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HOUSTON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 10.

FIN DE SIECLE SPECULATION.

The century which is rapidly drawing to a close has been marked by distinct lines, just as the Eighteenth and Seventeenth centuries had their clear cut features and characteristics of development.

The Globe-Democrat quotes Edward Everett Hale as saying in a recent address that the century of Columbus was marked by discovery, the Eighteenth by analysis and the Nineteenth by invention. The interesting speculation now is, What will be the distinguishing progress of the Twentieth century? The problems now engaging the attention of the scientific and inventive mind indicate in a measure what we may expect from the next century. Those problems may be classed generally as a search after forces to render living cheaper and more comfortable and to expand trade and commerce. Chiefly now the scientific mind is attempting to better understand and apply electricity in order to give man better and cheaper light, better and cheaper fuel, better and cheaper transportation, cheaper and more universal power for manufacturing purposes and a new agent in surgery and medicine. These studies have but begun and it will remain for the Twentieth century to promulgate them to a more successful issue.

Already it has been said that the next hundred years would witness the triumph of electrical experiment and man would find ready for his use the most powerful and universal minister to his wants ever before discovered. In a word the Twentieth century will be the age of electricity.

Edward Everett Hale is further quoted as predicting that not only will the next hundred years be filled with physical comforts, but physical forces will be transmuted into spiritual and moral forces. The problems of government will be solved, man will individually become more and more prominent, education will be universally diffused, new methods of handling crime and criminals be adopted, and the general results of reform and progress be as pronounced, in difference and improvement, from those of this century, as our present position differs from that of the last century.

Such speculations are not without interest, though largely the dreams of the imagination only. Good citizens like to feel in some way that their efforts to make the conditions surrounding them better, will not be wasted on the future, that what they are doing is but the stepping stone to still further advancement and that they themselves may live to witness a greatly improved society in every way, with new customs and methods and higher aspirations. The conviction that the world is growing greater and better and more wonderful every day is a great inspiration to human effort, collectively and individually—it teaches us to build for the future as well as to improve the present.

AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY.

The world is not nearly so bad as some of the pessimists would have us believe, and those who try to find evidences of the steady progress of man's humanity to man can discover them easily at almost any time in this latter part of the Nineteenth century.

The provisions made through private donations for education, religion and charity, from year to year, measure admirably the extent of moral development in a Nation and indicate the growth of the idea of the citizen's obligations to his fellows, above and beyond the requirements of legal statutes. Measured by such tests the year just past shows a gratifying and remarkable progress over the preceding year, as, indeed, 1895 showed over 1894. In the latter year the sum total of the bequests of the character above indicated, according to the Chicago Tribune, amounted, in this country, to but $19,967,000. In 1896 the sum was $33,670,000! In 1895 these charities reached $28,942,000. Here is seen a steady gain for the worthy objects among which these large sums are distributed. Of the money given last year, colleges obtained $16,814,000, in round numbers; charities $10,854,000; churches $2,185,000; museums and galleries $2,333,000 and libraries $1,452,000.

When the unusually fortunate and wealthy people of the world begin thus to recognize their moral obligation to the cause of education and charity and religion, there is great hope for the future. Immense fortunes will be regarded with less suspicion and enmity by the general populace when the multi-millionaires betray a sympathy in a practical way with the less fortunate life about them. The poor have ever been dependent upon the rich for any comforts enjoyed beyond the bare necessaries of life. The higher institutions of learning, the public galleries, libraries, great hospitals and other adjuncts of our humane and refining civilization must largely depend upon voluntary contributions. Where shall these benefactions come from if not from the rich? In proportion as the great millionaires and, indeed, wealthy people generally, recognize their stewardship for the public, in just such proportion will their fortunes in the future be safe and the world grow better.

PROGRESSIVE GEORGIA.

The State of Georgia is making a record in behalf of education this year that is going to redound to its credit. Georgia is one of the progressive States of the Union and the character she has made and is making is attracting population and investments to an encouraging extent.

A short while since The Post noted the purpose over in Georgia to provide a complete reformatory system for the youthful criminals in the State. But the very best way after all to cut off the supply of grown up criminals is to properly instruct the youth of the community. The proportion of criminals is vastly larger among the ignorant than the educated. The child that is left to grow up outside of the schools of the land is on the road to ruin from the very start of his or her career. Recognizing the grand importance of the general cause of education an additional sum of $400,000 to be raised by taxation is to be appropriated this year in Georgia, making the aggregate sum $1,000,000, rather than $600,000 as heretofore.

It is noticeable also that a generous provision has been made for the State university, the legislature accepting the proposition and acting upon the principle that the universities and the common schools are mutually essential parts of the general educational system.

Georgia may pass its anti-trust bills and its bills with reference to trade, or with reference to crime, or adopt measures for the preservation of law and order, ad libitum and ad infinitum; but she can never accomplish so much for her reputation and future by any of these measures as by her generous provisions for public schools, both the higher and lower institutions. It is education, widely disseminated and thorough that the American people need more than anything else now and hereafter. A free people must needs be an intelligent people for their successful self-government. Other things being equal that State will show the greatest progress, the best law and order and the most general prosperity where there is the greatest degree of intelligence, secured by the most liberal care of the educational systems of the commonwealth.

THE GREEDY PROTECTIONISTS.

Nothing could be more dangerous to the business prospects of the country than the probable results of the policy of allowing all the varied interests engaged in manufacturing and production to be heard in shaping the next tariff bill—to allow selfishness, in other words, rather than disinterested statesmanship to frame the proposed bill.

In 1890 something of the same plan was adopted in building up the various features of the McKinley bill, and a writer in the Boston Herald testifies that at that time a prominent manufacturer said to him that the preliminary "hearings" had been a positive injury, even, to protection itself. Said the manufacturer:

We were sent for and we all went, each contending for just as much for protection in his business as cow-hide. No one wanted to be "left" at a disadvantage in comparison with the others. This created a rivalry. In our branch of business we asked more, than we should ordinarily have claimed, and more than we expected to get. I, for one, was astonished when we got it. It was more than healthful protection, to my mind.

The tendency to ask for more than is needed or than is healthful is natural. The result must inevitably be another hot-house tariff of the McKinley bill stripe, defeating not only its own purposes, but paralyzing the business life and industrial activity of the Nation. The people emphatically at one time registered their disapproval of such extreme and sweeping measures as are now contemplated. Even the interested parties suffered from one end of the country to the other. Is selfishness completely and incurably blind? Do political leaders never learn from experience?

It is bad enough to have the intelligent and disinterested statesmen tinkering with the tariff duties and advocating high protection, but when it comes to turning the construction of the tariff bill over to the interested, greedy and blind manufacturers and producers themselves, the public must certainly suffer and, indeed, the natural and legitimate business development of the Nation experience a further season of paralysis.

Grover Cleveland could not resist the temptation in his letter to the Chicago gold standard democrats to again display his narrow prejudices. His brief communication contained as much bile and misrepresentation by inference, and displayed as small a mental vision as could well be compressed in such space. The fact is very patent that Cleveland's idea of democracy is devotion to the best interests of the moneyed classes in the East.

The Post is a pretty good business paper again today.

There is probably but little truth in the report that Gomez has determined upon a policy of bloody retaliation and will hereafter show no quarter to prisoners. He has had the same justification for a year past that he has now for such a course, and has not pursued it, so it is not likely he intends to do so at this late day. It would be in every way a disastrous policy for the Cubans to adopt—barbarity by the Spaniards would not justify barbarity by the Cubans.

Gentlemen of the legislature, make it a business session.

The city council of Chicago has fallen into line and proscribed the big theater hat. The public can overlook a good deal of otherwise objectionable legislation by the Chicago council and cast the mantle of charity over considerable jobbery in view of an ordinance calculated to afford such justice and comfort as an anti-theater hat ordinance.

The Houston Business League is now ready for real work.

The Cuban struggle has temporarily diverted attention from Pitcher Ruste's gallant and continued battle for freedom against the magnate of the New York Baseball club. It is about time to inaugurate a movement for the recognition of Ruste as a belligerent.

The statement is made that it costs this country one hundred millions a year to support its criminals—exclusive of those in office.

It seems that an effort will be made to make the payment of the poll tax a prerequisite for voting in this State. If such a measure is adopted in Texas, it should require the payment of the tax at least four months before the election, for obvious reasons.

The building in Houston for 1896 was not so extensive as in previous years, but the figures show a steady and substantial progress.

There will be a vacant pension agency in Pennsylvania—the present incumbent has dared to criticise the big chief in Washington. What the big chief demands is toadyism—independent thought is treason!

Senator Quay wants no more millionaires in the senate—political pensioners in the junior roles is the ideal senate to Senator Quay.

The appointment of Colonel John Hay as ambassador to England would add the name of another of "them literary fellers" to our somewhat distinguished record at the court of St. James.

Now that Dan Stuart has the "articles of agreement" properly signed, the orders for additional white paper and linotypes should be sent in at once.

Senator-elect Money went twenty miles from Havana and imagines he is up on the condition of affairs in Cuba. Mr. Money "does" a country on the regulation American plan.

In the midst of the gloomy outlook generally under republican rule, the significance of the fact that this year came in on Friday has not been overlooked.

San Antonio has organized a freight bureau—a distinct step in the way of progress. A freight bureau in experienced hands is a valuable adjunct to the business of a city.

THE TEXAS PAPERS.

S. W. Oakes has retired from the editorial management of the Gatesville Messenger and will be succeeded by V. A. Garrison, who has been, heretofore, in the employ of the paper. The Messenger has been reduced to four pages, but it is announced that the four-page form is merely a temporary reduction in size.

The Church Helper, published at Hutto, has entered its eleventh year.

The Willis Index is of a hopeful turn of mind and sees something to be thankful for even in misfortune. It says:

The poor deluded wretch who last week stole our three remaining chickens, will please accept the thanks of the entire Index family for not walking off with their New Year turkey.

George L. Rhea has assumed editorial control of the Star-Clarion, published at Lott.

C. F. Yeager, after a vacation of eight months, will assume the editorial management of the Waxahachie Enterprise, left vacant by the retirement of W. J. Buie, who went to Austin to help run the government.

The Mineola Monitor wants a revision of insurance laws. It remarks:

The next legislature might do Texas a good service by revising the laws regulating fire insurance companies. As it is now these corporations have every advantage in the settlement of claims and are daily robbing the people.

The LaGrange Journal thinks it has found the fool-killer. It makes the following observations:

Every once and a while some one suggests that the cigarette ought to be legislated out of existence. The Journal holds to the old democratic doctrine of letting everybody do as everybody pleases, so long as everybody does not trangress the rights of everybody's neighbors. To see a young man kill himself smoking a nasty cigarette makes one wonder if, after all, the cigarette isn't the mythical fool-killer.

The Jackson County Progress says:

The two lumber yards here are having all they can do in supplying material to the many new settlers who are putting up good, substantial and comfortable farm houses and barns through all portions of the county. This is an index to the outlook for the future growth of the town, instead of our town going ahead it is the surrounding country, which is all the better, and with a continuance of this condition of affairs the building up of Edna will naturally follow.

POINTS ABOUT PEOPLE.

Archbishop Fabre left the whole of his personal property to his successor to be used for works of charity.

The very important information is vouchsafed that King Alfonso has written to the pope, imploring his prayers for Spanish success.

Signor Crispi has taken time by the forelock in having his marble monument erected in the Naples cemetery. The only inscription on it is "Crispi."

The pope continues to give daily receptions to the diplomats, and the resistance to the fatigue attendant upon these receptions shown by his holiness causes general surprise.

Jean de Reszke declares that last summer all his servants performed their labors to the energetic rhythm and melody of Siegfried's smithy songs, which they heard him practicing so often.

Since Jerry Simpson is returning to congress it is recalled that he was the very first representative to throw dignity to the winds and to appear sailing down Pennsylvania avenue on a bicycle.

The coachman who drives the queen at Windsor, Balmoral and Osborne, and who likewise accompanies her to the continent, is Thomas Sands. Thomas has been long in the service and is a great favorite. The queen greets him always with a friendly "good-day."

Russia's czarina, a worthy granddaughter of Queen Victoria, is fighting the practice of sucking tobacco prevalent among the women at the court. She is said also to have shut down on her husband's allowance of cigarettes. She is also said to be not so well liked as she was.

The Wesleyan Methodists of England have requested Rev. William J. Brown to visit the United States and Canada and raise money for a monument to be erected over the grave of John Wesley. Mr. Brown is the pastor of the chapel in London where Wesley once preached.

There was lately sold in London, for $125, a silver salver, made in 1782, bearing the coat of arms, crest and motto of William Pitt and having the following words engraved on its back: "This piece of plate belonged to the Right Hon. William Pitt, the most incorrupt and loyal minister that ever graced the annals of any nation."

THE LITERARY FIELD.

"The Ambassador of Christ," by James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore. John Murphy & Co., publishers, Baltimore and New York.

Cardinal Gibbons is recognized as one of the ablest men connected with the Roman Catholic church, and his brilliant sermons and addresses are frequently published in the daily papers. This work is dedicated to his fellow laborers of the clergy, and is filled with kindly words of advice and comforting exhortations. While it will be of particular interest and value to the Roman Catholic ministry it can be read with pleasure and profit by those who are outside the pale of that church. The work of the priest—the ambassador of Christ—is discussed from every standpoint, and the excellence of the Christian priesthood is clearly shown. In his preface, Cardinal Gibbons makes the following interesting comment:

"I do not think that any age or country ever presented a more inviting field for missionary labor than that which the United States exhibits today.

"The word of God is not bound, or shackled here, as it has been elsewhere. No military satrap or State functionary is permitted to enter our churches in the capacity of an official censor, to arrest, fine or imprison a minister of the Gospel for his conscientious utterances in vindication of social morals, and in denunciation of official corruption. * * *

"The periodical whirlwinds of bigotry that sweep over the land soon subside, like the upheavals of nature, after spending their force. Nor are they an unmixed evil; they serve some useful purpose. They purify the moral atmosphere; they clear the spiritual skies, and give observant man a better insight into the uncreated world. They are winnowing winds, separating the wheat from the chaff. They are storms that try men's soul. They help to render the members of the church more loyal to their religion, and they awaken in serious and honest minds outside her pale salutary reflections, often resulting in their conversion. * * *

"Americans are fundamentally a religious people. They who characterize them as a Nation so absorbed in trade and commerce, in agriculture and politics, as to give scarcely a thought to eternal truths, judge them not correctly.

"A people having little regard for Christianity, would not spend millions annually in the erection of churches, and in the maintenance of home and foreign missions, as Americans are known to do. * * *

"According to a statement apparently authorized, the five leading denominations in the United States contribute annually $25,000,000 for the support of their respective churches and missions. And these contributions are not exacted as a compulsory tax, but are bestowed as voluntary offerings.

"The American people possess, also, in a marked degree, the natural virtues that are the indispensable basis of supernatural life. They are gifted with a high order of intelligence; they are self-poised and deliberate; they are of industrious and temperate habits; they are frank, manly and ingenuous. They have a deep sense of justice and fair play; they are brave and generous; and they usually have the courage of their convictions."

"The Evolution of an Empire: A Brief Historical Sketch of the United States," by Mary Platt Parmele. Published by William Beverley Harrison, New York.

In this volume the lessons of early American history are brought out in plain, direct language, with hardly a superfluous word. It is one of the best and most concise presentments of our country's history which has yet appeared, and is only marred by an unjust view of leading events in the late war. If Northern historians could be content to write without feeling called upon to applaud one section while abusing the other, their efforts would receive more consideration at the hands of Southern teachers and readers in general. A careful marshalling of familiar historical facts and intelligent comment upon events that have had marked influence upon modern conditions, are welcomed in a work of this kind, but when facts are distorted and thousands of honest men classed as traitors and renegades the work not only loses much of its brilliancy, but deserves the condemnation of every fair-minded scholar. In her comments upon the civil war the author endeavors to show that the South was jealous of the North's prosperity; that the South was enfeebled in wealth, in population, and that a large portion of it was in a condition of "ignorance, misery and depravity, below that of a slave." She also endeavors to prove that one section of the country was fighting "for the preservation and perpetuation of slavery, the other for the preservation and perpetuation of the Union." No wonder that Southern schools are now forced to use only those histories that are written by Southern men.

"The White Company," by A. Conan Doyle. Published by Street & Smith, New York. From Bottler Bros., Houston.

A story of the adventures of free lances fighting for fun and booty in the Middle Ages, that has been previously reviewed in this column. It is a very vigorous and entertaining story. Conan Doyle always describes historical events vividly and in the pictures of battles he is particularly clear.

"Up in McFadden's Flat" and "There'll Be No Wedding Here Today" are the titles of two new songs by Thomas M. Bowers of Houston. The first is a catchy Bowery song, and the music and words ought to make it a favorite for the stage, for whistlers and for hand organs. The other is of a pathetic and sentimental nature, with a sweet and melodious air, and promises to become very popular. Mr. Bowers is the author of "After the Play," "Little Woolen Stockings" and several other well known songs.

"The Life of General Phil H. Sheridan," by W. H. Van Orden, has been received from Bottler Bros., Houston. The volume is one of the war series now being published by Street & Smith, New York.

THE LATE MAGAZINES.

In McClure's Magazine for January are reproduced all the known portraits of Benjamin Franklin painted or drawn from life. There are fifteen of them, covering a period of thirty-one years, and they are the only authentic documents whence the present generation may derive any accurate conception of Franklin's features. Presented all together, as they are here, with excellent notes giving the history of each picture, they have an interest and value that can not be overestimated. Mr. Charles Henry Hart, the editor of the series, more than proves his competency, and the groups of life portraits of Washington, Hamilton and other great Americans that are presented in succeeding numbers of the magazine will now be awaited eagerly. Mr. Hamlin Garland's paper on Grant as a cadet at West Point, with its various illustrative documents and pictures, and the anecdotes and recollections of Grant by Longstreet, Frost, Franklin and other of his contemporaries at West Point, evolves the composed, capable, disciplined lieutenant from the rustic Ohio school boy in a very lifelike and entertaining way. There is an honest flavor of reality also in an illustrated paper describing the making and laying of an Atlantic cable.

In the National Magazine the table of contents for January opens with the third paper of that notable magazine serial, "Christ and His Time." The current paper sketches attractively the boyhood of Christ, the text being amply supplemented by twenty-six beautiful reproductions of the famous paintings by Holman, Hunt, Hoffman, Murillo, etc. The article second in importance is one by Edmund S. Hoch on the "Chicago Stockyards," in which every aspect of interest of the world's greatest meat center is described and illustrated in the most readable manner. "Hans Holbein and House decoration in Lucerne," by R. H. E. Starr, presents a subject never treated of before in any magazine. The illustrations show reproductions of some of Holbein's best and most beautiful work. The art interest which attaches itself to the article renders it especially noteworthy. A sketch descriptive of a unique arrangement by which our mails are handled in a certain locality of the United States is entitled "The Marine Mail Service," by E. S. Peck.

The opening pages of the North American Review for January are devoted to a paper by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, entitled "The Meaning of the Vote." Poultney Bigelow writes interestingly on "The German Press and the United States," while M. E. J. Kelley, from the workingman's point of view, discusses the effect of "Strikes as a Factor in Progress." A charming essay on "Genius in Children" is contributed by Andrew Lang, and in "Pending Problems" Hon. Allen W. Thurman sets forth the character of the financial problems with which the incoming administration will have to deal. An important paper from the pen of T. W. Russell, M. P., treats ably of the "Root Difficulties of Irish Government," and "Some Aspects of the Drama of Today" are presented by Herbert Beerbohm Tree, the talented and well known actor. Under the title of "Folly of Differential Duties," Captain John Codman pleads strongly for the revival of American shipbuilding, while Hon. Lloyd Bryce recounts some remarkably interesting reminiscences of the late election in "A Study in Campaign Audiences."

Justin McCarthy, Lyman Abbott, Hamilton W. Mabie, Candace Wheeler, Anna Eichberg King and General James Grant Wilson are among the contributors to the January magazine number of the Outlook. The beginning of the Outlook's great "Life of Gladstone," a study of the "New Governors," a humorous story, Dr. Abbott's "An Evolutionist's Theology," "A Day With John Burroughs," such are some of the features in the ninety-six pages of reading matter with their seventy illustrations. The new shape and typography greatly improve this well known journal, a "weekly and monthly," now in its twenty-eighth year. The Outlook company, 13 Astor Place, New York.

Lady Harriet Acland is one of the most interesting figures among women associated with the story of the American revolution. Highly born and bred, she followed her husband, Major Acland, from England to America and accompanied him on Burgoyne's tragical expedition from Canada to Saratoga. Major Acland's regiment was one of the most exposed in Burgoyne's army. Acland himself was severely wounded at the battle of Bemis' Heights. Lady Acland shared bravely the dangers of the forest and the field. The story of her adventurous experiences is told by Mrs. Frances H. Troup in an article in the January number of the New England Magazine entitled "An English Heroine in the American Revolution." Warren F. Kellogg, 5 Park Square, Boston, Mass.

"Root Difficulties of Irish Government" forms the title of a trenchant and effective paper from the pen of T. W. Russell, M. P., in the January number of the North American Review. The writer probes deeply into the causes which combine to create burning political discontent among the greater part of Ireland's population, seeing no help for it all but in a strong endeavor on all sides to right the wrongs of the past by a generous and determined recognition of the needs of the present.

The Bookman for January is filled with the latest literary news and comments upon well known writers of the past and present. "Frederick Saunders of the Astor Library" is an interesting article containing reminiscences of the oldest American librarian. "Upon Impulse" is an entertaining story, and "The Nationalization of Foreign Words" is a very bright discussion of some of our efforts to Anglicize foreign words and phrases.

On the Wrong Trail.

Texas Farm and Ranch.

The Houston Post has called on members of the legislature for an expression of opinion as to what measures should be considered and acted upon by that body when it meets. A number of these solons have replied, and these replies confirm the opinion heretofore expressed in these columns that we are too prone to pick any sort of material from the towns, and send it up for ninety days or longer, to Austin to wrangle over measures simple enough in themselves, but affording ample scope for airing erudition and repairing political fences. We believe that all the replies so far published confine themselves to the official fee question, the assignment law and the convict labor question—subjects that have been discussed for years through the papers, and in the legislative halls, until they are threadbare. They are of some importance, of course, in business and official circles, but of little interest to the masses of the people. These honorable gentlemen seem to overlook the fact that the prosperity of the State depends absolutely upon the success of the farms of the State. The courts may be inconvenienced by technical imperfections in legal procedure, and this may embarrass mercantile interests. These things ought, of course, to be remedied; but the paramount interest of the State is the output of the soil, and this interest is certainly worthy of consideration by lawmakers elected largely by the votes of the farmers. In promoting the agricultural interests Texas is far behind any and all the agricultural States, and the incoming legislature ought to set about removing this reproach. Provision should be made for farmers' institutes to be held systematically; for the publication of the proceedings of the various State organizations of practical farmers, fruit growers and stock breeders, and for collating a system of reliable agricultural statistics and crop reports. Legislation is needed to protect the State against infectious diseases of plants and trees and animals; for the extermination of pests of various sorts, and for the improvement of country roads. These and other important measures seem not to have occurred to the members who have aired their views through The Post.

SOME POSTSCRIPTS.

There are more American vessels on the Great Lakes than on the ocean, and their combined tonnage is greater.

The French losses in the Madagascar campaign aggregated 7895 men—nearly one-third of the whole French forces.

According to Homer's own account, Helen must have been at least 60 years old when Paris fell in love with her.

The strongest known wood is kranjiwood of Borneo, but Canada rock elm is stronger in proportion to its weight.

On a conservative estimate the apple crop of the United States this year amounts to two barrels for every man, woman and child.

A sleigh owned by Alden Bich of Gouldsville, Vt., was made 135 years ago, in 1741, but is still in use and good running order.

The city of New York alone consumes 60,000 "hams" of frogs in the year. These delicacies are now sold in tin boxes like other conserved meats.

It has been accidentally discovered that to bury a man up to his neck in wet sand is a practically certain cure for apparent death from an electric shock.

A woman's club has been formed in Beirut, Syria, by the European women. It was organized by Mrs. Hannah Korney, the Syrian envoy to the World's Fair.

Of 530 American citizens residing in Palestine, 438 are Russian Hebrews, who only stopped long enough in the United States to take out American papers and passports.

A French savant says that many perfumes aid health by destroying disease microbes. Thyme, lemon, mint, lavender, eucalyptus and other scents prove very useful.

Land has become very cheap in England. A grain farm of 753 acres, in Essex, has been sold for $31,400, although in 1872 it was valued at $100,000 and mortgaged for $90,000.

Out of a total population of 280,000,000 in British India, 44,000,000 are Mohammedans, who, although subjects of the queen, recognize the sultan of Turkey as their spiritual ruler.

A Philadelphia judge says that a third of the criminal business in his court grows out of the bicycle trade, and he is surprised to see so many persons "led astray by the bicycle."

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me," translated into one of the polynesian dialects, is made: "All the old stones split in two, let me get under a corner of one." So an ex-missionary says.

TEXAS BRIEFS.

Carthage has completed a $5000 school building.

A telephone line has been completed from Nacogdoches to Chireno.

The Texas Bankers' association will meet in Galveston on the 20th.

The Texas Game Protective association will meet in Austin January 25.

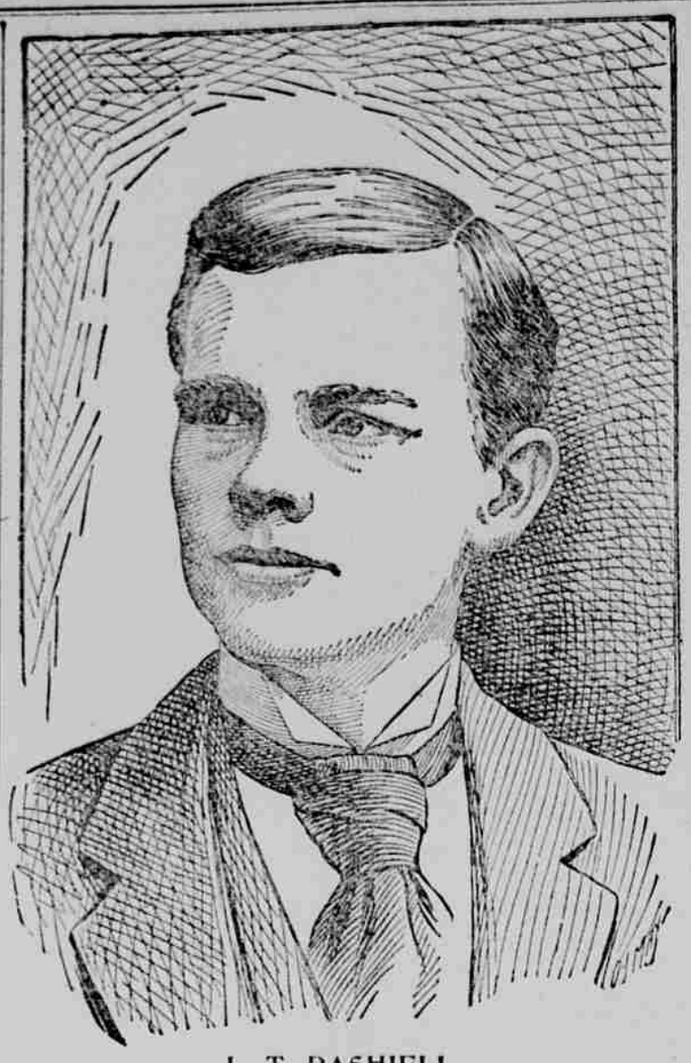
The strawberry growers of Alvin have formed an association for mutual protection and benefit.

The democrats of Greenville have held their primary election for city officers at the April election.

The Up-to-Date Version.

La Porte Chronicle.

All things may come to he who waits, but they come a heap swifter to he who hustles after them.



L. T. DASHIELL.

(All opposition having withdrawn, he will be the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.)

POST'S LETTER BO[X]

(This department is intended to [answer] questions that are of general interest. [Our] main object is to supply useful [information] facts and curious information. Questions of personal interest only will not be answered. No business or personal advice will be given. All correspondence should be addressed to The Letter Box, Houston Post. Owing to the large number of questions received, all answers cannot always be given promptly.)

Is it true that the Washington monument in the city of Washington changes its position every day?

The monument does not change position—if that is what you mean—from day to day the law of contraction and expansion of material by heat and cold exerts an influence upon the structure. It is true that when the sun shines full upon the eastern face of the monument in the morning the stones on that side expand and throw the shape slightly to the west, and when the sun goes around to the west the apex of the monument makes a corresponding swing to the north. As the sun creeps about the sky to its final setting in the evening the glittering point of the monument makes a complete circle, gradually settling back to its normal position as the rays of the sun have lost their power.

Please give to me the history and a brief description of the Yellowstone national park.

It is an area situated mainly in the territory of Wyoming, which has been withdrawn from settlement by the United States government and dedicated to the purpose of a public park. It is a region of hot springs and geysers, mountains and canyons, lakes and waterfalls. Its area is 3300 square miles. All game in this park is protected by the government and includes a herd of wild bisons. There are 3000 hot springs in the park and 71 geysers. Congress reserved the area from settlement in 1872, the first exploration under government survey having been made by Dr. F. W. Hayden in the preceding year. The most stringent laws have been enacted in regard to the killing of game, the starting of forest fires and the removal of the deposits of the geysers.

In a discussion which recently took place here it was denied that a human being could live with any foreign substance in the brain. Can you enlighten us on the subject?

Numerous cases are known in which foreign bodies have remained in the brain for a considerable time without causing serious results. Some years ago Dr. Agnew of Philadelphia published a list of over two such cases. Sir Thomas Longmore gives the case of an English officer who carried a musket ball in his brain for years. In another case a linch pin from a cannon was successfully removed from an artilleryman's brain after twenty days. In Erichsen's "Surgery" is contained a reference to a case in which a patient lived nearly seven years with a breech of a fowling piece, weighing ounces, lodged in his forehead and [illegible] on the surface of the brain.

What is the exact meaning of [illegible] used in medicine?

The empirics were a regular sect of ancient physicians in the time of Celsus and Galen, who give us some insight into the modes of thought and practice. They laid great stress on the unprejudiced observation of nature, and thought that careful collection of observed facts would bring a history, the coincidence of observations would lead to useful prescriptions for certain cases. The empiric in medicine is now understood to be a man who, for want of theoretic knowledge, prescribes remedies by guess, according to the name of the disease or to the symptoms, without thinking of the constitution of the patient or other modifying circumstances.

Please state through the columns of The Post as to whether or not the year 1896 will be a Leap Year. This is to settle a dispute. I contend it will not, for the reason why it will not be a Leap Year.

For the 999th time the Letter Box will answer this Leap Year query: Every year whose number is divisible by four leaves a remainder, is a Leap Year, except the full centuries, which, to be Leap Years, must be divisible by 400 without a remainder; 1900, therefore, is not a Leap Year. This is a simple rule by which the reader can be settled. The reason for the application of this rule has been frequently explained in this column.

Is it true that General G. W. C. Lee has resigned the presidency of Washington and Lee University? How long has he been at the head of that institution?

General Lee has been president of the university since the death of his father, General Robert E. Lee, in 1871. He recently tendered his resignation in consequence of his continued ill health. It was accepted, to take effect July 1, 1897. General Lee was appointed president emeritus for life, it being understood that he will continue to render such service to the university as his health may permit.

How many United States prisoners are there, and where are they located?

H. G.

There is only one United States prison, and that is a small affair, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Prisoners convicted of crimes under the United States laws are confined in such State penitentiaries as may be designated by the attorney general of the United States under agreements with State authorities. Over these State penitentiaries the general government has no control.

Who founded the sect of Universalists?

R.

Their belief—the final salvation of all men—has been advocated from the earliest times. The sect of that name, however, was founded in Great Britain in 1750 by James Relly, and in America by John Murray, about 1770.

Please tell me how and where I can find out how to make oleomargarine.

W.

Read the article thereon in the Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 17, page 764, which gives the mode of manufacture as carried on by the Commercial Manufacturing company, New York.

What was the Texas cotton crop for the season of 1895-96, September 1 to September 1?

Including the Indian Territory, which is usually counted in this State's cotton crop, last season's yield was 1,936,000 bales. Texas alone produced 1,924,000 bales.

Please tell me how to pronounce the first name in Rev. John Watson's (Ian Maclaren) "Ian Maclaren."

It is pronounced "I-an" in Scotch, "E-an" in Scotch and "Yon" in the Welsh land tongue.

Does any government prohibit lotteries? If so, which, and why?

We have never heard of any government taking such action.

When and where did the yellow dog first appear in the United States?

At Philadelphia, in 1829.

Where was Brigham Young born?

At Whittingham, Vt.