The Sun.

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Citizens' Ticket.

For Governor, D. Cady Herrick of Albany.

For Lieutenant-Governor, Francis Burton Harrison of New York.

PLATFORM.

Odellism and not Republicanism is the State issue.

The immediate and most urgent duty of good citizenship is to smash the Grocery.

No party lines on this issue.

The Indictment.

It is already evident that the citizens of the State of New York would welcome an explanation by Governor-Chairman ODELL of the following plank in the Democratic State convention platform:

"For the first time in its history the Empire State has a Governor whose personal integrity rests under widespread suspicion. He has surrounded himself by high officials and advisers under whose malign influence the public revenues of the State are largely diverted to private profit."

This plank represents the expression of 655,398 of our citizens who voted at the State election for Governor in 1902. The convention which adopted it unanimously was made up of 450 delegates, three from each Assembly district in the State, duly elected according to the strict primary and convention laws of the State. The delegates and the convention which adopted the plank represented the 655,398 voters who participated in the State election two years ago, and, besides, the plank is a digest of the daily sayings of Republicans in every Assembly, Senate, Congress and judiciary district in the State.

The difference, though, is that while the plank in the Democratic State platform is in fact a document of regular and formal official purport, the chagrin and anger of our Republican citizens with regard to the Governor-Chairman have not yet found official expression.

An Overlooked Advantage Which the Japanese Possess.

There are, of course, several reasons for the series of successes which the Japanese have gained on sea and land, including the fundamental fact that they were far better prepared at the outset of the contest than their opponents. There is one circumstance, however, to which scarcely any attention has been given, but which must have proved of material assistance, so far as the operations in Manchuria are concerned.

It is obvious that, alike for strategic and tactical purposes, a thorough knowledge of the ground and of the enemy's movements is of signal, if not vital, moment to the commander of an army. The importance of the intelligence department is not exaggerated when it is described as an army's eyes and ears. We may admit, for the sake of argument, that a Russian scout or spy can use his eyes as well as the Japanese; but the former labors under a grievous disability from which the latter is exempt, in that his ears are of little or no use to him, because he can neither speak nor understand Chinese. He is conversant neither with the dialects which constitute the mother tongues of the millions of emigrants from China who have settled in the three Manchurian provinces, nor the "Mandarin" language, which is spoken and understood by at least a fraction of the inhabitants in each locality.

This is a disability—the lack of acquaintance with the vernacular of an occupied territory—from which the Russians have been quick to relieve themselves in Central Asia, and they undoubtedly contemplated effective measures to that end when they first undertook to construct the Manchurian railways with a view to the eventual absorption of the region through which they run. An Institute for Eastern Languages was established at Vladivostok, for the purpose of training students in the Mandarin language and in those Chinese dialects which are most widely current in Manchuria; but the war with Japan broke out before any considerable service could be rendered by this college. Consequently the Russian commanders, like the railway constructors who preceded them, have been obliged to rely for hearsay information almost exclusively on the Chinese who could speak "pidgin" Russian and who had settled in Russian territory and were willing to enter Russian employment. Now, "pidgin" Russian, like "pidgin" English, may suffice for the conduct of a household or of a store, but its vocabulary is extremely limited, and, manifestly, cannot be relied upon in matters of grave importance, like those affecting the objectives and movements of an army.

This would be true even if the Chinese employees were trustworthy and if the resident Chinese from whom they would have to seek correct information would be inclined to give it out of sympathy for the Russians. As a matter of fact, neither of these conditions exists. The Chinese spies in Russia's pay are rarely loyal to their employers, and they are regarded by the Chinese settlers in Manchuria with suspicion and detestation as traitors to their country. The result is that the army under Gen. KUROPATKIN possesses eyes, so far as these can be contributed by Cossack scouts, but has no ears that can be depended upon. Its plans, therefore, are conceived and carried out under the serious disadvantage that it lacks reliable and exhaustive knowledge of the ground and of its opponent's movements.

From this point of view, the Japanese possess a great advantage. A collision with Russia was long foreseen, and before the outbreak of the present contest a large number, not only of Japanese officers, but of Japanese soldiers, had been at the pains to acquire the Mandarin language and certain Chinese dialects, for the express purpose of obtaining correct information from the natives of the country in which it was foreseen that their forces would have to operate. Unlike the Russian common soldiers, who in many cases are unable to read or write their mother tongue, even the Japanese privates, for the most part, have been to an up-to-date school and learned to read and write the Chinese characters. It follows that a Japanese scout would be qualified to secure exact intelligence about distances, or the names of places, or the manœuvres of the Russian troops. He would understand precisely what was said to him, and he could rely upon what he heard, for the native Manchurian would not deliberately mislead him, being secretly or avowedly desirous of Japan's success. The Russians, on the other hand, forced to depend wholly on native interpreters, who even if they were not treacherous would be intentionally misinformed by the natives whom they should interrogate, have been continually crippled by their inability to learn what their opponents were doing, or to ascertain the names and distances of localities, or to get accurate accounts of roads, villages, hills and rivers.

The more carefully the weakness of the Russian intelligence department is considered the more weight is likely to be attached by the student of the operations in Manchuria to this cause of discomfiture.

Standing Together.

The Hon. CARTER GLASS of the *Lynchburg News* blows himself, so to speak, into this iridescent bubble:

"For the first time since 1892 Democrats all over the Union are standing together."

This recalls that ancient adjuration of the comic Captain to his awkward squad: "Step out of the ranks and see how crooked ye are."

See how the Democrats are standing together. The Judge stands on the ground that protection is robbery. The Patriarch stands for incidental robbery. Here is an editor who stands for the Republican policy in the Philippines. Yonder is an editor whose legs tremble so at the thought of the Republican policy in the Philippines that he can't stand. BRYAN, the greatest individual force in the party, stands, unreconciled and unchanged, for the policies of 1896 and 1900. The Gold Democrats distrust the Bryanites and are thoroughly distrusted by them. And so on.

What common platform, if any, unites these two or three or half a dozen parties which compose the Democracy? Just about this:

"We want to get in."
"Our feet are cold."

The Next Canadian Election.

More than a year ago there prevailed in Canada a belief, which was little short of a positive assurance, that a national election would be held during the autumn of 1903. So firmly was the Opposition convinced that an election would be declared by the party in power that it proceeded with a tentative organization and plans for the campaign. But the plans of the Liberals went into the air through the necessity for another session of Parliament for the purpose of revising the bill for the new transcontinental railway. Final action on that measure was had last May, and the question of a national election again appeared. It now seems certain that an election will be held at an early date, probably in November.

No other election in Canadian history has been so charged with important meaning as that which, in any case, must occur within the next twelve months. Issues are involved which will give the event only less of significance to the United States and to England than to Canada herself. The Canada of to-day is not the Canada of even five years ago. It is not at all the Canada of 1896, when the Liberal party came into power. During the last eight years the Dominion has taken a new and larger place in the world, both politically and commercially. Her foreign trade has doubled, her population has increased, and her home industries have multiplied. Eight years ago she sought reciprocity with the United States; to-day her prosperity has made her indifferent to such relations, while any suggestion of annexation is an offence. It is even possible that the fiscal policy of the mother country will be determined by Canadian action. Canada can get along without England much better than England can get along without Canada.

With the possible exception of the tariff question—and even that is by no means simple—the campaign will be full of complexities. The Liberals, now in power, will have a strong card to play in the record of national prosperity and advancement during their régime. They will claim a credit which does not rightly belong to them. Coming into power in 1896 nominally as a party of free trade, they have adopted and pursued the system of moderate protection inaugurated by the Conservatives, whom they then defeated. Probably no other institution has contributed so largely to Canadian development as the Canadian Pacific Railway, built during the time of Conservative control. Great natural resources and individual effort and energy have been more potent factors in national growth than the fiscal policy of the Liberal party. Nevertheless, that party will claim the credit for the vast industrial expansion of the country.

The features most likely to confuse the election are the new transcontinental railway and the Chamberlain proposal for an imperial zollverein. Neither can be adopted as a distinct policy by any single party. Supporters and opponents of both appear in the ranks of both parties. Confusion will arise also on other issues. Perhaps the only question on which lines can be drawn with any decided sharpness is that of the national fiscal policy. The Liberals will stand for the present system of moderate tariff, which furnishes revenue and a limited measure of protection to home industries. This protection is supplemented by a system of bounties. The Conservatives will undoubtedly declare for a more decided protection. The contest will be no jug handle affair, although the Liberals hold an important advantage in the control of the national machinery and in the record of progress shown since they came into power. The Opposition has a number of forceful leaders and will put up an energetic fight, with a good chance of success at the polls.

The campaign is really now in process, although no definite announcement has been made regarding the date of the election. The leader of the Opposition, Mr. R. L. BORDEN, seemingly the man most likely to succeed Sir WILFRID LAURIER as Premier in the event of Conservative success, is already in the field. So are a number of lesser lights. The announcement of the date of election will be the signal for the opening of a contest in which the present movements are only preliminary skirmishes.

The Philippine Opium Question.

A little more than a year ago Mr. TAFT, then Governor of the Philippines, gave his official approval to a bill providing for the restriction of the opium traffic in the islands. The measure caused a storm of protest from those earnest and worthy people in this country who are strongly opposed to any act which can be construed into an official recognition or sanction of the sale of liquor or opium. The bill was carefully and deliberately drawn to meet a serious condition and with every purpose to meet it in the wisest way. But such trivial things as cold facts never seem to trouble people whose only remedy for such evils is an impossibility.

Out of deference to this opposition, further action was suspended, pending a report from a committee appointed to investigate the system of regulation of the opium traffic throughout the different countries in the Far East. That report has now been submitted. After a study of the matter in all the lands in which the question appears, the commissioners report in favor of the establishment of a rigid Government monopoly of the sale of the drug in the Philippine Islands.

Governor TAFT estimated the number of Chinese in the Philippines addicted to the habitual use of opium at 100,000. Prohibition he declared to be ineffective, if not utterly impossible. Under the present feebly restrictive system the use of opium is spreading among the native population. The matter is steadily becoming more serious. The desirability of action at the earliest possible moment is beyond dispute.

Those who are most familiar with the situation assert the utter futility of a prohibitory law, although its enforcement would seem to be at least a theoretical possibility. So is the suppression of the liquor traffic in this country. Yet with all our better facilities for the enforcement of such laws, prohibition has not been an unqualified success. Regarding the opium traffic in the islands, the opinion of the most competent authorities is that nothing remains except the question of the best and most effective system of restrictive regulation as a preliminary step to ultimate prohibition at a time when, under the operation of restrictive laws, the number of habitual users shall have been so reduced as to make possible a policy of effective prohibition.

As neither Mr. TAFT and his advisers of last year nor the committee appointed for the investigation of systems in other lands had any personal ends whatever to serve, it may be assumed that their conclusions are entirely honest and in every way more competent and well advised than the opinions and views of those whose lack of specific information makes them mere theorists. Between the theories of those who do not know and the convictions of those who do know, the weight of wisdom is with the latter.

The Martyr Marmot of Punxsutawney

"Punxsutawney-on-Mahoning,
Loud your tables are a-groaning,
Your bright knives shine and slay;
Punxsutawney, sweet and lucky,
Punxsutawney, all woodchucky,
O peerless Punxsutawney, huzza for Woodchuck Day!"

So sings the Hon. CLEMENT HOOVER FREAS, Supreme Secretary and Poet Laureate of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, in his "Arctomysia on the Creek" (1899). Last Thursday was fragrant in the nostrils and hot i' the mouth of Punxsutawney. Annually on that day, in accordance with immemorial custom, the groundhoggers have a solemn "meet" and prepare the weather of the year to come and assay the woodchuck of the current year. The hunters set off early in carriages. They came from all the marmot worshipping totem villages, from Bellwood, Brookville, Altoona, Glen Campbell, Clearfield, Du Bois, McGees Mills and Pittsburg. The grand hunt began at Canoe Ridge. The grand round-up was rounded in Miller Stoops. Though the procession was much hampered by hampers, as Dr. HUGHES, the Club Mixologist, and Dr. HAMILTON, the Surgeon, report, the quarry was satisfactory. Captain-General the Hon. LEMON CHAMBERS, Master Digger FACKNER, Master of the Hounds FREAS and Chief of Woodsmen BREWER verified the number of the game as 13. The Official Woodchuck was not captured until 5 P. M. The fate of this unfortunate is told by our old friend the Punxsutawney *Wine and Spirits*:

"On one or two occasions since the advent of man upon the earth the groundhog in charge of the weatherworks at the time either missed his calculations or wilfully deceived mankind in the quality of weather handed out for the six weeks following Feb. 2. The descendants of this wicked woodchuck have multiplied, and it is the mission of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club to exterminate him. When, therefore, one of them has been located in a hole a great cry goes up from the wise ones of the club, who alone are endowed with the power to identify his kind. The tabooed marmot is unceremoniously yanked from his lair and held up to scorn during the remainder of the day or until all the uncontaminated groundhogs which have been captured are safely stowed away in the stomachs of their captors. The disreputable woodchuck is then boxed up and shipped to Col. FRANK RIDGEWAY of Pittsburg, and when stuffed and mounted is placed conspicuously in the Pittsburg weather bureau. There he remains as a horrible reminder of the fate that awaits the forecaster who makes a mistake in his predictions."

A warning to weather prophets, a race that delights to "stuff" the world.

Of the many cates at the dinner, "succulent chunks" of 'chuck have the most engaging flavor to the palate of the sociologist. As a subterranean food the 'chuck had to be purified from rheumatic tendencies by "copious draughts of Dr. S. J. HUGHES's celebrated groundhog punch," a condensed fuel much in use in Punxsutawney. When the woodchuck had been well washed down, the Official Declaimer, the Hon. WILLIAM FAINMAN, high-vaulted happily:

"When COLUMBUS landed, when the noble red man roamed these hills, when the Pilgrim fathers pioneered, when WASHINGTON cut the cherry tree, when the wild tigers stole through this wilderness, before CORNWALLIS had surrendered at Yorktown, before MEADE had thrown back the Southern hosts from the bloody field of Gettysburg, and before GRANT had taken the stars and bars at Appomattox, there lived on this historic spot a citizen that we all have grown to honor and respect. His name is Br'er Groundhog. [Cheers.]

"COLUMBUS has gone, the noble red man has gone, the Pilgrim fathers have gone, the cherry tree has disappeared, the wild tigers have left their pelts on the hardwood floors, grass has grown on the forsaken ramparts at Yorktown, tombstones stand on the field of Gettysburg, and we have forgiven and are trying to forget all that closed there at Appomattox, but here among us—in our midst, as the country editor would say—is Br'er Groundhog and Mistress Groundhog, waxing each of them fat and hearty."

After wild cheers for the 'chuck and the chanter, a very noble poem was sung to the tune of "In Cincinnati" by the Hon. C. M. PAYNE, Artist and Sonneteer:

"I've travelled quite a little bit in many a foreign land.
Berlin is quite a city and the sights are simply grand;
My eyes were opened quite a little bit in gay Paree,
But still there's only one fine place in all this world for me.

"In Punxsutawney, in Punxsutawney,
In Punxsutawney, oh, that's the place I want to go.
For real enjoyment, well, I declare,
You can't beat Punxsutawney; tell me, were you ever there?

"Our correspondence takes in quite a lot of queer named towns.
We write to lots of places that don't spell just like they sound.
The superintendent of the mails will back up what I say—
The name that makes us stop and think and then spell the wrong way

"Is Punxsutawney, is Punxsutawney.
It's likely you'll forget to put the 's' behind the 'x.'
Of mixed-up letters there's quite a bunch.
And you can't spell Punxsutawney till you're full of Groundhog Punch."

A glorious day for sporting, meteorology, gourmandism, eloquence, poetry, punch and the Woodchuck. At an early hour this morning the Hon. CONRAD ALDENBERGER, geologist, telephones that the club is "still rocky."

Hunting for a Lost Explorer.

In 1899 the Seventh International Geographical Congress, meeting at Berlin in the neighborhood of the birthplace of Dr. LEICHHARDT, a famous explorer of Australia, adopted a resolution encouraging the proposed search expedition in the desert of Australia for the purpose of seeking relics of his last expedition and information concerning his fate. The eighth Congress, at its meeting in New York the other day, voted to take no further action, as persistent efforts are being made in Australia to solve the mystery of LEICHHARDT'S disappearance.

It is not a new story. Dr. LUDWIG LEICHHARDT was one of the most brilliant pioneers in Australian discovery. After achieving success that made him famous, he entered the interior desert fifty-five years ago, and was never heard of again. He is almost the only modern explorer who has been swallowed up in the unknown, leaving no trace. He disappeared from view at the time the world was praising his second book, which he never saw except in manuscript. Large rewards were offered for his rescue or for news of his fate, but the search parties, some of them a year in the field, came back empty handed.

The revival of the search for LEICHHARDT is due to an interesting fact. It is probable that no one to-day could enter the waste regions of Australia leaving no discoverable trace. The desert has lost its terrors. The camel has been introduced for desert travel. Sources of water, feeding grounds for live stock, small groups of aborigines have been found in the heart of the continent. The Leichhardt search parties did not dare to penetrate far into the sand wastes. The explorer to-day goes where he pleases, knowing that with care and special equipment no harm is likely to befall him. The work of the next decade will probably reveal, in outline at least, the whole geography of inner Australia.

The new and easier phases of Australian exploration encouraged the hope that the mystery might be cleared up at last. For this reason a small expedition was sent out, four years ago, to search for Leichhardt relics in the northwestern part of the desert; and every explorer who now goes into the interior is especially charged to lose no opportunity to look for traces of the lost explorer and to regard every part of the interior as the possible repository of the desired information.

If nothing positive has yet been learned, at least some false reports have been run to earth. The reports that LEICHHARDT'S records had been found, that one of his comrades was still living in a native tribe, that the explorer's saddle had been discovered in the desert, are examples of stories that have been fully investigated and found to be groundless. The hope remains, however, that just as the fate of Sir JOHN FRANKLIN was revealed after many years, so the Leichhardt mystery may yet be cleared up.

It was pitiful that a man as prominent as this enthusiastic young German was in revealing a new continent should utterly vanish from view. He was like LIVINGSTONE in that he not only himself revealed large regions of the unknown, but also stimulated the zeal of others and gave an impetus to exploration. He surpassed all his predecessors in the extent of his discoveries in Australia. He gave years to the exploration and geological study of New South Wales. He was the first to reveal Queensland throughout its northern and southern extent, tramping for 3,000 miles with seven comrades, passing from the temperate to the torrid regions, mapping new rivers and mountain ranges, describing many tribes, and living wholly on the resources of the wild country during the journey of sixteen months. When he had sent his second book to the press he started to make the first transcontinental journey; and the curtain fell on his career four months later, after he had left FITZROY DOWNS in Queensland to strike westward into the desert.

A Fine End for the Baseball Season.

The struggle for two championship baseball pennants is drawing to a close. The New Yorks under the leadership of McGRAW have already won the honors in the National League with a remarkable record of victories. The New Yorks under the management of GRIFFITH have made a gallant fight for the American League championship and may carry it off, though the world's champions from Boston are their formidable rivals.

With two such sterling baseball nines representing the metropolis, thousands of enthusiasts are anxious to see them meet on the diamond in order to decide the much mooted question of superiority. Each nine has an army of enthusiastic followers. Each has received liberal support from the public which makes the national game a source of profit to the owners, managers and players of the big clubs. Why should not these crack ball teams of the greatest city in America cross bats and have it out?

The New York Amerian League team stands ready to play a series of seven games for the world's championship, or for the local championship, according to circumstances. It is understood that President JOHN T. BRUSH and his manager, McGRAW, are opposed to such a series and will do all in their power to prevent it.

Fair play and good sportsmanship have dominated the American League games in this city all the season. GRIFFITH has a remarkable team and believes it is superior to that of McGRAW. If GRIFFITH'S challenge is turned down, it may be taken to mean that McGRAW entertains a similar opinion. Let us have a red-hot series between these baseball rivals, so that the ball enthusiasts of the country will have something to talk about during the winter months.

The season at Coney Island which formally ended yesterday has been in many respects the most notable in the history of New York's chief seaside playground. Not only has the attendance been vastly larger than in any previous season, but in character, substance and orderliness the patrons of Coney Island have been of a higher standard. Much of the former notoriety which attached to Coney Island has been effaced by the high character of the entertainments offered and the good order, safety and decorum preserved by the municipal authorities.

It is a fact worthy of notice that several million persons have been transported to and from Coney Island with safety and comfort during the summer without accident or peril.

Next season, as is already known, there will be an extension of Coney Island's attractions by the establishment of a third great place of amusement like Luna Park and Dreamland. Plans are also under way officially for a seaside park at the extreme eastern end of Coney Island, to be opened under city authority and at public expense.

The good order maintained at Coney Island this summer, the surprising cheapness and surpassing safety of the means of reaching it, the extinction of so many of the evils of such a resort, and the vast number of visitors to it, are all creditable to New York.

A Recipe for Stone Broth.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Take a good sized cobblestone and place it in a flat bottomed kettle; bring to a boil and then remove the stone and place it on the kitchen window sill, if several stories up. Then cover the bottom of the kettle with raw sliced cod steaks, say two and one-half pounds, and cover these with sliced raw potatoes—rather thick slices. In a frying pan put one-quarter pound of pork and one or two large slices of onion, and fry till the "onion sensation" is perceptible all over the small apartment.

When the codfish (or instead hard or soft clams) and the potatoes are nearly done, they having been simmering over a slow fire, slice four (my wife says three) good sized onyumyums—beg pardon, onions—and place them on the potatoes. Then push the stone off the kitchen window sill and go down six flights to see what cook it may have killed. On your return the kettle and its contents will be ready to receive three pints of milk thickened, half a cupful or more of butter, and the fried pork. Pour the milk, &c., in cold, without stirring, and float upon it six pilot biscuits or crew-bread cakes.

When these are soft, the whole mess being allowed to boil, at the end you have a fish or clam chowder such as eastern mothers only know how to make.

I charge you add no tomato to this compound. This is not a New York tomato-and-water clam chowder, but a dish equal to the best bouillabaisse that Thackeray ever ate at Terre's Tavern in the Rue Neuve des Petits Champs—"The new street in the little fields." LUCULLUS II.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.

A Boycott of the Natural History Museum?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Noting your article on the boycott of theatres caricaturing Irishmen, I would like to offer an amendment to the resolution adopted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians of New Jersey. My amendment is to add after the words "as a part of the performance," that all members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and their families also boycott the Museum of Natural History of the city of New York; also Central Park, New York, until such time as they remove the orang-outang, commonly known as Mr. Pat Rooney, from the Museum, and all monkeys from Central Park with surnames of Irish origin.

I hope that the Ancient Order of Hibernians at their next convention assembled will accept this amendment. MALACHI O'SHAUGHNESSY.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.

The New Lease of Life.

The Derby—I guess you're pretty dead.

The Straw Hat—Oh, no; they'll wear me for election bets.

Very attractive is the *Century Magazine* for October. Mont St. Michel, soil inoculation and the Cossacks are the subjects of illustrated descriptive articles. Mrs. Wharton's "Italian Villas" comes to an end. There are some new Lewis and Clark papers and a Japanese account of Admiral Togo. Prof. Henry van Dyke has a pantheistic poem illustrated in blue tint. Seven unusually light short stories and the two serials make up the fiction. An early-Victorian colored picture makes a very striking frontispiece.

THE TELEPATHIC CONTROVERSY.

Another Letter From Mr. Goldwin Smith.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is evident from the number of communications which you receive that telepathy has taken a strong hold. Far be it from me to presume to set a limit to the possibilities of scientific discovery. But telepathy will hardly have received the *imprimatur* of science till its supporters have discovered both the medium of transmission and Nature's principle of selection. What is it that selects for transmission, out of all the thought that is going on, the pangs of a dog that has been run over by a railway train? This and the other cases, generally trivial, seem to repel the assumption that telepathy marks an ascent in the development of the faculties of man.

Telepathy, we cannot help remembering, is one of a group of revelations, other members of which are table-turning, clairvoyance and spiritualism. It might be unfair to suggest an identity of origin; but we cannot help suspecting a connection.

TORONTO, Sept. 20. GOLDWIN SMITH.

A Patient Investigator of Telepathic Phenomena.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Have you had enough about telepathy? If not, permit me a word. Your correspondents relate some remarkable and, if true, important tales. But each story is, admitting it to be told in absolutely good faith, merely the experience of one mind. How can it carry conviction to any other, either of the fact itself or of the theory that it was the result of one mind acting upon another at a greater or less distance, which constitutes what is called telepathy? On the other hand, how can Mr. Goldwin Smith, or any one else who has never had such experiences himself, deny their possibility? This is not the way that science proceeds either to ascertain or deny the truth of assertions in which it interests itself. It asks those who claim certain powers to exercise them in its presence, under conditions which it shall prescribe to exclude all possibility of fraud, coincidence, mistaken ascription of causes, and self-delusion.

If any of the correspondents who have furnished your columns with apparent telepathic incidents will reproduce the phenomena in his presence, under conditions that he shall prescribe, I have no doubt that Mr. Goldwin Smith himself will cease to be sceptical. Spiritualism challenged science to examine its claims, but would never submit to scientific conditions of experimentation, and was dismissed by science as charlatanism or self-deception.

Have the alleged phenomena of telepathy ever been subjected to such an examination? The work of the Society for Psychical Research hardly answers the requirements, for it is too much inspired by the desire to demonstrate a theory, and it does little more than collect and classify ghost stories. I know of but one competent authority who has devoted to the subject of telepathy the same scrutiny, the same patient and exhaustive labor, the same scrupulous elimination of all possible error, and the same wholesome scepticism, which modern science applies to the examination of alleged facts in all other branches, and that authority is Dr. J. Ochorowicz, "sometime professor extraordinarius of psychology and natural philosophy in the University of Lemberg"—as his name would indicate, a Galician Pole, a correspondent of most of the learned societies of Europe, and a man of exceptional acumen and learning.

In a work entitled "Mental Transmission" he has given the results of thirty years of constant experimentation, in which given phenomena were repeated over and over again at will, under conditions with which the most exacting would be content, before he finally yielded to the conviction that he had really demonstrated that in certain cases of nervous organization discoverable in advance and under certain circumstances and conditions easily secured, some medium, not yet defined, may carry motions from one brain to another and reproduce in the latter thoughts or emotions approximating to those of the former.

He furthermore offers, tentatively and modestly, a theory in explanation of the phenomena, which he sustains by as subtle and ingenious reasoning as one would wish to follow. It is quite impossible to deny his substantial facts, in the face of his innumerable tests and his extraordinary scrupulosity of precaution; and I should prefer to leave the task of combating his explanation to Mr. Smith, if he will undertake it. Did he convince me of the actuality of mental transmission at a distance? No; he did not quite convince himself. Still, if there is any scientific way of dealing with the alleged phenomena of telepathy, Dr. Ochorowicz unquestionably used it, and it is remarkable that those who bother themselves with psychic things do not give the book more attention.

To attempt here to give the vaguest suggestion of his theory would occupy more space than I fear THE SUN would care to devote to the subject. I would only add that if there is such a thing, it is well worth while finding out all about it. M. J. DEE.

DETROIT, Sept. 22.

Report of an Interesting Surgical Operation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I would most respectfully draw the attention of men of science, as well as the leading surgeons of the day, to an operation performed by a non-practising friend on the dearly beloved companion of his little girl.

One of the patient's lovely blue eyes disappeared altogether. A black and horrible chasm marked the spot formerly occupied by the brilliant orb; and where had it gone?

It had not fallen out, that was quite clear, for, if you gave the sufferer ever so gentle a shake, you could hear distinctly the loose eye rattling inside her skull.

It was a case demanding extreme care and deliberation. With a piece of fishing line formed into a loop, and inserted into the cavity, he endeavored literally to fish for and secure the fugitive eye. For some time he pursued this mode of treatment, but without success. Then he trepanned with a corkscrew. With his penknife he afterward cut away a portion of the skull, which resembled papier maché, coated with wax. Through the opening thus effected, which formed in fact a sort of trap door, he was enabled to regain the eye; and soon afterward, by means of glue judiciously applied, to fix it in its right position. A little brown paper and more glue restored the skull and the—in point of fact—wig to their former state.

No anæsthetic was used.

WALTER BEVERLEY CRANE.

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.

At Manassas.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is rather amusing to the many members of the National Guard of New York who hiked the dusty Virginia roads during the recent manœuvres at the lively pace set by Gen. Bell, to learn through the daily press and the illustrated papers of the week that the Twelfth Regiment of New York did all the fighting and posed for all the photographers.

All honor to the gallant Twelfth, but there were other regiments from this and other States that did their share of the work, as will be shown when the report of the affair is made public.

GLOVERSVILLE, Sept. 23. ONE WHO HIKED.

Santa Claus Starts in a Schooner for Brazil.

From the Kennebec Journal.

A Christmas cargo of all kinds of Santa Claus things is what the new schooner Margaret Thomas of Thomaston is going to take on her maiden voyage. She is first going to Boston, where the supply will be placed on board, and then Capt. Balano will head the vessel for Rio, where he is to land the cargo, and make the people happy Dec. 25.

Economy in Use of Arabic Numerals.

From Science.

It takes three and one-third as long to write the Roman numerals, from one to one hundred, as the Arabic, and the chance of error is twenty-one times as great; it takes three times as long to read the Roman numerals from one to one hundred as the Arabic, and the chance of error is eight times as great.

The Little Japanese.

From the Boston Transcript.

Once I knew a Japanese,
With a little blue chemise,
Socks and sandals and a pretty paper fan,
Lady foot and dandy hand,
Microscopically planned;
And he didn't seem at all a fighting man.

He was neat and he was clean,
Most delightful to be seen;
He was spotless; he was spick and he was span;
He was sugar; he was spice;
He was everything that's nice;
And he didn't seem at all a fighting man.

He would greet you with a smile
Which would carry half a mile,
Sweet as summer, and expansive in its plan;
He would nod his beaming noll,
Like a polished little doll;
And he didn't seem at all a fighting man.

Which is why I'd give a lot,
Could I camp upon the spot,
Where he's winning bloody laurels for Japan,
Just to watch him wading in,
With that smile above his chin;
For he didn't seem at all a fighting man.

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

MR. HIGGINS DEFENDED.

A Friend's Intimate and Intuitional Estimate and Plea.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a reader of THE SUN who has had a good deal of knowledge of the life and character of Lieutenant-Governor Higgins, I want to protest as earnestly as I may against the comments in your editorial to-day upon his charming and characteristic little address to his friends and neighbors at Olean, who assembled to greet him after his nomination for the Governorship of New York, in which he promised, as he said, with all the sincerity he possessed, and with such ability as God Almighty had given him, that, if elected in November, he would be "the Governor of all the people, and faithfully, courageously and honestly discharge the duties of that high office." These words were uttered by no ordinary man or commonplace politician, and they meant precisely and absolutely what they expressed; and if I were a Democrat I would believe them as implicitly as all Republicans, who really know Mr. Higgins as well as I do, must believe them. He is "no man's man," as the phrase is, and has a will of his own as cold and unbending as chilled steel in the doing of what he believes is right in every public and private relation. More than that, perhaps, his views about what is right on all subjects, and on all occasions, are founded upon the highest principles and the practice of a life governed by such principles. I am sure that I do not know what stronger guarantees than these the voters of the State of New York could have that Mr. Higgins, if elected, would not be and could not be "Governor under Odell," or under any other living man.

The gathering at the depot and in front of Lieutenant-Governor Higgins's house at Olean the other day was honored, as I observed, by the presence of a number of high minded Democrats, gentlemen who have known Mr. Higgins all his life and who probably will loyally vote the Democratic ticket, as Democrats usually do; and I am confident that not one of these men, for I know them, would have joined in that welcome home if he believed for a moment that his friend and neighbor would be the instrument of anybody as the Governor of the great State of New York. Every one of them knew that, if elected, Mr. Higgins would to the best of his ability discharge the duties of his high office in the interest and for the benefit of all the people of his native State.

In THE SUN to-day appears the congratulatory letter of President Roosevelt to Lieutenant-Governor Higgins, in which the President, after referring to their close relations at Albany, when he was Governor and Mr. Higgins was chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, states that he "never had the good fortune to be thrown with any public servant of higher integrity and of greater administrative ability," and that the people of New York can rest in absolute confidence that if Mr. Higgins is elected, "the administration of affairs at Albany will be conducted on the highest possible plane of efficiency and honor." Certainly this is most important testimony for the voters of the State of New York against the justice of your editorial in respect to the address of Mr. Higgins the other day at Olean. President Roosevelt, if anybody, knows what kind of a Governor Mr. Higgins is likely to make, and he has said emphatically what he thinks on that subject.

I am quite sure from my knowledge of Mr. Higgins, extending now over a period of a quarter of a century, and from all the evidence we possess in regard to his character as a public man, that if the administration of Governor Odell, or any part of it, is justly the proper subject of investigation by his successor, Mr. Higgins, if elected, will not avoid the performance of any duty he may have in respect to such investigation, and will perform that duty, as every other, "faithfully, courageously and honestly" as he has promised the people of New York. J. HUBLEY ASHTON.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.

Mr. Higgins as a friend or a neighbor is not before the court. His collection of general principles and views is not pertinent. Mr. Roosevelt's indorsement of him is to be regarded as official, conventional and necessary. Our correspondent says that if Odellism ought to be investigated, he is sure, from his knowledge of the moral build of Mr. Higgins, that Mr. Higgins will, if elected, investigate. The Democratic position is that the Odell monocracy needs to be overthrown and investigated. The position of Mr. Odell himself is that it does not need to be overthrown and investigated. How can Mr. Higgins adopt the Democratic position? Odell nominated him. Approval of the Odell administration is his sole State issue and stock in trade. If he is not Odell's man, what is he doing in that galley?

SUKKOTH.

The Hebrew Festival of Thanksgiving, Which Began Yesterday.

From an article by Dr. Isidor Singer in the New Era Magazine.

This festival was in Biblical times, or, more exactly, as long as our ancestors lived as an independent nation on the soil of Palestine, instituted as a celebration of the ingathering of all the fruits of the year, concluding the cycle of the three great annual feasts—the other two being Passover and Pentecost, on which the Law required the whole male population to appear before the Lord in the national sanctuary.

"And thou shalt observe the feast of ingathering at the year's end" (Exodus xxxiv. 22). This and the parallel passage (Exodus xxiii. 16): "Thou shalt keep the feast of ingathering which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered thy labors out of the field," the oldest in existence in which our festival is spoken of, show, as it is only natural to suppose, that the legislator of olden times did not think of fixing the exact dates. The great autumn thanksgiving was held as soon as the corn and wine and the other fruits of the soil were safely under roof on the thousands of little farms of our agricultural forebears. This event took place, of course, at different dates in different years and in different districts.

As the closing harvest celebration and, very probably, the most ancient of the festival cycles, our festival was considered the most important of the three.

One characteristic feature of the Feast of Tabernacles was the expression of festive joy on the night between the first and second days. In the Court of Women four branched golden candlesticks were erected to the accompaniment of music and song, and a torch dance was performed by the most prominent priests and laymen. The dancing, as well as vocal and instrumental music, lasted until daybreak. Some of the most pious men executed dexterous movements with their flambeaux while dancing for the amusement of the people. Thus Rabbi Simon II. (about 40 A. D.), son of Gamaliel I., used to dance with eight torches in his hands, which he alternately threw up in the air and caught again without their touching one another or falling to the ground.

Art Commission and Manhattan Bridge

From the Scientific American.

In spite of the obvious contradiction involved in the repudiation by the Art Commission of properly authenticated plans that they had already indorsed, in favor of imperfect plans lacking any engineering indorsement, the Art Commission has seen fit to accept the new plans.

We certainly agree with the Merchants' Association in the opinion that the commission has assumed a grave responsibility in authorizing this important public work under circumstances that must be very discouraging to the friends of good government in the administration of city affairs.

For what good reason does the Art Commission, after accepting the findings of an expert investigation of a bridge designed by a competent engineer, now refuse to ask for a similar investigation of the undigested plans of a man who was a comparatively unknown subordinate in that engineer's office when those first plans were made?

How Far Away Are the Stars?

Simon Newcomb in Harper's Magazine.

Speaking roughly, we have reason, from the data so far available, to believe that the stars of the Milky Way are situated at a distance between 100,000,000 and 200,000,000 times the distance from the sun. At distances less than this it seems likely that the stars are distributed through space with some approach to uniformity. We may state as a general conclusion, indicated by several methods of making the estimate, that nearly all the stars which we can see with our telescopes are contained within a sphere not likely to be much more than 200,000,000 times the distance of the sun.

The inquiring reader may here ask another question. Granting that all the stars we can see are contained within this limit, may there not be any number of stars without the limit which are invisible only because they are too far away to be seen?

As the Schoolboy Understood It

From Success.

Here is the exact answer of a New York school boy to the questions, "What is the meaning of the word 'hall,' how many other words are there that sound like 'hall,' and what are their meanings?"

"Hall, where you open the dore and go in, hawl, hawling along a boy that won't go to skool; aul, what the shomakker charges you 25 sents for to aul your shoe; all, all, everybody in the wurld."