

much was said after he had done his best, and he asked: "What kind of a voice have I?" "Well, Mr. Hale," said the instructor, "I should call your voice a baritone." He consulted a dictionary and found that a baritone was neither tenor nor base, so he did not become a singer, and the world was much the gainer thereby.

We are sorry that Professor Elliot did not put out his test of books for his five-foot shelf a few months sooner that we might have received Dr. Hale's views upon the selections. We have an idea that they would have been something like this:

First, one of the old Webster spelling books, that the average man may learn to spell.

Second, a common geography like the Olney's geography of sixty years ago, so that the average tourist when he goes abroad may know, in case he lands in Liverpool, which way France and Germany are from him.

Third, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, so that the average American may know why his country has advanced more in a century, than any other in a thousand years.

Fourth, "The Man Without a Country," to give a hint to ordinary Americans, that so many gifts have been showered upon them in this great republic that they do not appreciate its blessings.

Then if something high in literature is asked for, get a Bible, a Shakespeare, Daniel Webster's speeches and Victor Hugo's works, and thus go out into the world with a fair understanding of what the average man, especially the average American, most needs.

Dr. Hale was an all around great soul. There was plenty of fun in his make-up. But he was deeper than all the wise men around him, and had a contempt for anything which seemed to carry the impression, in some men of their belief, that they had been stooping, all their lives to instruct other men.

He looked out upon life with a perpetual joy that he was given to live in a world so beautiful, and gazed steadily into the face of death, as upon a friendly messenger who was to guide him through a sunless street, up to a still brighter world than this.

### One Case Enough

**A** MAN here asked the court to give him a divorce from his wife and set up as his justification, that his wife, with whom he had lived for several years, refused to come Utah to live.

This the News makes the theme of an editorial, and is convinced that the woman got her ideas from the falsehoods put out by anti-Mormons, and wonders how much capital and how many people have been kept out of Utah by just such slanders. It is not worth much discussion for everybody understands the matter here, but we suggest to the News that slanders are not necessary. For instance, suppose the woman referred to above got hold of the newspaper which gave a truthful account of what became of Mrs. Raleigh's homestead, how would that be liable to affect her?

### Scarcity of Farm Laborers

**S**ECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WILSON, says one cause of the high prices for food is because of the impossibility of obtaining farm hands. In a county where there are so many idle men, this charge, if true, is simply a reproach upon the farmers themselves. At least this is true east of the Rocky mountains. In the west things are different for the miners pay so much better wages than the farmers, that men who offer to do farm work are, many of them, altogether unreliable and in great measure worthless and incompetent.

But in the west, farmers as a rule work their help unreasonable hours; they are not careful to

have comfortable sleeping places for them; the conveniences supplied to mechanics in the cities as a matter of course, are never thought of on the farm, and there, as a rule, help is only employed in the rush season, and the ordinary farm hand is little better than a poorly paid slave, and good workers and sterling men will not bear the punishment. And this is not saying that the hired help is not just as well treated as the farmer treats himself and his own sons. The day's work averages thirteen hours, often fifteen. There is no relaxation from early Monday morning to late Saturday night; there is the salt pork potatoes, bread and coffee in the morning; the boiled dinner in the middle of the day; the picked up supper at five o'clock; the cheap bed in a hot room at night, and the same thing next day.

Of course, there are exceptions, but it is true that as a rule farm life for men who work for wages has so few attractions, that it is no wonder that the average man fights shy of it.

Then take the average big wheat farm. The extra hired men are wanted only long enough to harvest and thresh the crop. What if there is a little extra pay. It costs all that for a man to get back to some place where he can get more work. He might better be a section man on a railroad and have work every day in the year; he might better be a prospector for he might find a mine.

We do not wonder that there is a scarcity of farm laborers, especially on one crop farm. By that we mean a wheat farm, a corn, or cotton or tobacco farm. The remedy is to raise a variety of crops and to treat the farm hand better.

### Our Commanding Position

**N**EW YORK JOURNALS are insisting that American bankers should supply a part of the not very large loan which China needs for the building of an important link in her railroad system. That is all right enough, but the reasons those journals give, seem almost grotesque.

The first is the commanding position which the United States will occupy, with the completion of the Panama canal; the second our great and constantly increasing trade with the orient.

That is, we have no merchant marine, but when we complete a canal for foreign ships to sail through, thereby greatly shortening many of their present routes, we of course will hold a commanding place.

The second reason is still more ludicrous. We have destroyed silver as primary money. China and India know no other money, neither does Japan in her business transactions with her own people, and our consuls report that because of this exchange with the orient has fallen so low that all our exports—flour, lumber, and other natural products of the west coast and the manufactured products of the eastern states, no longer have a market across the Pacific, and still those optimistic editors insist that we have a large and growing trade with the orient. Of course they are drawing upon their imaginations for their facts.

True, we can buy from the countries cheaper than ever, because they are paying their working men and women the same amount of silver that they paid twenty-five years ago, and hence when their goods are reckoned in gold, they cost only half what they formerly did.

This is a statement of our commercial relations with half the inhabitants of the earth. We have no ships with which to send away what we have to sell, or to bring back what we desire to buy, and we have, deliberately, so arranged our national finances, that we can no longer trade with quite one-half of the big world's inhabitants, and still we occupy a position among the nations so commanding that the whole world ought to make a note of it. We suspect it does, but it is only to laugh.

We pay for fares and freights to outside ship owners \$250,000,000 per annum. That at savings bank interest—4 per cent., means \$10,000,000 per annum. If that amount was paid annually in subsidies to our own steamships, it would be only what we lose annually on the money sent away, and then we should keep the \$250,000,000 at home, and in fifteen years would have accumulated a volume of money such as no nation ever before possessed. And by that time outside nations would have learned by actual object lessons, that the "commanding" United States had a real habitation and name. And if the American congress would pass a bill that one ounce of pure silver should constitute a dollar, the same as 25 8-10 grains of gold represent a dollar, and this bill shall take effect sixty days after its passage, within half that time silver would be worth a dollar an ounce to the very ends of the earth, and our trade relations with Japan, China, the Straits settlements, India, all southern Asia and southern Europe and all Spanish America would be on an even keel and more, our country would indeed hold a commanding position among the nations of the earth.

### The German Population

**R**ECENT vital statistics show that the population of Germany has increased 900,000 in 1907. The figures are but just completed, and very much satisfaction is shown in Germany over the showing. One excellent editor says:

"That a nation with such powers of multiplication, need not be concerned about its future—that it approaches the goal of invincibility hour by hour—is as clear as daylight."

One discouraging feature is that for every 100,000 of population there were 21 suicides, but a theme for gratulation is that emigration fell off to 16,000.

When we put that all together we conclude that the crash in the United States finances stopped emigration to this country; that the suicides indicate that many people in Germany are very poor, and that the real secret of the tremendous exertions in Germany mean that the swelling hosts of that country need more land on which to produce work for German laborers. From that point of view the United States has much more cause for apprehension than England has, for Southern Brazil is already filled with Germans, and what more natural than a German upheaval there at the right time and an appeal to the Kaiser for help? That would at once involve the Monroe Doctrine and all our pretensions for a hundred years past.

When the alliance between England and Japan lapses, it will not be surprising to learn that a new alliance between Japan and Germany has been formed, for Japan, like Germany, needs more land for her people. Then with the navies of Japan and Germany united, and both nations intent upon acquiring more land, it is easy to imagine what might follow.

Our country should urge a closer union among the South American republics, the better training of their people to arms, the building of as many battle ships as possible, and in the meantime to get as much power as possible acknowledged per The Hague Congress, and as many anti-war measures adopted by that body and accepted by the nations.

Meanwhile, our country should be building battle ships and a merchant marine, and offering premiums on improved fire arms and explosives for guns. The state guards in every state should include most of the young men, and the training should be most thorough. That is keeping Washington's maxim in mind: "In time of peace, prepare for war."

Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) is reported to have written a comic opera based upon his story, "A Yankee in King Arthur's Court."