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The St. Paul Globe

OFFICIAL PAPER, CITY OF ST. PAUL.

THE GLOBE CO., PUBLISHERS.

Entered at Postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., as Second-Class Matter.

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SUNDAY, SEPT. 22, 1901.

PURSUING CARTER.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the department of justice or on the national administration for the excellent work done in the case of the embezzler, Oberlin M. Carter. Not only has the embezzler been convicted and sentenced for his crimes, but the receivers of certain of the stolen moneys and the securities representing them have been pursued with such diligence and skill that some fair proportion at least of his stealings will be surely recovered.

The latest information furnished through the press of the success of the efforts of the United States law authorities to trace the stolen funds is satisfactory in the extreme. The recovery of $200,000 of those funds at Huntington, W. Va., within a few days is the result of close and persistent pursuit of the moneys in the hands of the relatives and confidants of Carter. That the government has been able to recover $360,000 involves in itself a high tribute to the ability and devotion of those whom the government has entrusted with the work of having something like proper amends made to the public by this band of malefactors.

Whatever hesitation or failure prevailed originally in the prosecution and punishment of Carter has certainly been fully compensated for. If nothing further were done the United States has thoroughly vindicated in this case the reputation which it now enjoys of being able to bring to justice those of its servants who may engage in undertakings of plunder. It will help along the conviction that the federal official who deals dishonestly with his public trust must be an inordinately clever rogue if he is not finally brought to justice.

THE CZAR'S FRENCH VISIT.

In the existing condition of European politics it requires either an active imagination or a close internal knowledge of the policies of the chief nations to predicate on the present visit of the Russian ruler to France any event of immediate or even ultimate significance affecting international relations. Whatever the immediate object of the present visit of the Russian emperor may be, its effect is not likely to be any more far-reaching than as a confirmation of the already generally accepted truth that an alliance exists between France and Russia.

The first visit of the czar to France in many of its attending circumstances tended to promote the belief that Russian politicians were not over-willing to have undue importance attached to it by other nations. There is no such disposition shown on this occasion, and there is much in the prevailing demonstrations to justify the belief that Russia's chief ruler and its statesmen are entirely willing to commit their country in international affairs to the position of being the positive ally of France. What has led up to this most recent manifestation of Russo-French friendliness is not apparent to the ordinary intelligent student of passing events.

The recent pro-Gallic tendencies shown by Italy must probably be taken into account; but, aside from the strong presumption they create that the triple alliance will ere long be brought to a close, it is difficult to attach any particular importance to them. Nor, indeed, in any possible rearrangement of the relations of European nations consequent on the breakdown of the triple alliance is the position of Italy to be regarded as of any great import.

German diplomacy, and the internal policies of the German empire make toward the conviction that the present towering position of that nation is not likely to be seriously affected by the strengthening of the bonds of union between Russia and France or by any disruption of the Dreibund. There is nothing in the present relations of Russia and Germany, and there is no contingency which can now be regarded seriously, which will produce friction between these two nations. Russian statesmen are not mad, that they should be suspected of entertaining any thought of fighting over again the lost battles of France. Whatever Russian plans may be in the Balkans they cannot affect Germany save as the ally, offensive and defensive, of Austria, which she is not, nor can Russian designs either in the Balkans or in the East be regarded as having any interest to France save possibly in connection with the Gallic unfriendliness toward Great Britain. It is too remote, however, to seriously consider Russia as cultivating France through any such considerations; and it is equally out of touch with the philosophy of European political events to regard Russia as seriously contemplating any such new national entanglements with France or against any other nation as would impose on her even remotely the necessity to engage in warfare. Nor is the quarrelsome disposition evinced by France toward Turkey, which is more or less seriously influenced by the recent indications of friendly understanding between Turkey and Germany, to be regarded as likely in any event to be promoted by the Northern ally of France.

Looking at the present in the light of possible military events there is not a nation in Europe, France alone excepted, which is not actively interested in preserving international peace. Every declaration made by the young czar since his coronation negatives any such policy. His peace proclamation is not to be ignored. The assumption of any attitude toward other nations savoring of a belligerent spirit would be such a falsification of the pacific purposes outlined in that proclamation as to arouse the contempt of the civilized world.

French national pride is very much stirred by the visit of the czar. There is much in the event to warrant the tremendous excitement which it has created among the French people. The alliance between Russia and France which it now confirms beyond all possibility of denial is a great event for the French nation. It secures the French position. But, to the American mind it would possess much more value were it an alliance designed to promote the peaceful progress of the two nations and addressed to the promotion of the prosperity of the two peoples through the development of their respective material resources and the advancement of their respective commercial and productive interests.

ROOSEVELT'S PERSONAL SAFETY.

The determination of the president, indicated several days ago, to dispense with everything like a personal bodyguard, is indicative of a leading characteristic of the man. The stories which are now afloat of possible attempts on his life bring into greater prominence the attitude which Mr. Roosevelt takes on the subject of his personal safety.

The spirit shown by the successor to the victim of an assassin's bullet will receive the highest measure of appreciation from the American people. It is in line with the principle that an American official, however high, should not go around attended by those charged with the safety of his person, and that within proper limitations the president of this people should always be accessible by his fellow citizens for all legitimate purposes.

There is the danger, however, that from this spirit may arise a disposition to overlook reasonable precautions. Of course Roosevelt, the man, is looked upon as peculiarly able to take care of himself in anything like a personal physical struggle, and in that sense a personal bodyguard would be of very little practical value in securing his safety. But there is always the danger that some half-crazed person may act upon the impulse to do harm; and that disposition must always be counted on, and, so far as possible, guarded against.

No man who has been brought into general public notice for any extended period but has experience of the disposition of the morbid members of society to concern themselves inordinately about him and his movements. All such men are bothered by cranks in one direction or other; and, standing in the light of the deplorable assault on Mr. McKinley, President Roosevelt is for the present at least much more likely to be annoyed by the advances of such persons than will be the case later in his career as president. He has himself no doubt had sufficient experience in this general direction to understand fully the wisdom or unwisdom of the policy of dispensing with all personal protection.

The most urgent requirement of the present in this general direction is that the system of universal handshaking with the president shall be brought to an end. During his stay in Minneapolis recently Mr. Roosevelt had a public reception extended to him under the auspices of the Commercial club of that city. It was conducted under the system of personal invitation, and those who were received by the then vice president were personally known to the officers or managers of the club. This is a reasonable public undertaking. Such an occasion as that ending in President McKinley's death there is no longer any justification for whatever. It is impossible to guard against the advance of another Czolgosz on such an occasion; and, moreover, such occasions constitute something of an incentive to just such deeds by homicidal cranks of one kind or other.

President Roosevelt in this matter has acted in accordance with the popular idea of the true attitude of an American executive. His decision sustains the traditions and usages of our free system, and is on principle entitled to approval. But such an attitude on his part certainly ought not to be allowed to operate to prevent all necessary precautions being taken on public occasions especially for the safety of the chief executive.

WILL IT BE MAYOR LOW?

The selection of Seth Low as the mayoralty candidate of the anti-Tammany combination in New York represents the consummation of months of conference and consideration. Never before had a political movement been known to be in full operation throughout the midsummer. Yet in New York during the process of organizing the opposition to Tammany, political excitement has been at white heat. Indeed the strange condition has been presented to view of a political campaign being in active operation, at least on one side, before the candidates on either side had been chosen.

Will Seth Low be the next mayor of New York? The answer involves an attempt at prophecy. A consideration of the probabilities of the situation will not, however, be amiss.

Mr. Low was elected some years ago mayor of Brooklyn on the Republican ticket. He afterwards became president of the Columbia university. His subsequent candidacy for mayor of New York was unsuccessful. His selection as the candidate at this time is in some measure because the politicians believe that his success will more than overbalance his defeat, and that he is a stronger man now than he was when he made either his successful or his unsuccessful campaign.

Of all the candidates named throughout the months of conference and manipulation, Seth Low is easily the strongest. This is true, notwithstanding that his acceptability to the Platt Republican machine was long open to serious question, and even in the light of the possibility of the turning toward him of Platt's heelers in the coming campaign. With a German associate named on it for some prominent office, the Low ticket will probably be acceptable to the Germans. Mr. Low is personally acceptable to that nationality on account of his liberal attitude as mayor of Brooklyn on the liquor question. There is, moreover, no genuine reformer in any of the boroughs of Greater New York who does not recognize in President Low a strong representative of practical reform in politics. He is no mere doctrinaire, and one term as chief executive of a great city has given him the knowledge and experience without which in the event of his election he might be the merest putty in the grasp of the self-seeking clique which is invariably found at the head of such movements.

Little more than this can be said in favor of Prof. Low's candidacy. The movement which he is chosen to lead is above all designed to get control of the offices for a set of politicians who have been shut out for many years by reason of Tammany's control. There is no sentiment in the movement on the part of those people. Indeed there is no sentimental consideration whatever involved in the movement on the part of those actively engaged in it. Yet it is a movement which must absolutely depend for success on the devotion of the majority of the voters to the purely sentimental view of political conduct.

Tammany will enter the conflict for control of the offices thoroughly equipped in political organization and generalship. It has control of the city government, and in the hands of men like the Tammany politicians that circumstance, combined with their abiding confidence in success, means more than half the battle.

Seth Low may be the next mayor of greater New York; but the probabilities are certainly not very markedly in favor of his success. He is reasonably certain, however, to compel Tammany Hall to put forth its entire resources in order to avoid defeat.

ELECTRIC POWER ON RAILROADS

The substitution of electricity for steam power in railroad operation is one of the prospective events which have been engaging the attention of expert civil and mechanical engineers connected with the railroad service for some considerable period. The application of electricity as the motive power is in operation in many of the shorter railroads of continental Europe, and especially in Switzerland. The use of the electric motor on the Cascade division of the Great Northern railroad represents, perhaps, the earliest application even in limited form of electric power in the operation of trains on a great railroad system in the United States.

Articles recently published on "The Supersession of Steam by the Electric Locomotive," and on "Electric Traction," by distinguished engineering authorities, are the subject of discussion in a recent number of Nature. The general result reached in that discussion is that the profitable use of electricity as the driving power is feasible on metropolitan systems of local train service and on lines between important towns and cities not too far apart—100 miles being the distance indicated as a reasonable maximum by one of the writers mentioned.

The reason of the superiority of electric power in such systems is stated as being due to the fact that "electric traction tends toward the ideal of the continuously moving platform, and that the more nearly a railroad tends toward the same ideal the more likely is the adoption of electricity as its motive power; while, in the case of electric locomotives, the power is generated in bulk for a number of trains. Following up this general line of reasoning, Nature proceeds to discuss the subject in the following terms:

Since the generation of power in bulk is much cheaper than in detail, the tendency with steam locomotives is to make each detail as large as possible, and therefore to run heavy trains at long intervals. With electric working, on the other hand, it is desirable to make the load on the generating station as constant as possible, which can only be done when the number of trains is large and each only takes a small fraction of the total load; for in such a case the stopping and starting of individual trains will only have a small percentage effect on the output of power. It will readily be seen, therefore, that for long-distance traffic the steam locomotive is likely for some time to come to hold its own, for here the number of passengers is not so great as to be able to support a very frequent service of light trains, and, moreover, the time taken over the journey, being nearly the whole of the day or night, practically fixes the starting times.

To the unprofessional mind it is easily apparent that electricity on the great railroad systems of the country is not a likelihood for many years to come. But most of those immediately engaged in the great industry of steam and electrical communication are evidently far from being convinced that steam power is destined to continue its present ascendency even in the case of the great railroad systems of the world. If ever the utilization of electricity for train locomotion is made generally available the day of the steam locomotive is evidently numbered.

In specifying the advantages of the younger power in its application to railroad uses, Nature further summarizes in the following sentences:

Many additional advantages are introduced at the same time as the principal gain in the lessening of the cost of power generation. Thus the driving power can be distributed throughout the train, which results in lessening the wear of the permanent way and also in a lessening of the slip of driving wheels, as a greater proportion of the weight of the train is used for adhesion. It is easier, too, to provide power for accelerating the train and for mounting gradients, as the extra power needed in these cases is derived from an outside source, whereas, if a steam engine were made powerful enough for very quick acceleration it would be too powerful for economical working during the greater portion of its running time. The concentration of power generation at a few centers leads to many economies in working expenses; coal and water are only used at the generating station, and it is only there in consequence that means for their storage and handling have to be provided.

However distant the day may be when we will witness the general supersession of steam by electricity in railroad service, it is evidently the prevailing belief among railroad authorities that the event is certain to take place during this generation.

NOT WANTED—OPINIONS.

The impression created by the original ruling of the Schley court of inquiry on the admissibility of the opinion of Admiral Higginson on the question of the sufficiency of the attack on the Colon in the harbor of Santiago will not be favorable to the court. Nor will Admiral Dewey's attempt to justify the asking of the offensive question strengthen the popular faith in the good sense or impartiality of that officer.

Unless plain prejudice or injustice is revealed on the part of the investigating body its decision will be accepted as final with reference to Schley, whether it be favorable or otherwise. The inquiry would be little more than a public farce if it were otherwise. But the public prepossession in favor of Schley, as well as the popular conviction that he is sought to be made the victim of a naval clique, will operate to exact from the examining board the most rigid adherence to rules of equity and fairness throughout.

The opinion of any naval officer on the conduct of Schley will not be accepted by the American public as indicating anything more than individual prepossession, whether it be favorable or unfavorable to the accused officer. The determination of the board to put aside that line of inquiry is one practically into which at least one of its members, Admiral Dewey, appears to have been forced by stress of reasoning. What the public wants to get at is the facts, not anyone's opinion on the facts, save alone the opinion of the constituted court of inquiry.

Admiral Sampson, in passing the proofs of an official publication charging Rear Admiral Schley with cowardice, has made himself virtually sponsor for the serious reflection involved on the character and conduct of a brother officer. He has practically assumed that sponsorship in his subsequent statements and intimations. It is necessary to his vindication before the country that this court shall find the charge of cowardice sustained against Rear Admiral Schley.

The court of inquiry may find that Rear Admiral Sampson, being in command at Santiago, is entitled to all the credit of the victory. It may go even so far as to insist that the famous "loop" made by the Brooklyn was a mistake in naval tactics; and yet there may be found nothing to sustain the scandalous attitude assumed toward Schley by Sampson. The imputation put on Schley is that he not only blundered throughout, as commander of the flying squadron, but that his "loop" was an act of cowardice, and that his general disposition as a sailor was to such an extent to keep away from the enemy, that his usefulness was practically reduced to a minimum.

The Colon line of examination would seem to indicate that the court believes that Schley is called on to vindicate himself against this imputation. And we believe the court is right in so assuming. Let the credit of the victory, if necessary, be given to Sampson; but Schley must, if he is not beaten in this inquiry, receive from the court such a certificate of blamelessness that every imputation made against his courage and honor as an officer must forever be set at rest. This can only be done at the expense of Rear Admiral Sampson. But it must be done, in order to save Schley's reputation.

Bishop Cranston is one of the best verbal cartoonists in the West. He should represent himself, however, with cap and bells if he ever takes to the pencil for a living.

The special correspondents at Washington are filling space with accounts of possible cabinet changes. It is a harmless pastime and serves to keep their strings up to the average length.

Was it the "Quick or the Dead" that drove John Armstrong Chanler insane? It certainly could not have been the fair Amelie, who was so adored by her family, that unbalanced the mind of her hubby.

A little more than a year ago the great Chauncey, in speaking of one Theodore Roosevelt, said "We call him Teddy in New York." It will be interesting to know what "We" call him now in New York.

The Sampson witnesses are having their inning. They, however, don't seem to be able to make any home runs. They are doing a good deal of sliding for bases, but their hits are weak. This bunting the ball will not win.

Minneapolis has a smoke nuisance, but it is not of the chimney kind. The factory chimneys of Minneapolis have been giving off but little smoke of late. The nuisance consists in the vile stench blown from the lips of the cigarette fiend, and the other fellow who use a clay pipe without a consumer.

An impression is gaining strength that should an "arnakist" assault the present president he would meet with something like a Jacksonian reception. But instead of a cane, a six-shooter in the hand of an expert would be much in evidence, with the result that we would have one "arnakist" less in this country. So mote it be.

The story about Peary marooning the surgeon of his party on an iceberg, or some other chilly island of the arctic, suggests a pretty good means to get rid of the hot-headed anarchists. A ten years' banishment to the North of Greenland would cool their ardor to such an extent that they would be willing to commit suicide to get a change of climate.

It would appear from the howl of the "I-am-holier-than-thou" Republican over the deeds of the vile cartoonist that no one but the late president was ever cartooned. It seems that we have seen cartoons of Cleveland and Bryan, and if we are not very much mistaken, we have noticed somewhere cartoons of Charlie Towne and John Lind. People will get their senses in time.

So far as the Monroe doctrine is concerned it seems a little strange for the Spectator to be talking about England "accepting" that doctrine. England has accepted the Monroe doctrine and with it has admitted our right to protest against European encroachments upon this hemisphere as in the case of the Venezuelan boundary dispute, which, after a considerable amount of bluster, she consented to refer to an arbitration tribunal for settlement. — Minneapolis Journal.

England accepted the Monroe doctrine long before the Venezuela imbroglio. She acquiesced in its principles at the time of its inception and later solemnly acknowledged its binding force as to Central America in the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The dispute over the Venezuela boundary had nothing to do with the Monroe doctrine.

FACTS ABOUT PRESIDENTS.

St. Louis Republic.

Theodore Roosevelt is the youngest man who has ever filled the office of president of the United States; he is the first president whose birthplace was in a large city; he is the first who has achieved distinction in war, statesmanship and letters previous to taking the chief executive's chair; and, with the exception of Van Buren, he is the first whose paternal ancestors were of other stock than that which comes from the British islands. As if all these unique distinctions were not enough, he will bring to the White house the largest family of small children that ever made its old walls echo with shout and laughter.

The first presidents were all well advanced in years when summoned to that high office. Washington was fifty-seven, John Adams sixty-two; Jefferson, Madison and John Quincy Adams were each fifty-eight, Jackson sixty-two, Monroe fifty-nine, Van Buren fifty-five, William Henry Harrison sixty-eight, the oldest of all; Tyler fifty-one, Taylor sixty-two, Polk and Fillmore fifty. Pierce was the first president who was under fifty when inaugurated, his age at that time being forty-nine. Buchanan, who succeeded him, was almost as old as Harrison, sixty-six. Since 1860 four men under fifty, including Roosevelt, have reached the presidency. Grant was forty-seven, the youngest man up to the present time. Cleveland was forty-eight when first inaugurated and Garfield was forty-nine. Roosevelt is forty-three, four years younger than Grant. Lincoln was fifty-two when called to the White house, Johnson fifty-seven, Hayes fifty-four, Arthur fifty-one, Benjamin Harrison fifty-five and McKinley fifty-three.

All the presidents except Roosevelt, who is a native of New York city, were born either in the country or in small towns. Quincy, Mass., the birthplace of both the Adams, and Raleigh, N. C., the birthplace of Andrew Johnson, have been the largest towns until now that could boast such an honor.

Of the twenty-five presidents, fourteen, over one-half, were of English descent on their father's side. These were Washington, the two Adams, Madison, the two Harrisons, Tyler, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Lincoln, Johnson, Garfield and Cleveland. Five came of Scotch-Irish stock namely, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Arthur and McKinley, and three Scotch—Monroe, Grant and Hayes. Jefferson's paternal ancestors were Welsh, and Van Buren's, like Roosevelt, were Dutch.

Twenty of the presidents, including Roosevelt, have been lawyers. Two—Washington and Harrison—were farmers, but their elevation was due mainly to their achievements in war. Only two professional soldiers, however, have ever filled the presidential chair. These were Taylor and Grant. Johnson was a tailor before he became a statesman.

Sixteen of the presidents were college graduates. Washington, Jackson, Van Buren, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, Johnson, Cleveland and McKinley did not have the advantages of college training but some of these graduated at law.

All the presidents but one, Buchanan, have been married men. Washington, Madison, Jackson and Polk had no children, while some of the early presidents had large families. The only little folks at the White house during the first seventy years of the government were grandchildren, or other relatives farther removed than children, and these interrupted the quiet of the old mansion at rare intervals. The elder Harrison was the father of ten and Tyler of fourteen children, but in Harrison's case those who survived were grown when he became president. The same is true of Tyler's children by his first wife, who died while he was in office. The seven children by his second wife were born after his retirement. Lincoln took three boys to the White house, the youngest of whom was eight. Grant and Garfield had little ones, and so did Cleveland in his second term, but President Roosevelt breaks all the records in this particular, having an even half-dozen of happy, healthy, fun-loving youngsters.

Wherein He Might Fail.

Denver Times.

"Young man," said the stern parent, "do you think you will be able to support my daughter in the style to which she has been accustomed?"

Now, this young man might have taken advantage of a glorious opportunity to ring a chestnut bell, but he didn't. Instead he thought for a moment, and then replied:

"Well—er—I think so, with one exception."

"Aha! And what may the exception be, sir?"

"I don't hink I could be so infernally stingy with the gas."

His Trouble.

Philadelphia Press.

"Your life seems to be too monotonous," remarked the physician, "Don't you ever have any change?"

"Sometimes," replied the street car conductor, apologetically, "but then there is so many mugs that never has anything less than a five-dollar bill it keeps me hustlin'."

A LASTING GAME.

Puck.

I-hev watched 'em playin' checkers in the summer, fall an' spring,
Bill Boggs, Wes. Jones, Newt. Lane, Hi Smith an' Jason Fox, I jing!
I know 'em all jes' like a book, they're players good an' strong!
On 'special 'casions they've been known t' play the whul night long.
They gather at the grocery as regular as clocks
On evenin's in winter, an' they pick 'em out a box
High enough t' lay the board on. Then wise-heads begin t' pore
O'er the mystic game o' checkers there in Silas Johnson's store.

The board they play on 's worn so that the squares are dim, I swan!
And the checker-men, er pieces, all their vanished beauty's gone.
Why, I'll bet a million games hev on that faded board been played!
No cricket ever made the jumps them checker-men have made!
Year in, year out, the same sized crowd's been gatherin' of nights,
An' movin' some, an' studyin' more, till Si put out the lights.
The youngsters follow in the path their fathers trod before,
An' keep that game o' checkers up in Silas Johnson's store.

I've known o' folks a-movin' 'way, be gone maybe fer years,
An' when they'd come back visitin' they'd say to me: "It 'pears
Like nothin' looks jes' natural. All's changed 'at once we knew,
Except the store—they're doin' there jes' what they used t' do!"
You couldn't stop it if you'd try; it's jes' as much a part
Of life 'roun' here as eatin', an' lots closer t' the heart!
I reckon Gabriel's trump, when blown, will catch at least a score
O' fellers playin' checkers there in Silas Johnson's store!

A MEMORABLE SUMMER.

There are few persons now living who recollect the year 1816, says the Boston Globe, but European and American data represent it as having been phenomenal in almost every particular.

In New England the year went by the name of "eighteen-hundred-and-starve-to-death," and the summer months are known in history as "the cold summer of 1816," so remarkable was the temperature.

January was mild, so much so that for days the people allowed their fires to go out, as artificial heat made the buildings uncomfortably warm. This pleasant weather was broken by a severe cold snap in February, but this low temperature passed in a few days and a warmer condition, similar to the month previous, set in.

March "came in like a lion, but went out like a lamb." There was nothing unusual in the climatic conditions of the month which differed from those generally found in this windy season.

April was the advance guard of this strange freak in temperature. The early days were warm and bright, but as the month drew to a close the cold increased until it ended in ice and snow and a very low temperature.

May was a bitter disappointment. True, buds came, but so did the frost, and it one night laid all vegetation a blackened waste.

Corn was killed, and the field had to be made ready for another planting, but the people's astonishment was complete when they found ice formed to the thickness of half an inch in the pools.

June, "the month of roses," was this year a month of ice and desolation. Frost, ice and snow were common. Almost every green thing that had taken advantage of a few warm days to develop was killed, and various kinds of fruits were nearly all destroyed.

One day the beautiful snow fell to a depth of ten inches in Vermont, seven inches in Maine and three inches in Massachusetts and Central New York.

July was accompanied by frost and ice, and those who celebrated the glorious Fourth "not wisely but too well" found an abundance of ice handy for immediate use the next morning. It was not very thick, not more than one-sixteenth of an inch, but it was ice, and it caused the good people of New England, New York and some sections of Pennsylvania to look grave. That month Indian corn was destroyed in all but the most favored localities, and but a small quantity escaped.

Surely August would put an end to such cold weather, but the farmers, as well as hotel proprietors, were doomed to disappointment. The midsummer month was if possible more cheerless than the days already passed. Ice formed even thicker than it had done the month before and corn was so badly frozen that it was cut for fodder and almost every green plant in this country, as well as in Europe, was frozen.

Papers received from England stated that the year 1816 would be remembered by the generation then living as a year in which there was no summer.

What little corn ripened in the unexposed states was worth almost its weight in silver, and farmers were compelled to provide themselves with corn grown in 1815 for the seed they used in the spring of 1817. This seed never cost so much, being difficult to get even at $5 per bushel.

The last month of summer was ushered in bright and warm, and for two weeks the now almost frozen people began to tha out. It was the mildest weather of the year, but just as the inhabitants got fairly to appreciate it, old Boreas and Jack Frost came along and whitened and hardened everything in their path.

On the 16th ice formed a quarter of an inch thick, and winter clothing that had been laid away for a few days was again brought forth and wrapped round shivering humanity.

By this time the people had given up all hopes of again seeing the flowers bloom or hearing the birds sing, and began to prepare for a hard winter.

October kept up the reputation of its predecessors, as there was scarcely a day that the thermometer registered higher than 30 degrees.

November was also extremely cold and sleighing was good the first week of the month, but strange to relate December was the mildest and most comfortable month of the entire year, a condition which led many people to believe that the seasons had changed about.

Of course the cold spell sent breadstuffs to an unheard-of price and it was impossible to obtain for table use many of the common vegetables, as they were required for seed.

Flour sold in 1817 in the cities for $13 per barrel, and the average price of wheat in England was 97 shillings per quarter.

THE LETTERS ON PAPER MONEY.

New York Times.

"Talking of counterfeiters," said an ex-treasury official the other day, "puts me in mind of one thing that few people outside of the treasury department know about paper money. Many notorious counterfeiters have been captured through the lack of knowledge of it."

Here the speaker reached down into his pocket and fished out a one-dollar bill. It was a new one, and he pointed out a diminutive letter C on the right, under the bill's number, and another down in the other corner.

"Now," he continued, "I don't suppose you can tell me what these seemingly unnecessary letters are on the United States bills, nor what they signify. Well, take any one of these bills and tell me what the last four figures of its number are."

The bill was taken and the treasury man informed that the last four figures were 5,332. Almost instantly he said: "The letter on that bill is B." When the bill was examined the diminutive B was found on it in two places.

Half a dozen other bills were similarly tried and the ex-treasury official was able in each case to tell what letter would be found on the bill. The letter was always either A, B, C, or D.

"The explanation is simple," said the expert in paper script. "If you divide by four the number on any United States treasury note, no matter what its denomination, you will, of course, have a remainder of one, two, three, or naught. If the remainder is one, the letter on the bill will be A; if it is two, the letter will be B; if it is three, the letter will be C, and if it is zero, meaning that it divides evenly, the letter will be D.

"This is one of the many precautions taken by the government against counterfeiters. It is not an infallible precaution, of course, but you may be pretty sure that if the rule does not apply the bill is a counterfeit."

ENGLISH IN ENGLAND.

Harper's Magazine.

If you ask a guest at your home in England whether he likes his meat rare, he asks what you said, because he does not understand you. He calls meat underdone when it is not thoroughly cooked. If you tell him you fear the asparagus is canned he is at a loss again, because he would have said it was tinned. To ask him to pass the powdered sugar will again set him to wondering, for he calls it icing sugar, generally, though he knows that it is sometime called caster or sifted sugar. And if you have candy on the table you may not call it so without betraying your foreign origin, for he calls candy "sweets," abbreviated from "sweetmeats," and used to designate all preserves, puddings, pies, candies, and jams.

To go further along the eccentricities of English at the dining table, most persons know, I suppose, that the beet is called beet root, corn starch is corn flour, corned beef (or a particular cut of it) is called "silversides of beef," and napkins are serviettes.

If in a shop I say, "I want a paper of pins," the clerk says, "Thank you. A great many Americans in London now, aren't there?" "Oh, yes," I say; "I meant a packet of pins." To ask for a spool of cotton is to set a clerk to staring at you, and to speak of a baby carriage is to speak of the unknown, because spools of cotton or silk are called reels and baby carriages are known as perambulators—shortened to "prams" in the speech of millions.

THE ROMANCE OF THE HANOVER TREASURE.

London Truth.

The story of the Duke of Cumberland's fortune has been just related by Herr von Hassell. His father, George V., had a narrow escape of finding himself both kingdomless and penniless. The state treasures of Hanover were only placed in safety a few hours before Prussia declared war on the excellent blind king. The person who saved the financial part was Herr Klenck, chief secretary of the exchequer. He had to remove 720,000 thalers in silver, 39,000 crowns in gold, worth about 30 shillings each; £54,000 in English bank notes, £36,000 in Prussian thalers, £250,000 in Hanover bank notes, and £19,000,000 worth of English, Dutch, French and other government bonds. The gold crowns were packed in seventy-nine wine tubs, the bonds in ten chests, the Hanover bank notes, in bales, and the thalers in crates lined with tin. This variety in the packing was to prevent notice being taken at the railway or the port of embarkation, where Prussian agents were reported as on the lookout. These barrels and bales were taken by an ordinary goods train to an outlying station, and then rapidly shifted to a special train that was to go at full speed to Geestemunde. It started at 11:30 p. m., on June 15, 1866. But they had forgotten to order station masters to keep the line lighted, and the enginemen had to creep along in momentary fear of an accident. The train was late for the steamer that was to take the treasure to England. The risk of taking it on board a Lloyd's steamer, the Bremen, had to be run on the night of June 17. Klenck grew gray in the two days of suspense. Prussian men-of-war were hanging about near the mouth of the Elbe. The Bremen entered Southampton on June 19, and did not sight a single Prussian vessel on the way.

CHINESE HORRORS.

The Cornhill.

We pause by the grave of the sister superior who lay dying as the relief came in—"to late for me," as she wrote. Her one thought for days past, "What can I give them to eat tomorrow? What can I give them to eat? There is nothing left." "The poor soldiers," said another sister, "they suffered so from hunger, although they tightened their belts every day. I tore all my letters into bits and made them into cigarettes. Burned paper is better than nothing. And they had nothing to smoke. That is so hard for a soldier." Then we paused by the great pit where so many children lie buried, blown up by the mine. "And we think there must be another mine over there not yet discovered," said the new sister superior, there have been completely shattered at "If not, why should that house over the time of the explosion, if there were no mine connecting it?" The sisters are all great authorities upon mines and shells now. They know, too, which trees' leaves are poisonous, and tell how the Chinese Christians swelled and suffered, trying to sustain life by eating them.

They showed the remainder of their school children; three among them had before the siege lost both their feet through footbinding. "Surely you did not sleep here, while the cannonading was going on?" "We always moved about with all our tail of children after us to where they seemed to be firing less," said the young Portuguese sister with the luminous brown eyes. Then came up an old sister of seventy-six. She, too, had survived the siege. We visited the bishop. "Did any of your Chinese recant?" "A few, very few." "I think 12,000 Christians have lost their lives," said Mgr. Favier, "three of our European priests, four Chinese, and many of our Chinese sisters. One priest hung on a crucifix, nailed, for three days before he died. Mgr. Hamer they killed by cutting his arms and legs to the bone, filling the cuts with petroleum, and then setting them alight. What saved us? Oh, a series of miracles! Nothing else. Yes! I know people are talking about my looting. But my conscience is quite clear in the matter. I know what I am doing is right. Let them talk!"

BOBBY ON PARENTS.

Tid-Bits.

Parents are things which boys have to look after them. Most girls also have parents. Parents consist of pas and mas. Pas talk a good deal about what they are going to do, but mostly it's mas that make you mind.

Sometimes it is different, though. Once there was a boy came home from college on vacation. His parents lived on a farm. There was work to be done on the farm. Work on a farm always has to be done early in the morning. This boy didn't get up. His sister goes up to the stairway and calls:

"Willie, 'tis a beautiful morning. Rise and list to the lark."

The boy didn't say anything. Then ma calls:

"William, it is time to get up. Your breakfast is growing cold."

The boy kept right on, not saying anything. Then his pa puts his head in the stairway, and says he:

"Bill!"

"Coming, sir!" says the boy.

I know a boy that hasn't got any parents. He goes in swimming whenever he pleases. But I am going to stick to my parents. However, I don't tell them so, 'cause they might get it into their heads that I couldn't get along without them. Says this boy to me:

"Parents are a nuisance; they aren't what they are cracked up to be."

Says I to him:

"Just the same I find 'em handy to have. Parents have their failings, of course, like all of us, but on the whole I approve of 'em."

Once a man says to me:

"Bobby, do you love your parents?"

"Well," says I, "I'm not a-quarreling with 'em."

Good News.

Puck.

"Ho! I have good news for you!" said the commander of the polar expedition. "This is our last boot leg!"

Hereupon the crew cheered lustily, and fell to and ate with exceeding appetite. For when they should have eaten this they would signal to their rescuing party, waiting in the offing, there, to come and rescue them.

OLD LACE.

Fold upon fold,
Yellow as gold,
Woven by delicate fingers of old,
Here in its place
Grandmother's lace
Lies like a dream of her maidenhood's grace.

Fragrance of rose
Out of it flows,
Leaves of the past that its meshes inclose;
Sweets of old days,
Lavender sprays,
All that a maid in her treasure chest lays.

Fair as her head,
Thread over thread,
Sleeps the old lace that she wore when she wed.
Beautiful day!—
But fold it away,
Grandmother's lace, and the rose, and the spray!

—New Lippincott.

LOVE.

My love for thee is like ——— my love for thee ———
Soul of my universe, it stands alone!
On all by poets dreamed, or prophets shown
It levies tribute, yet lacks simile.
'Tis of the elements, God's earth, the sea
And sun. 'Tis all the human heart hath known
For lover, parent, friend, and child in one ———
Spirit made flesh, as flesh shall spirit be.
'Tis suffering supreme, whose passioned tide
Ceaseless beats back and forth from joy to pain,
But Godlike most of all when most belied
By giving life a crown of thorns to gain.
Yet, though its heaven is snatched from hell's abyss,
The greatest grief would be its Heaven to miss!

—Marguerite Merington, in the September Scribner's.

DEFECTIVE PAGE