad, which will be largely benefited in the matter of freights if the valleys of the State can be irrigated, would contribute. Accordingly a committee, consisting of William Thomas, T. C. Friedlander, F. W. Dohrmann and A. R. Briggs, called on Mr. Huntington in the yellow building. Mr. Thomas, as president of the Water and Forest Association, explained the purposes of the organization. The first thing to be done was, he said, to make a contract, with the Federal Government, the State and Stanford Universities and the Water and Forest Association as parties, the universities agreeing to furnish services, the Government to furnish services and money and the association to furnish money.

The first work would be a complete survey of some particular locality and the ascertaining of the cost of work at that place. The figures could be submitted and such a plain and clear showing made that it would constitute a strong argument to bring aid from the Legislature. Mr. Huntington said that the plan was good. He then subscribed $1000 personally, but said that the work was foreign to the railroad company. The committee thanked Mr. Huntington and withdrew. They hope now to make a total of $10,000 in subscriptions in a few days.

In the Divorce Court.

Decrees of divorce have been granted Josephine McCarthy from John McCarthy for failure to provide; A. Campagnio from Filomino Campagnio for willful desertion; May E. Robertson from Shelby L. Robertson for desertion, and Claude Pauze from Bertha Pauze for desertion.

Suits for divorce have been filed by Margaret R. Thomson against John T. Thomson for desertion; Margaretha W. Mahler against Frederick H. Mahler for desertion; Catherine A. Thornton against Robert Thornton for failure to provide; S. A. Rich against Sarah Rich for desertion; Kate S. Louttit against James A. Louttit for desertion; Ada Carson against Edwin M. Carson for failure to provide; Marchell Vouraky against Pany G. V. Vouraky for infidelity, and Marie G. Gibault against Leon D. Gibault for cruelty.

A Beautiful Illuminated Street Parade—A Novel and Interesting Spectacle.

As an introduction to his entry in this city, Professor Gentry, with the World's Greatest Trained Animal Show, will give a grand illuminated street parade on Friday night, April 13, at 7 o'clock, traversing Market, Kearny and the principal streets. Don't fail to see this, the prettiest pageant by the richest trained animal show on tour.

Louis Grasser Acquitted.

Louis Grasser, a saloon-keeper at Covelo, Mendocino County, was tried in the United States District Court yesterday on the charge of selling liquor to Indians. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, as they were not convinced that the Indian who drank Grasser's whisky was actually under the control of the superintendent of the Indian reservation at that place.

Men's calf shoes worth $3 for $1 25 a pair at the Boston Shoe Co., 775 Market st.

Japanese Interpreter Appointed.

United States Immigration Commissioner North yesterday appointed W. Curtis as Japanese interpreter to assist Interpreter Geffeney in examining the 200 Japanese who arrived on the Belgian King and the 100 who arrived on the Doric.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GET THE GENUINE SANDEN
At HALF PRICE

No. 7 $40.00 Belt for $20.00. No. 6 $30.00 Belt for $15.00. No. 5 $20.00 for $10.00. These I guarantee on $5000 bonds, and will pay to any charitable institution $1000 if it can be shown that the Belts I am now selling at Half-Price are not the bona fide U. S. patented Sanden Belt, purchased of Dr. A. T. Sanden in 1899, and as sold on this Coast for years past.

There is no deception nor imitation in these Belts. They are sold in the Lion Drug Store and at my office, and are the Belts with 30 years' record as the great remedy for the ailments of man and woman. Call and test them or write for Dr. Sanden's book, "Three Classes of Men," free. Address

DR. S. S. HALL,
702 MARKET ST., ROOM 3,
SAN FRANCISCO.

BAJA CALIFORNIA
Damiana Bitters
IS A GREAT RESTORATIVE, INVIGORator and Nervine.
The most wonderful aphrodisiac and Special Tonic for the Sexual Organs for both sexes.
The Mexican Remedy for Diseases of the Kidneys and Bladder. Sells on its own merits.
NABER, ALFS & BRUNE, Agents,
323 Market st., S. F.—(Send for Circular.)

HOMER, DANTE, MILTON: BY VIDA D. SCUDDER.

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GOLDEN AGES OF LITERATURE.

XIV. HOMER, DANTE AND MILTON.

BY VIDA D. SCUDDER.

It seems natural to group these three great epic poets together, but at least between Dante and Homer there are few points of contact. Nothing could better measure the distance in experience traveled by the human race from the dawn of civilization to the culmination, so far, of Christianity as the contrast between the "Iliad" and "Odyssey" and the "Divine Comedy."

The scene of the Homeric poems is this earth. They show us men loving, hating, quarreling, fighting, dying with a superb naturalness that comes fresh to us to-day through all the centuries since they were written. The "Iliad" shows us pre-eminently man the fighter, and his foes are of flesh and blood. The "Odyssey" shows us pre-eminently man the wanderer, and the hero traverses the surface of a world still teeming indeed with marvel, yet with all its marvels wholly open to the eye of sense. They are glorious poems. Their spell is cast on all who read them, from childhood to manhood. There is in them a joy of life, a vigor, a movement, an enthusiasm for all the natural activities and passions of men, which belong to the youth of the race and which we catch once more as we retreat within the Homeric horizon.

The scene of the "Divine Comedy" of Dante is the soul of one individual man. We no longer follow the movement of battles; we no longer sail over the world. We penetrate deeper and deeper, then higher and higher the experiences of a single individual. It is a strange transition. What does it mean? It means that Christianity has come into the world and has revealed that the fate of nations and the stirring of the peoples are of less account in the eternal vision than those inward events and actions which determine the moral destiny of separate men.

At first the older epic very likely seems the greater to us; assuredly the more entertaining. There is more variety in it, a wider range of character and incident, perhaps, we think, a more healthful and cheerful tone. Now it is impossible to measure the great imaginative treasures of the race against each other, or to say one is greater than another. To each star its own glory. And yet if we look deeper we shall hardly say that Homer is more cheerful than Dante. These ancient epics are essentially, when analyzed, sad. Their gods are now friendly, now hostile, but always capricious; their heroes largely the sport of fate; the loveliest woman in them the fatal Helen, the source of disaster, ruin and shame; when all the eager fighting is done it is hard to see that there is any worthy end to it all, and a great darkness awaits warriors and wanderers, the entire human race, as it passes out of sight into mystery.

It is not because Dante holds in a mechanical way to a life beyond death that his poem seems to the thoughtful reader more fraught with hope and inward joy than that of the Greek world. It is because here and now he reveals eternity. Reading him we feel how wonderfully life has been enriched, how its scope has broadened, how many new elements have entered it, as the race has gone on living. The range of emotion, of aim, of experience, both in joy and sorrow, is widened beyond all words. It is of little use to make an assertion like this without proving it, but one must read Homer and Dante to see whether the thing is true. The love of woman in Dante is no longer a devouring fate, a bitter cause of strife; it has become holy, and it leads men up to God. Suffering is no longer the strange blight imposed upon the race by a mysterious fate. Mysterious still—how otherwise?—it is yet fraught with redemptive power. An end of joy beyond all human thought awaits the wanderer. The best of enduring happiness that the ancient world could conceive is recognized and given a place in Dante, but so has man's power of imagining joy risen through the ages that this old pagan happiness is by Dante actually put within the limits of hell. The elysian fields, the paradise of antiquity, the happiest future for virtuous men that Homer or Virgil could dream of, are in his underworld. There live forever all the noble men who knew not Christ. They rest from their labors; they wander on enameled meads; they abide in majestic dwellings; they share high converse undisturbed by wrath or fear. Nor Homer nor Virgil could conceive a higher joy. But Dante knew a higher—a heaven of ecstacy and rapture into which no pagan poet ever might soar. He has been reproached for leaving his great heathens in limbo, and we may regret that he put them there, but at least we must recognize that he gave them all they had ever wished, in fullest measure.

The epic of antiquity, the epic of the outward life, will always have a wider appeal than Dante. It will always possess, in a sense, more action, variety, actuality and charm. Yet every dispassionate reader must recognize, whether with joy or sorrow, the new regions entered and explored by the soul of man and the new treasures brought from within between the time of the "Iliad" and "Odyssey" and the time of the "Divine Comedy."

There would seem at first sight to be more points of likeness between Milton and Dante. The "Paradise Lost," like the "Divine Comedy," is a religious, a Christian, epic; both poems have for their theme the fall and the redemption of man, both present wonderful pictures of hell and heaven. Yet, though they are indeed most interesting to compare, the longer one studies the more striking becomes the difference between the poems.

We must note at the beginning that, historically speaking, Milton subtends a much smaller arc than Dante. Dante is the poet of universal Catholicism; Milton the poet of English Puritanism of the seventeenth century. We should expect to find, as we do find, a certain coldness, certain limitations, mingled with much that is exalted and noble in its poet. A very special type of theology, a type which did not endure very long the test of time, underlies the intellectual structure of the "Paradise Lost." Milton is extremely anxious to justify this theology, which he honestly considers to be the full expression of the will of God. He starts out, as he deliberately tells us, "to justify the ways of God to man." It would never have occurred to Dante that the ways of God needed justification. In the "Divine Comedy" Dante moves adoring in a world revealed by faith; in the "Paradise Lost" Milton presents eloquently a world conceived by theology. It is a very different matter.

It follows that there is a deep personal note in Dante's poem that we do not find in Milton's. Milton wrote a most wonderful description of the Garden of Eden and of Adam and Eve in it. This description is one of the great things in literature. It is so powerful in beauty, in melody, in intellectual presentment, that for generations it fairly imposed on the English imagination, and although it bore little relation to the mysterious, brief account of paradise and the fall in Holy Writ, we still to-day mix up Milton with the Bible. And yet, with all the beauty of the description, we do not feel as if Milton had visited the place. I am quite sure that Dante, in his own person, wandered in that little wood, where the breeze was blowing and the brook was flowing, on the top of the Mount of Purgatory. I am never, I confess, certain that Milton's own feet had strayed through the winding paths of his Eden.

The noblest part of the "Paradise Lost" is the marvelously exalted yet somber treatment of hell and of Lucifer. Every one knows the magnificent description of that dreary but impressive region of the shades; of Lucifer, "with faded splendor wan," presiding, in dignity great as his anguish, over his concourse of grand though sinning demons, winging his way in awful flight through chaos, tempting Eve, despite a momentary visiting of remorseful agony, and returning to his dark realm, only to find that he presides by poetic justice splendidly conceived no longer over infernal princes but over infernal serpents. It is glorious work. Dante has nothing like it. There is a famous passage in Macaulay's youthful essay on Milton, comparing the conceptions of hell in Milton and in Dante, in which Macaulay says that Milton is far the greater because less definite, leaving more scope for his imagination; and it has been pointed out again and again that Milton's hell and his devil have an unfailing dignity and grandeur, while Dante's are often almost absurdly grotesque. It is true. Nothing could be more strangely different, for instance, than the conceptions of Lucifer. Dante's Lucifer is no magnificently tragic, impressive, though fallen angel; he is a helpless, monstrous creature. He sticks forever, motionless, at the lowest point of hell, in the exact center of the earth; the weight of the whole material world pressing upon him from every side. From his three horrible heads flow tears that perpetually freeze; he gnaws three chief sinners in his three jaws and the slow waving of his batlike wings diffuses an icy wind of death throughout the nethermost hell; for to Dante, cold, not fire, is the supreme expression of the second death. All this is very strange; far less appealing than Milton; yet if we think we may discover that Dante had a special meaning and had brooded long over the nature and function of evil before he presented Lucifer as he did.

Meanwhile, when we turn to comparing the heavens of the two poets, Macaulay's distinction becomes entirely false; one questions if he had ever read anything in Dante beyond the "Inferno." For Milton's heaven is a large, definite country, with precise geography, up somewhere in the sky. Dante's is definite though ordered space. The heaven of "Paradise Lost" is surrounded by a crystal battlement; the rebel angels have their country seats in the northern part of the land; when they are in the final conflict routed by the Messiah they are driven back to the battlement, and breaking through it fall down, down through the material universe of chaos till they tumble into hell. The denizens of this country are as clearly visible to us as the scenery. They are magnificent creations, Milton's angels; it is well to compare them with Dante's, which are quite differently and far more mystically conceived—less loquacious, less like intelligent statesmen on a heroic scale; more like spiritual forces, focused and made visible. There is one point, at all events, and this most important, where no one can question which of our two poets is the greater—the treatment of the Deity. Here Milton made a great mistake, for he brought God directly upon the scene, made him talk, and talk, moreover, of all subjects in the world, on theology. The anthropomorphic method of the "Paradise Lost" is absolutely obnoxious here. Dante was wiser; it is not for us to say whether his greater wisdom sprung from deeper reverence. God in his "Paradiso" is all pervasive, and the consciousness of every spirit in paradise is fixed on him alone; but he is unapparent, and even at the climax, where the beatific vision is attained, we see that vision only in a symbol, and understand its nature rather from the wondrous solemnity of Dante's passion than from any other cause.

Indeed, we may as well say frankly that out of the Scriptures no poet has ever been successful in depicting heaven—a state of unshadowed light, untroubled joy—except Dante. The more one studies the "Paradiso" the more wonderful it appears. And the reason why Dante has succeeded where all others have failed is because he alone has, so far as man can do, discarded anthropomorphism and adopted a method wholly symbolic. His saints and angels do not appear to us in the body; they are described simply by deepening light, by snifting, dreamlike symbol. It is impossible to suggest the manifold forms of beauty in which the life of the blessed is revealed. They are manifest as rainbows and flowers, as dancing lights, as reflections in clear water, as flying birds of light, as rubies in the sun, as a golden stairway mounting upward, as a crown, as stars losing themselves in a deepening day, as a river of light and, finally, as a celestial rose—the rose of the blessed, wherein all the saints, tier after tier, intoxicated by the fragrance of that wonderful world-flower, sit gazing toward the golden center, which is God. As he sees all these images of glory Dante's mood is one of worship and joy unspeakable. "That which I was seeing seemed to me a smile of the universe," he exclaims. And his joy is essentially not because of the beauty, not because of the melody that ever sounds through the ranks of the redeemed, not for any natural reason, but supremely and finally because this heaven is a holy place. He has made us feel its holiness; feel that we are in a region where sin is ended and banished, though character remains. This is a wonderful thing to do. Milton did great things, but he could not do this. Milton's heaven is, of course, supposed to be the abode of righteousness; but we do not feel it so. In Dante three lovely lines, near the beginning of the "Paradiso," sum up the whole effect. "In his will is our peace," says one of the least of the blessed ones. "It is that sea whereunto is moving all that which it creates and that which nature makes." "In la sua volontade è nostra pace": these great words are the text on which the whole of the "Divine Comedy" is but the comment.

JOHN MILTON.

The Easter number of The Call appears on Easter Sunday, April 15, and will surpass anything of the kind ever published on the coast.