The San Francisco Call.

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C. GEORGE KROGNESS,
Manager Foreign Advertising, Marquette Building, Chicago.
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AMUSEMENTS.

Grand Opera-house—"Siegfried."
Alcazar—"Seven-Twenty-Eight."
Columbia—"The Singing Girl."
Tivoli—"A Jolly Musketeer."
Alhambra—Herrmann, the Great.
California—Haverly's Minstrels.
Orpheum—Vaudeville.
Olympia, corner Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties.
Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening.
Fischer's—Vaudeville.
Mechanics' Pavilion—Masquerade Ball Thanksgiving Evening.
Tanforan Park—Races to-day.

FRIENDS OF THE CHARTER.

MR. PHELAN in his last campaign for Mayor had a slogan which he used on all occasions and to all audiences. It was his constant cry that the new charter must be put in operation by its friends. Upon this he rung all the changes. The charter was an orphan and needed him as a guardian.

Well, the charter is in the hands of its friends. Manipulated by them it is giving San Francisco probably the worst government it ever had. From the Civil Service Commission to the School Board favoritism, tyranny, oppression, disregard of merit and respect for the political pull and push are apparent on every side. Never before in the history of the city has everything been so dependent on partisanship. Its influence is felt from the teachers in the School Department to the paupers that shiver outside the almshouse. One of the latter, old, forlorn, indigent, in distress and with none upon whom to depend, when told that he should swallow his pride and go to the almshouse, dejectedly answered that he had tried to get into the poorhouse but failed because he "had no pull." So, in the hands of its friends," the new charter has put up places in the schools and places in the poorhouse, to be pulled down by the pull of politicians.

It is also true that wherever the letter and spirit of the charter interfere with the patronage and profit of the Mayor's office-holders it is evaded or attacked in the courts.

These friends of the charter have not scrupled to take advantage of the infirmities of that instrument whenever their personal interests may be served. They made it, carried it through at the polls and are responsible for whatever defects it exhibits.

But the people who were led to believe that the charter would guide them directly into a self-operating, automatic, municipal elysium, are being surely undeceived. In the Mayor's organization of the government they find ignorance, weakness and greed in a portentous partnership that bodes no good to the fortune of the city.

The lieutenant who cut such a wide path in the tenderloin of Seattle and reached a disastrous climax in his career is suffering from what seems to be a popular complaint with gay army officers. He is suffering from the results of "exposure" in the Philippines.

The time seems ripe for the police to capture some one and place upon his shoulders the blame of the several crimes which have recently puzzled the thief-takers. Midnight robberies are becoming altogether too common to be accepted as novelties.

Kelly and Crimmins are organizing their little army for a legislative campaign of corruption. It is safe to say that those who enroll themselves under the banner of these political pirates need no coaching in the theory and practice of scoundrelism.

The representatives of the allied forces now in Peking have decided upon the terms to which China, in penance, will be asked to submit. These terms are such that we may next expect to hear that the Boxers are again violently on the aggressive.

Cuban politicians are taking very slowly and unkindly to our civilizing institutions. The Mayor of Havana has challenged an editor to a duel because of an uncomplimentary article, and there is even some fear that there will be a fight.

The question of woman in society, a local minister says, is as old as that of man. That does not change the fact, however, that in the days of Adam it was not as expensive as now to gown the fair sex for a season of grand opera.

Venezuela has purchased 10,000 rifles from Germany. If the little South American spitfire could now only hire enough men to use the guns with safety to themselves we might expect to hear of the announcement of another war.

The people of Paris are making a lion of Paul Kruger, even the Ministers of state paying him tribute. This is probably in recognition of the serious endeavors which the old man made in South Africa to unmake a lion.

FOREST AND FLOOD.

THE union of a forest and irrigation policy was first effected in California. There is here a society organized for the purpose of preserving the forests and promoting the storage of flood waters for irrigation. This society will likely be heard from during the coming session of the Legislature. The National Irrigation Congress, following this California example, has concreted its purpose into the terse expression, "Save the forests and store the floods."

Perhaps nothing is more difficult than to get men to see their interest in the equilibrium of nature. Given her way, nature provides for all forms of life. But when her equilibrium is disturbed by artifice, life suffers. Under natural conditions the country west of the ninety-ninth meridian bore an abundant crop of the most nutritious forage. Its deep springs were unfailing and its watercourses were never dry. Great herds of wild ruminating animals ran on the plains and in the mountains and fattened on the natural pasture. The floods were in effect stored in the soil by its vegetable cover. To this purpose the grasses and wild clovers were as fitted in their place as were the dense forests. The grass cover and roots stored water on the plains just as effectively as did the columnar trees and their roots and the forest floor in the mountains. In fact, nature's plan was a well adjusted harmony, and her provision for caring for the small rainfall of the arid region was perfect. Given natural conditions where the annual rainfall is only four to ten inches, and the annual evaporation is from thirty-six to seventy-two inches, the soil of the plains must be covered with vegetation to resist evaporation, and let the water go into the soil instead of back into the air. Upon this symmetrical and beneficial scheme man intrudes to destroy its adjustment. Acting as if he were born yesterday and would die to-morrow, leaving nothing human to succeed him, he proceeds to strip the plains of their forage and the mountains of their forests. When his ax and saw cannot do the work fast enough he applies the torch, becomes an incendiary, practically burns down his own house and makes his own field barren, and then deplores misfortunes that he brings upon himself.

It is well that the National Irrigation Congress, the California Waters and Forests Society and the California club of ladies pull together for forestry and irrigation; but, pull as they may, the interference with the equilibrium of nature will cease only when the American masses are taught better than they know now. When they learn that the useless extermination of a single blade of grass and the wanton destruction of a single tree has an important relation to the welfare of man, they may cease to inflict damage upon themselves by a willful waste of the resources of nature.

The press has not been delinquent. American journalism has for many years sought to spread abroad information on this subject of the highest usefulness to the people. Various societies and organizations all over the country have taught the relation of fertility to moisture in the soil, and the relation of moisture to protection of the soil against evaporation, by a covering of forage and forest.

Yet with all this effort the destruction increases yearly. In our dry summers reckless seekers for pleasure or pelf in our mountains leave a fiery track behind them. Every year these destroyers of the birthright of a generation to come are the agents in the destruction of as much timber as commerce would demand in five years.

Their acts are highly criminal. What would we do to a man who was detected in imprisoning a single human being, to die in the torments of thirst, without water? It is highly probable that the law would not be permitted to take its course with him, but he would be summarily punished. Yet that is what these summer incendiaries, these guilty of forest arson, are doing every year, not to one but to many. They are destroying that on which human life depends. They are drying up the spring. They are taking from the soil its fertility, so that it will respond no more to seedtime and harvest. They are preparing for the future depopulation of the country by causing it to cease supporting life. They are robbing the bird of its song and the blossom of its perfume.

How long will their crime go unpunished and the forests go unprotected?

TAMMANY AS A PURIFIER.

NO feature of the reform movement which is now agitating New York is more interesting than the part taken in it by Tammany. Just before leaving for Europe Boss Croker called the Tammany executive committee together and procured the appointment of a committee of investigation to inquire into the extent to which vice is carried on in the city, and to devise means for suppressing it wherever found. The antics of that committee are now occupying much of the attention of the town, and while some persons mock at the proceedings as a farce, others denounce them as fraudulent attempts to mislead the public by setting up a false issue in place of the real one.

There is a dispute as to the cause of the action of the boss. Croker claims to have been prompted by Isidor Strauss, who represents a society that is engaged in trying to improve the condition of the poorer classes in the city, but it is generally believed his action was forced by the letter of Bishop Potter to Mayor Van Wyck. It is noted that Croker met the Tammany chiefs in council on the evening of the very day on which the Bishop's letter was sent to the Mayor, and the coincidence of time is so striking that one can hardly refrain from believing the letter had more effect upon the boss than had the pleadings of Mr. Strauss.

Be that as it may, it is certain the Tammany committee has set out upon a programme totally different from that designed by the Bishop and demanded by public indignation, and it is that fact more than anything else that gives an interest to the actions of the committee.

It is characteristic of Croker that even in beginning a reform movement he undertakes to assail reformers. Thus he declares that for the vice now prevailing in New York Dr. Parkhurst is responsible. In an interview the day after the appointment of his committee he said: "The one man responsible for vice in the city of New York is Dr. Parkhurst. He scattered the women from one district all over the city, and even in Brooklyn. If it was not for him there would be no cry from the east side or the west side or any other part of the city from decent people. Instead of trying to discount other people's efforts he should look to his own dirty work."

The Brooklyn Eagle admits there is a quality of truth in the charge that the crusade of Parkhurst against vice had the effect of scattering the social evil from the tenderloin throughout the city and diffusing it in the tenement districts, but points out that the real issue at present is not the existence of vice, but Tammany's relation to it and the protection given to it by city officials. The Eagle says: "The case is the partnership of Pay and Protection between Government and Crime. That prevailed when Dr. Parkhurst made his crusade. It ceased while W. L. Strong was Mayor. It was resumed on Tammany's return to rule. The thing to do is to break it up and to punish those in it. That may involve Tammany's overthrow. It probably will. But that is the case—not Parkhurst, but Croker, not diffusion, but Partnership, are 'it.'"

Upon that showing the public can readily understand the game Croker intends to play. His committee will report the existence of vice and will make a show of suppressing it, but the committee will not investigate the connection between "Pay and Protection." It is a committee of evasion rather than of investigation that Tammany has appointed, and it is not likely intelligent New Yorkers expect from it anything other than the performance of a political farce.

PROPOSED TAX REDUCTIONS.

ESTIMATES of tax reductions to be made in the war revenue act at the coming session of Congress will follow one another rapidly, and each successive one promises a larger reduction than its predecessor. Forecasts of Congressional action issued immediately after the election were to the effect that hardly anything in the way of reduction would be attempted this winter. A little later came reports that the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House had intimated there would probably be a reduction to the extent of $15,000,000 Next it was announced that the Secretary of the Treasury estimated there might be a reduction of $20,000,000, and now dispatches from Washington report that a subcommittee of the Ways and Means has about reached the conclusion that the taxes can be safely reduced to as much as $30,000,000.

The prospect that reductions would be made has of course brought on a contest among varied interests, each seeking to profit by it. Congress will find it difficult to withstand the influences brought to bear to relieve each interest of the tax imposed upon it. It is probably due to that pressure that the estimates of reduction have increased so rapidly, and it is also probable the fight may have the effect of involving the whole subject in such conflict that after all it will be found advisable to postpone the reductions until the next Congress, when a complete and systematic revision of the act may be made.

It is known that the brewers, the express companies and the telegraph companies are seeking for a repeal of taxes affecting their business, and they do not stand alone by any means. Washington dispatches forecasting the report of the committee state: "It is understood that in addition to reductions heretofore mentioned the increase of 60 cents per thousand on cigars will be removed, also that the stamp tax on steamship tickets will be taken off, because the revenue received does not justify the difficulties of collection. Members of the committee have been asked to remove the stamp taxes on foreign bills of exchange and bills of lading, and it is possible that that matter may be reopened. The most important changes in the present law will be schedule B, which practically will be wiped out, and which includes medicines and proprietary articles. The tax also probably will be removed from conveyances, mortgages, etc. These, with the abolishment of taxes on express receipts, telegrams, bank checks and some other stamp taxes will, it is said, secure the reduction of $30,000,000, which is the amount agreed upon by the treasury officials and the committee."

The country will of course be gratified with so large a reduction in taxes, and particularly of those that have been annoying without yielding any considerable revenue to the Government, and it is to be hoped nothing will prevent the proposed revision at an early date.

PERMANENT ROAD DISTRICTS.

HIGHWAY improvement is an issue of so much importance to all parts of California it is gratifying to note that further efforts are to be made in the way of providing for such improvements at the coming session of the Legislature. Senator Smith of the Thirty-fourth District has already prepared a bill for that purpose, and has very wisely submitted it for general discussion before the Legislature meets in order that it may be fully understood and an ample support obtained for it upon its merits.

The bill is defined "An act to provide for the organization and government of permanent road divisions and defining the manner in which funds may be raised and expended for the construction, improvement and maintenance of permanent roads within this State."

The main purpose of the bill, as stated by the author, is to provide a way by which funds may be raised for the construction of a given section of permanent road. The plan proposed is to take something from the general road fund of the county, something from the district road fund, and then raise the balance by special tax or by bonding. The character of the road to be constructed is to be determined at an early stage in the proceedings, so as to enable the voter to know what he may expect for his money when he goes to the polls to vote upon the question of special tax or bonds.

The bill provides the means by which any portion of a county not contained in a permanent road division may be formed into such a division, and the methods by which the residents may then proceed to the establishment of permanent highways, by petition to the Supervisors. It is required that the petition shall set forth an estimate of the probable cost of the work, the materials to be used and the manner of constructing or repairing, a request for a specified sum from the general road fund and from the district fund, and a request that a special tax be levied or that bonds of the division be issued to raise the balance necessary for the work.

The bill deals elaborately with the methods to be pursued in levying the special tax or in issuing the bonds, and every care has apparently been exercised to guard against anything that might be prejudicial to the interests of the district, the county or the taxpayers.

Every attempt hitherto made to provide for highway improvements by the State has disclosed the fact that there are many conflicting interests to be taken into consideration and many differences of opinion to be harmonized. Whether the bill of Senator Smith will prove satisfactory to all these diverse elements remains to be seen. It is, however, unquestionably a step in the right direction. In some counties in California we have excellent roads, but throughout the State at large our roads are so defective as to impose a heavy tax upon farmers and entail a great loss of energy and time upon all who have to haul their produce over any considerable distance to market. Senator Smith's bill is an earnest effort to rid the State of these evils and merits the careful consideration of all citizens.

Southern Pacific officials are boasting that they wrecked four sleeping cars in the recent disaster to the Owl express and did not kill a single person. This childlike confidence in providence unfortunately is not shared by the public, which must thus play fast and loose with death.

ANOTHER CASTELLANE IS ON THE MARKET

COUNT ADEMAR CASTELLANE, who reached this country a few days ago, and his friend, Jean Paleologue, the designer of posters signed "Pal," have been talking to the reporters. By the way, Paleologue talks ten languages and swears in eleven. They were breakfasting when the early newspaper man located them.

"Say to your newspaper that I not come here to catch heiresses," the Count said. "New York cannot be a busy place, since every one has so much time to jossip."

"Gossip," corrected Mr. Paleologue.

"To gossip," the Count repeated. "Yes, I come here in pursuit of something, but not of heiresses. That which I catch was some champagne drinkers.

"All the nobility of France works now," he sighed. "Why do they work? Because they have to. Yes, all the noblity of the France works," and his eyes fell upon a distinguished-looking waiter who had just entered the room with a bunch of finger bowls.

"That which I sell was champagne," he exclaimed vehemently. "I sell him in gross or by the case, by the shipful; but my title of Count—that never was in the market. All that was some gospel."

"Gossip," corrected Mr. Paleologue.

"That was some gossip," the Count repeated. "I hate your ways. You say in your papers that I have come here to see a young lady which was rich. What was the result? Although I much appreciate her I cannot call upon her just because of that crossup."

"Gossip," said Mr. Paleologue.

"That word," the Count said vehemently. "I only learn him to-day. In the France we have more of that word and more of that thing. Here I stay three months, most of those months in New York, where I have friends."

"Did your cousin, Count Boni, give you any introductions?" was the next question.

The artist and the Count both exploded. Their lips curled with a curl of scorn after they had wildly gesticulated.

"Count Ademar belongs to the real Castellane family, the elder branch," said the artist. "Count Boni is an outsider, a rank lobster."

"It has been reported," said Count Ademar, "that I have say American girls were worth marrying only for their money. Please put it in your newspaper that this were not a truth.

"Miss Bacon, the name of which was mention, fails to be so very rich. In France were many womans much richer. Every time a French nobleman speaks to an American girl every one says he was wanting the money.

"It are not true. Miss Bacon, by example, had no riches, except that which her father gives to her, and he is still somewhat young and does not regard like one which dies very soon."

It had been reported that Mr. Paleologue—who is of noble descent himself, having a barony which he received from the Roumanian Government in exchange for one of his original drawings—is also here to offer himself in the American matrimonial market.

"It's about as true as the story of the Count's plans," he said. "I'll tell you why we are here if you want to know." He lowered his voice to a whisper and added: "Count Ademar is here to sell champagne—I'm here to drink it."

But the gossips still maintain that Count Ademar has sworn to wed and that he has brought the artist along to act as best man.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. C. R. Nelson of Towle is at the Grand.

W. Syms, a Winters cattle man, is at the Russ.

Dr. Barton J. Powell of Stockton is at the Palace.

T. J. Field, the Monterey banker, is at the Palace.

W. H. Hennage, a Bakersfield oil man, is at the Russ.

Major J. W. F. Diss of Los Angeles is at the Occidental.

Captain Edwin Jones of Brooklyn is staying at the California.

E. L. Finley of the Santa Rosa Democrat is at the California.

Senator Thomas Flint Jr. of San Juan is registered at the Palace.

Hon. E. S. Ives and wife of Arizona are recent arrivals at the Palace.

Walter L. Wilson of the United States navy is stopping at the California.

A. A. Langdon and W. C. Langdon, Buffalo merchants, are at the Palace.

G. W. Crystal, a prominent Vacaville merchant, is registered at the Grand.

T. F. Quinn, a Lexington, Ky., horse man, arrived at the Palace yesterday.

W. E. Mitchell of Stanford University is one of the late arrivals at the Palace.

C. R. Downs, the Sutter Creek mining man, arrived at the Occidental last evening.

R. W. Skinner, the well known Marysville fruit man, arrived at the Grand yesterday.

George T. Page and family of San Rafael have taken apartments at the Occidental.

M. P. Morgans, mining man from Angels Camp, is staying at the Grand for a few days.

F. B. Black, a prominent Cincinnati politician, was among yesterday's arrivals at the Russ. Mr. Black expects to move his family to San Francisco shortly.

H. E. Huntington, William H. Hood and Julius Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific, will return to-morrow from Los Angeles. J. C. Stubbs starts Friday for Washington to attend a hearing by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Charles R. Morrison, until recently city editor of the Toronto Mail and Empire, is in the city in the interests of the S. S. McClure Company, publishers, of New York. He will visit the principal cities of this State and Oregon and Washington. He is the son of Charles Morrison, a local newspaper man.

CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—J. C. Wood and O. J. Wood of California are at the Shoreham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A DIME OF 1854—L. D., City. A dime of 1854 does not command a premium.

ED DE RESZKE—S., City. Ed de Reske, the vocalist, is classed as a basso.

ENGLISH SHILLING—A. S., City. A silver shilling of 1774 (George III) commands a premium of from $15 to $25, according to the catalogue of Eastern dealers.

POPULATION—N. G., Guerneville, Cal. and others. The population of the United States, by States, according to the census of 1900, appears in The Call of October 31.

SOLE TRADERSHIP—F. F., City. A woman who desires to become a sole trader will have to secure the services of a reputable attorney to file a petition for her in the Superior Court.

PRESENTS BY MAIL—S., North Berkeley, Cal. Presents of jewelry or books sent by mail from the United States to England are subject to custom duty at the port where received.

QUARTER EAGLES—A. O. S., Oakland, Cal. A quarter eagle or $2 50 piece of 1861 does not command a premium from dealers. The price that dealers charge for such, however, is from $4 to $6.

TEN-DOLLAR PIECE—J. J., City. Dealers in old coins do not offer any premium for ten-dollar pieces coined after 1808. They offer to sell coins of that denomination of the year 1840 at from $13 50 to $15.

VOTING IN ENGLAND—S. B., City. In England no man can be registered for parliamentary election "who within twelve months preceding the 15th of July has received parochial aid, except medical relief," or one "who is an alien."

MAIL FOR MANILA—J. G. S., San Luis Obispo, Cal. Every steamer that sails from San Francisco for China carries mail for Manila. Deposit letters for that point in the postoffice and they will be taken by the first steamer that leaves San Francisco after the letters reach that place.

THE PARK POLICE—H. D. E., City. Under the new charter the park police became part of the San Francisco regular police force. It consists of one sergeant and sixteen officers. The watches are 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. weeks days and to 6 30 p. m. Sundays; 3 p. m. to 11 p. m. and 11 p. m. to 7 a. m.

DRAW PEDRO—G., City. If in a game of draw pedro A and B have each one point to go out, A deals and B gives one to the board. A refuses and calls for spades, then leads the king which is high. B has low and A makes jack. A goes out, not having gone back and having made high and jack, four points.

AGRICULTURE, ETC.—Y. C. G., Pacific Grove, Cal. The periodicals published in California that are specially devoted to agriculture are: California Cultivator and Poultry Keeper, Los Angeles; Rural Press, Los Angeles; Pacific Bee, Sacramento; Pacific Rural Press, San Francisco. Those that are devoted to horticulture and floriculture are: The Fruit World, Los Angeles; California Fruit Grower, San Francisco, and Pacific Rural Press, San Francisco.

FATHER DRUMGOOLE—S., City. The letter of inquiry was as to information about "Rev. J. Drumgold of New York." It is the late Rev. Father John C. Drumgoole about whom information was desired, he who founded the St. Vincent de Paul Newsboys' Home in New York City in 1871. The founder died in New York City, March 28, 1888. The home is now at Princes Bay, Staten Island, and is part of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin for Homeless and Destitute Children. Rev. Father James J. Dougherty is the superior in charge.

VALUE OF LAND—P. S., City. There is no county of San Francisco, but there is the city and county of San Francisco. There are no figures that show "the average value of an acre of land in San Francisco County," but the city and county of San Francisco contains forty-one and three-quarters square miles of territory, equal to 26,721 acres. The assessed valuation of land in the city and county of San Francisco, 1900, is $190,457,425. With these figures you can determine what the average value according to assessment is per acre. That, however, is not the market value.

A GAY SEASON is promised at Hotel del Coronado, Coronado, Cal., this winter with a jolly houseful, an expert golf tournament, meeting of field trials club, hunting, fishing, boating, dancing, etc.

EDITORIAL UTTERANCE IN VARIETY

Growth in Exports.

The growth in our exports of coal, cotton and breadstuffs is phenomenal, but the feature of our export expansion, which points most certainly to our supremacy among the trading nations, is the striking increase in our annual sales of manufactured goods and machinery in the markets formerly controlled by Great Britain and Germany.—CHICAGO TIMES-HERALD.

France Spoiling for War.

Since recovering from her drastic thrashing by Germany thirty years ago France has been spoiling for war. A trouble-seeker is always accommodated. In any war of this generation the Christian races—the Anglo-Saxon races—will be found on the same side. The world before very long will be ruled by the races that eat beef and fear their God and save their money. France does none of these. France is in peril.—CHICAGO JOURNAL.

Our Constitution.

Our republican constitution has within one hundred years become the model for the organic law of eighteen other republics on this continent and of the Canadian colony of Britain. We have besides, by our successful experiment in popular self-rule, given manhood suffrage to England and a large measure of free government to every European country, save Russia and Turkey.—CINCINNATI COMMERCIAL TRIBUNE.

Relations With Cuba.

It will be understood by the world that the relations between independent Cuba and the United States must be closer than are those which exist between any two other nations on this continent. The United States freed Cuba. It must stand sponsor in a large degree for the island's good behavior toward its own citizens as well as toward other nations. Its geographical position makes it an object of solicitude to this country.—ST. LOUIS GLOVE-DEMOCRAT.

Rewards Awaiting Enterprise.

Great as has been the results already achieved, still richer rewards await enterprising American manufacturers. China, South Africa and Siberia are all on the eve of a commercial awakening. It will not do for American manufacturers to be neglectful of the opportunities which are about to be presented to them if they desire to make the most of every factor in individual and national prosperity. With this end in view the campaign for export trade should be made as vigorous as possible.—PHILADELPHIA RECORD.

Army and Navy Enlistments.

The army has little or no trouble finding recruits to fill its ranks. The service is hardly more attractive than the navy and the pay is no better. What, then, is the difference? The army has a system whereby the private soldier may be promoted for efficiency until he attains the highest rank. Major General Nelson A. Miles is a conspicuous example. General Lawton won his promotion from the ranks. It is needless to cite the many other instances. Is it not possible that the lack of such a system operates to prevent enlistments in the navy?—PITTSBURG DISPATCH.

Plump Girls Are Weary.

It is very evident that the plump girls are growing a-weary of the fashion that dictates slimness in order to look well. There is talk among the dear creatures of sending a round robin to Paris and reminding the despots of imperial fashion that curves are much more beautiful in the pages of geometry than angles are, just as a winding river road is more attractive than the rectangular corner of a street, even when the street is straight, and not a crooked old colonial cowpath, as some of the downtown streets in New York are.—NEW YORK PRESS.

Confucianism and Christianity.

So far as Confucianism is concerned it is not improbable that Christianity will have to treat it with respect, and even concede to it the permanent place it has already won in the civilization of the Orient. In saying this one does not imply that Confucianism is superior to Christianity as an ethical system, or that Christianity can never become the dominant force in Oriental life. All that is meant is that Christianity must recognize and make peace, so to speak, with what there is in Confucianism of permanent moral value. A compromise of this sort would make for the peace of the world, and also hasten the progress of Christianity in the far East.—SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN.

American Humor.

We have plenty of humor, and very funny it is. Americans are good laughers. We should be excelent makers of good epigrams if we put our minds to it; but this takes too long. It isn't utilitarian. It causes idle words to give account for. It is aping corrupt Gallic salons. It is unfashionable. It will make one laughed at instead of smiled with. So we go on stating and denying facts, blundering into bad slang, even making puns. We dare not turn a compliment, it is so out of form. Why not make it in form? A lady is better pleased with a good praising in bad form than no praising in good form, however much she may gainsay it. And all this is just a plea for the good word. Words mean much or little, according to the two who use them, the talker and the "talkee." Good words—"bon mots," if you will—help over hard places, please, instruct, linger after. Epigrams are the energy of style. We believe in the conservation of energy.—DALLAS NEWS.

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