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OUR COMING VISITORS.

REDUCED railway rates and the pleasant coolness of our summers have made San Francisco one of the favorite cities of the country for national conventions. For several years past the frequency and the magnitude of these conventions have been increasing, and it will be remembered that last year we were virtually a convention city throughout the whole summer and entertained many thousands of visitors. It is now to be noted that the coming summer promises to bring even larger gatherings of visitors than last year, and it is time we were making preparations not only to entertain them with hospitality, but with business sagacity, by revealing to them something of our vast resources and of our many advantages for the investment of capital or the establishment of homes.

Without counting minor conventions which will meet here this summer: we are to have two on a scale of the first magnitude. These are the Imperial Council of the Mystic Shriners, which is to be held here in June, and the session of the Supreme Lodge and National Encampment of the uniform rank of Knights of Pythias, which is to be held in August. Were there to be no other conventions than these two the summer would be marked by a notable opportunity for advertising the State among men and women who are here to see it with their own eyes and to realize the marvelous contrast it presents to Eastern States, where the soil is less fertile and the climate less propitious.

It is now estimated that the Imperial Council of the Mystic Shriners will bring to the city something like 40,000 visitors. The session of the Supreme Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, accompanied, as it will be, by the encampment of the uniform rank and the session of the Supreme Temple of the Rathbone Sisters, the woman's auxiliary of the Knights of Pythias, will bring to the city upward of 70,000 visitors. These numbers are not merely guesses at the unknown. They are estimates carefully made from reports to the headquarters of the two great fraternal orders, and may therefore be relied upon as being approximately accurate.

It is scarcely necessary to point out that the members of the two orders represent the best and the dominant element of the American people. They are exactly the class of people from whom we wish to draw new settlers for California, or, failing that, to win as new consumers of the products of California. It will therefore be worth our while to make special efforts to provide in the city an easy opportunity for all of the visitors to see a comprehensive exhibit and display of the products of the State.

The State Board of Trade that is now engaged in devising plans and providing means for upbuilding Northern California might well give some of its attention to this matter. The various counties should be urged to make a display in the city, and to furnish an ample supply of pamphlets or other forms of literary description of their resources and their inducements for capitalists, home-seekers and tourists. If the work be undertaken by co-operation it will cost but little to any one county, and if it be entered upon promptly the display and the circulars can be provided in ample time. The whole issue in a nutshell is that we are to have this summer not less than 100,000 visitors, and we should do what we can to induce them to visit other parts of the State and either to make their homes with us or become permanent consumers of our products.

There is strong probability that Kansas will see the wisdom of increasing the number of her insane asylums or of introducing the ducking school as a punishment for malicious and impudent women. A follower of Carrie Nation horsewhipped the Mayor of Topeka the other day and escaped merited chastisement.

Carnegie has offered \$200,000 to Denver for a library site and building. If this book-exchanged money giver continues he will have to seek for cities yet unbuilt upon which to lavish the extravagance of his library dream.

France wants us to supply the material from which she shall manufacture her perfumes. It might be well for her to leave us alone and buy a product with which she cannot expect to compete.

HUMANIZING WAR.

THE new treaty defining what shall be acts of war, that has grown out of the Peace Conference at The Hague, is well enough as far as it goes. The parties to it are Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, the United States, Mexico, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Roumania, Sweden and Norway, Turkey and Bulgaria.

The important part of the treaty is this clause: "It is prohibited to employ poison or poisoned arms; to kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army; to kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down his arms, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion; to declare that no quarter will be given; to employ arms, projectiles or material of a nature to cause superfluous injury; to make improper use of a flag of truce, the national flag or military ensigns and the enemy's uniform, as well as the distinctive badges of the Geneva convention; to destroy or seize the enemy's property, unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war."

This treaty is lauded as proving the superiority of our times, and in the Senate it was said that its ratification would place this country in accord with the highest thought of the age.

We confess some impairment of ability to see it entirely in that light. If the treaty were a restraining agreement binding parties to it to refrain in all cases from the acts which it prohibits, it would deserve the praise bestowed upon it. But its terms make it binding only between the contracting parties, which are the nations permitted to enter The Hague conference. In case of war between two or more of them the treaty controls, but it ceases to be binding if one of the belligerents is joined by a non-contracting party. Nor is it binding upon any of the contracting parties at war with a non-contracting party. Now in our judgment the highest thought of the age is that the acts prohibited should not be used against any people at war. They are acts abhorrent to morality and humanity. Yet the strong nations that make this treaty merely agree to abstain among themselves, but hold themselves free to employ poison, kill treacherously, slaughter prisoners, massacre those incapable of defense and do all the other nefarious things they are not to use against each other.

If the great nations have any mission in the world it ought to be as examples to those who are backward and weak. The spectacle of all these nations agreeing not to use poison, nor kill prisoners, nor slaughter the defenseless in any war, would impress the many countries which are not permitted to sign this treaty. The parties to it are all Christian except Turkey and Japan. But nearly all the Christian nations of Central and South America are excluded and the great empire of China is not a signatory, nor is Korea. This may give rise to the suspicion that the Christian nations left themselves free to make inhuman war on that theater toward which their ambition is largely looking. To those who are pleased to see them agree to be humane as war can be, between themselves, this treaty will be gratifying. But a far larger company would have been better pleased to see them agree to abstain utterly from acts that revolt humanity.

The other day Count von Bulow in replying to a question from Herr Richter, the radical leader, on the subject of imperialism, made an elaborate statement and then startled the Reichstag by saying to Richter: "What more do you ask of me, sweetheart?" The phrase is such a vast improvement on parliamentary language that it may be followed, and Von Bulow may yet be looked up to as the man who reformed debate and made it a thing of sweetness and love.

CRUMPACKER'S RESOLUTION.

REPORTS from Washington are to the effect that the leaders of both parties in Congress are doubtful what course to pursue with regard to the Crumacker resolution calling for an inquiry into the election laws and methods of certain States, and a report as to whether or no they are in violation of the constitution. It is a harmless sounding resolution, but there is no telling what would be the result of precipitating a debate upon it.

The controversy raises a question of principles against practical politics. It is well known that in many of the Southern States the negro vote has been almost totally suppressed by various forms of suffrage restriction. Those States, however, continue to hold in Congress a representation equal to that which they would be entitled to were there no such suppression of vote. The question, then, which will inevitably follow the inquiry and the report called for by the resolution will be that of determining whether these States shall be deprived of representation in proportion to the suppression of their voting strength.

As a matter of principle the issue is quite plain. The constitution provides that when the right to vote is denied to any of the male inhabitants of a State, being 21 years old and a citizen of the United States, or is abridged except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion in which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens of 21 years of age. That such is clear, but it is also clear that the attempt to enforce the rule in this case would revive the old sectional issue and drive the now progressing elements of the Southern white people back again into the ranks of Bourbonism, and thus restore the old situation of a solid North in conflict with a solid South.

The perplexity of the leaders at Washington is due to the fact that neither side knows what would be the result of an agitation of the issue. The Republicans are aware that the North desires an end to sectional strife, and is convinced that Booker Washington has found a better way to the solution of the negro problem than any politician of the time. On the other hand, the Democratic leaders are sure that the North would not support the South on the question if it were once made an issue in politics. Each side, therefore, is inclined to fight shy of the measure. The Republicans have not been able to get a majority of the party into a caucus to consider the resolution, and the Democrats in a recent caucus carefully avoided discussing it.

There is a proverb in our language which says: "When in doubt, don't." It would seem to be wisdom on the part of the statesmen at Washington to follow the teaching of that proverb at this juncture. Unless one can see clearly what is going to be the good of forcing the Crumacker resolution it would better be let alone. The people of the last generation had a long experience with the sectional and racial problems growing out of efforts to regulate

the Southern States from Washington, and they were unable to devise a solution to any of them. It is not likely that this generation would have better success.

It is the desire of every patriot to get rid of sectionalism, and it is worth while to make something of a sacrifice for the sake of preventing a revival of the old conflict. Congress may safely leave the decision of the constitutionality of the Southern suffrage laws to the Supreme Court, and the advancement of the negro to the educational and industrial movement now so well directed under the leadership of Booker Washington. The Crumacker resolution then, for the rest of this session at any rate, might as well be used to line a pigeon-hole in a committee-room.

The Board of Supervisors is again considering the advisability of putting a new roof on the City Hall. The building has already cost more money by five times than it is worth, and now to take the roof off for another downpour of gold for scheming contractors seems to be about the limit of official impudence.

A NEW ST. PATRICK.

THIS is an age of disillusion. William Tell has been eliminated entirely. Gesler's cap on a pole and Tell shooting an apple off his boy's head and hiding an arrow in his undershirt to use on the tyrant had he missed the pippin and hit his boy is set down as all a heroic romance. Farther back Father Abraham, with his trying domestic experiences with Hagar and the interruption of his sacrifice of Isaac, is put down as a myth borrowed by the Hebrew Homer from the legends of Assyria. Washington never chopped down the cherry tree, and the last words of great men are inventions, to impress the imagination of the people. Macaulay has stripped the broad brim off the head of William Penn and presented him as a fawning courtier and a sharp dealer in large blocks of real estate. Now comes a new St. Patrick, clad in a class of attributes that make a different man of him.

On the Sunday before St. Patrick's day Rev. Dr. Van Schaick of the Dutch Reformed church in Washington took the Irish saint into his communion and extolled him as a missionary who at the age of 16 was torn from his birthplace in Scotland and sold into slavery to the wild people across the channel. When he became free he remained to preach, and going from tribe to tribe, persuaded them to desert their gross gods and reform their worship. He declared that Patrick belongs to all Christians, and that his day should be observed by all, as he was of no sect and belonged to the broad brotherhood of Christianity.

On the same day Rev. Dr. Gardner of the Plantsville Baptist church, Connecticut, declared that St. Patrick was a Baptist and all of that faith should wear the shamrock on his day. He quoted the records left by the saint to prove that he knew not purgatory nor transubstantiation, and was ignorant of the Hieronymian vulgate. He baptized all his converts by immersion, and was really the pioneer Baptist missionary.

Laymen will find no fault with this evidence of a tendency to broaden the lines and take to the general fold all the worthies who in any age have wrought for the moral elevation of man. That such a movement once started will extend there can be no doubt. We may soon see processions of many nationalities and communions, instead of one as now, wearing the green on the 17th of March, and every church open that the preachers of all sects may extol the Scotch apostle of Ireland and hold his life up as an example to all men, in courage, faith and humility.

Dr. Van Schaick said of him: "St. Patrick's baptismal name was 'Succoth,' or 'brave in battle.' Even so he was. Not when trumpets blew and banners waved and shouting men charged an enemy, but on those battle-fields where one intrepid soul faces the darkness of a nation, and by its majesty and power hurls back the hosts of evil and of ignorance and crime. On those battle-fields of our lives may the spirit of this saint lead us to victory."

This may be a new departure, but it is as good as it is new.

In the recent dispatch from London announcing the proposed organization of an American club in that city it was said the movement had been undertaken because the big British clubs objected to Americans; but now comes the statement that among the committee appointed to organize the new club are Lord Kenmore, Lord Craven, Lord Suffolk and several other members of the British aristocracy. It looks, therefore, as if the "American" club were to have a heavy British coating on the top at any rate, and can hardly be regarded as an evidence of British objection to American coin or American society.

Edgar Wallace, the Pretoria correspondent of the London Mail, recently wrote to his paper: "I am biased toward optimism, and while viewing dispassionately every advantage we have gained during the past few months, I must confess that I see no reason why this war should not at this time next year be bowling along as merrily as ever. Nay, two years from this time will still find our troops engaged in operations in Northern Transvaal." If that be what Mr. Wallace call optimism he must be one of the few Britons who likes the war and looks upon it as a good thing.

The distinguished members of the French House of Deputies seem to have reached their normal mental balance at last. After a fierce debate of four hours they granted amnesty to all military offenders and then in five minutes rescinded their action. This appears to be normally French.

When Bryan was asked the other day what he thought of David Bennett Hill as Democratic candidate for President in 1904 his sole reply was "Ugh"; so now we know there is at least one subject on which the wordy man of Nebraska is not willing to talk.

An Oakland man died the other day after having smoked 73,000 cigarettes and tried at the same time to solve the mystery of existence. He seems to have overlooked the fact that either dose would have been sufficient for a clean cut case of suicide.

School Director Denman has taken the public into his confidence to the extent of announcing that he will soon be one hundred years of age. This fact should prompt in the old gentleman some very serious reflections.

A woman's club in New York has taken up for discussion the startling problem, "Can a woman love two men?" and now a score or so of irate husbands have blood in their eyes looking for the "other fellow."

CROCKER HOTEL TO BE ERECTED TO HEIGHT OF TWELVE STORIES



HOTEL NOW BEING ERECTED BY THE CROCKER HEIRS ON THE CORNER OF POWELL AND GEARY STREETS, SHOWING THE TWO ADDITIONAL STORIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE REVISED PLANS, WHICH WILL ADD NEARLY \$200,000 TO THE ESTIMATED COST.

THE Crocker estate has decided to erect a twelve-story instead of a ten-story hotel structure at the corner of Powell and Geary streets. The plans were drawn for a twelve-story building, but it was originally intended that the two extra stories would be added at some future time, when the business of the hotel would warrant the increase. The managers of the estate, after taking into consideration the great increase in the number of visitors that come to this city during the winter, have determined to have the additional stories completed along with the rest of the

structure. They have also decided that the entire completion of the hotel at the present time will save a world of inconvenience at some subsequent time, when the building would be full of guests. The addition of two stories will mean an increase of seventy-eight rooms, making the total number 438. The original approximate cost of the hotel, \$1,500,000, will be swelled to \$1,800,000. It will be more economical to erect the great hostelry to its fullest height now while the mechanics are all engaged and the scaffolding and other apparatus is all in place than later on.

The work of laying the foundation has been progressing most favorably and the huge iron cranes will soon commence to swing the ponderous steel of the framework into place. It was expected that the hotel would be ready to register guests in about two years, but the construction of two additional stories will probably lengthen the time somewhat. One of the notable features of the Crocker Hotel is to be the lounging-room, which is to be fitted up in the most lavish manner. For a considerable time there was a debate as to what color should predominate in this apartment, but it has finally been decided that it shall be done in green marble, with Pompeian red panels and ornamented with dull gold. Another conspicuous arrangement will be the balcony, which will overlook the lounging-room. This balcony will abut from the mezzanine floor, on which will be situated the banquet-rooms and the reception-rooms for the guests at the banquets.

CLUB WOMEN GREET FORMER PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lovell White's reception to the California Club yesterday afternoon was a brilliant success. During the entire afternoon the clubrooms were thronged with scores of members, who called to pay grateful homage to their former president. Happiness reigned supreme. The affair was marked with that harmony which has formerly characterized the club and which will abide with it in the future, now that all differences have been so amicably adjusted. Mrs. White was assisted in receiving by the old officers and directors, as well as the newly elected ones who have replaced them. Everything was perfectly arranged. The decorations were simple but artistic. Delicate refreshments were served.

SOME ANSWERS TO QUERIES BY CALL READERS

ABBOTT—T. City. Emma Abbott, the singer, was born in Chicago, December 9, 1859.

LILLIAN RUSSELL—G. H. City. Lillian Russell, the actress, was born December 4, 1860.

RAIN IN CUBA—Subscriber, Alameda, Cal. The rainy season in Cuba is from the middle of May to the middle of September.

THE CARDS—A. H. G. City. In the game of double-pedro the cards in the last deal are counted as follows: High, low, Jack, game and pedro.

RIGHT AND LEFT—S. A. R. City. In Great Britain foot passengers and vehicles always keep to the left. In the United States the rule is to the right.

PRESIDENTS—H. Williams, Colusa County, Cal. President Hayes died at Fremont, O., January 17, 1889. President Harrison died at Indianapolis, Ind., March 13, 1901.

BOWING—L. K. T. City. The general rule of etiquette is, that on the street, when a lady and gentleman meet, the gentleman should wait until he is recognized by the lady before bowing to her.

THE SEVENTY-FIRST—N. Y. City. The Seventy-first New York Regiment was the first to send a company out from that State during the Spanish-American war. It was Company H that left New York and went to Camp Black, April 23, 1898.

TO RENEW MANUSCRIPTS—A. O. S. City. Old manuscripts, if the paper has not been destroyed, may be renewed by taking a hair pencil and washing the part that has been effaced with a solution of prussiate of potash in water when the writing will again appear.

THANKSGIVING DAY—G. H. J. City. Thanksgiving day had its origin in the New England portion of the United States. The thanksgiving service was in the Plymouth Colony in 1621 when Governor Bradford sent out men to get wild fowl to help the fast. It was in gratitude for the rain after the drought and for supplies of sorely needed food that were received.

Ex. strong hearhound candy, Townsend's. Cal. glace fruit, 50c per lb at Townsend's. Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 224 California street. Telephone Main 1042.

Townsend's California glace fruit, 50c a pound, in fire-etched boxes or Jap. baskets. A nice present for Eastern friends. 639 Market st., Palace Hotel building.

H. Newman Smith, a Boston prospector in South Africa, is recognized as one of the best linguists in Africa, speaking nine distinct languages as well as innumerable native dialects. One bottle of Burnett's Vanilla Extract is better than a case of doubtful kind. Though costing a few cents more per bottle, its purity and great strength make it most economical brand.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

B. KATSCHINSKI PHILADELPHIA SHOE CO. 10 THIRD STREET, SAN FRANCISCO.



AN EASTER NOVELTY.

At Easter ladies like to appear in their new gowns. Nothing adds more to their appearance than novelty and snappy footwear. Here are our Easter specials: Ladies' fine patent leather lace shoes, dull matt kid tops, new color toes and French Louis XV heels; button in style and better in appearance than shoes offered elsewhere. All sizes and widths; the price only \$2.35.



THREE-STRAP SANDALS.

A sandal like this is not offered every day for \$1.35, so come and be fitted. Ladies' fine vici kid three-strap sandals, coin toes, hand turned soles and French heels; all sizes and widths. Price \$1.35.

We have a complete line of ladies', misses' and children's sandals and slippers for Easter in all styles and colors. Easter rabbits given free to children with every purchase.

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