

New York Tribune.

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FOREIGN RATES.—CANADIAN RATES.—DAILY AND SUNDAY.

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The Tribune uses its best endeavors to insure the truthfulness of every advertisement it prints.

Talk in Congress and Action at Vera Cruz.

While the Senate talked yesterday about the form in which the President should be authorized to use force in Mexico force was used and blood was shed without regard to sticking over phrases in Washington.

The President undoubtedly acted within his constitutional rights in ordering the landing of marines and sailors, and the country was thus fully committed, even without Congressional sanction, to the attempt to secure by pressure of arms the reparation which Mr. Wilson had vainly demanded from Huerta.

Now that blood has been shed, the country will probably find itself committed to more than that. The Wilson administration, having drifted much against its will into forcible intervention in Mexican affairs, may easily be compelled to make additional demands on Huerta, and, in fact, to aim at nothing short of his complete elimination from Mexican politics.

It was prudent and reasonable, so long as merely pacific pressure promised to produce results, to try to confine this country's role to activities "short of war."

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He naturally tried to lighten his responsibilities by limiting his quarrel to Huerta and the City of Mexico administration.

The resolution reported to the Senate by its Foreign Relations Committee is, therefore, preferable to the House resolution or to such a resolution as would have resulted from the adoption of Mr. Lodge's preamble amendment.

The duty of the United States to protect its citizens and its international rights in Mexico and to end an intolerable situation there will soon be recognized.

It will be better for the present, however, to let the President and Mr. Bryan work out their own kind of intervention in their own way.

Leading a Minority of the Minority.

Representative James R. Mann's impetuosity is continually getting him into embarrassments which a responsible party leader ought to avoid.

On Monday in the debate on the resolution justifying the employment of the military forces of the United States in Mexico he cut an even worse figure as a party leader.

Mexico and pictured its evil consequences, but opposed the passage of the sort of resolution least likely to involve the country in hostilities with the entire Mexican nation.

Were Mr. Mann speaking only for himself no one could properly criticize him for upholding his personal convictions.

Saving the City's Postage.

The suggestion made to Borough President Marks by heads of city departments housed in the Municipal Building that he establish a messenger system of collecting and distributing department communications, thus saving postage and time, is excellent.

When the departments were housed all over the city it was probably cheaper to mail letters than to try to send them by messengers.

Sentimentality and Art.

The Exhibition of Bad Taste now enlivening our town has stirred to life a few ancient prejudices. This is natural.

It is a strange phenomenon, the eruption of bad taste which is thus defended by its contemporaries. We Americans are sometimes led to think that it was peculiar to our land, the work of a raw, young nation finding itself artistically.

What makes the period all the stranger is the admirable taste of the years gone before. The houses and furniture of the Colonial days were things of great beauty, and the present movement toward better things is really little more than a return to this sound material.

Making the Game Too Easy.

We publish with pleasure in another column a letter from Mr. William Barnes, chairman of the Republican State Committee, in which he restates his conviction that it is easier for one politician or a small coterie of politicians to control five hundred thousand voters in a primary than to control one thousand delegates in a state convention.

If we are wrong, however, we do not see that the political leaders under the old regime have any cause for complaint. Mr. Barnes has had a good deal of success playing the game under the convention system.

The Regulation of Insurance Rates.

The progressive spirit of the Supreme Court of the United States has again prevailed. Against a wealth of argument it has upheld the State of Kansas in its regulation of insurance companies.

We think the country will approve the decision in this case without accepting the radical inferences drawn from it by the minority.

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The Conning Tower

Catullan Mathematics.

"Titanus, mea Lesbia, atque amamus"—Carm. V. My Lesbia, let us live and love! For we should worry if a score Of jaundiced hasbends disapprove!

An ironical make-up man—if that isn't a term-contradiction—might run the story of the Bad Taste Exhibition next pure obituary "poetry."

MEXICO.

BY MAWRUSS PERLMUTTER. MEXICO CITY, the 21st Apr.—Ninety days I been now here and what is the result? Nothing.

I got enough Mexico for my ganze lebtag, believe me. I am mighty glad to get away from this place, and so happy I composed a kind of a, now, poem about it which goes like this:

I drather sell goods in Sarahense Than be in a town like Vera Cruz and oblige M. PERLMUTTER.

Among the matters our ignorance embraces is advertising. And among its mysteries is this baffler: Why don't typewriter advertisements always state the price of the machine?

As One Conductor to Another.

At colyum conducting, dear old Nassau Lit, Congratulatory, we slip you our mitt. Though Yale's got its Record, and we've got a rep, Your soulful effusions displayed lots of pep.

DE VERSIBUS ROMANIS.

F. P. A. praclarissimo columna conductori S. P. D. contributor insolitus B. H. Editoribus Nassau Magazine Literariae illustrissimis qui primum Turris Concinnae hodierna carmen tuum Latine redditum posuere, premium librum illi pollicentibus qui falsam in hoc carmine quantitatem inveniret, ego iam etsi temere respondeo: debere esse brevem sexto eorum versu pro longa perperam scribunt.

Vir in turro alto Tribunorum, Carissime, Incipis, video, loquere linguam Latinam loco in vostro. Veritabile novum est in seculo nostro rerum et laudabile. Quidquid agis, prudenter agas!

WHY THE QUOTES?

[From the New York Herald.] Dodgers Drive "Matty" from Box by Terrific Attack, Netting Victory.

"ROBBIE" OUTWITS "MAC."

Twenty-five Thousand "Fans" See "Big Six" Fall at Ebbets Field.

THE STRAIGHT OF IT.

[From the Danville (N. Y.) Daily Breeze.] For the benefit of some people both here in Steuben Co. and in Livingston County, I want to settle a little matter right.

THE COST OF SUFFRAGE

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Marjorie Dorman, in this morning's Tribune, asks one of your readers to state what will be the extra cost to New York City and New York State to double the electorates.

We know it is wrong, but Mexico always seems to us like another of those semi-pro countries.

The treasured Evening Post eludes the proofroom with "gorilla warfare."

Well, grim-visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front

PAGE.

F. P. A.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE IMPOTENCE OF NUMBERS

Mr. Barnes Says It Is Easier to Handle Men by the Half Million.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have read with great interest this morning your editorial with reference to the proposal made by Mr. Hedges that the Republicans this year should hold an unofficial state convention for the purpose of recommending candidates to the enrolled Republicans of the state.

It may seem to most people a paradox that it is easier to control half a million men than a thousand, but if that is true, "most people" are deficient in knowledge of what I had supposed was a patent fact—that it is much easier to control a large crowd than a small one.

In a group of three no one man controls, because he must secure the support of one of the other two on equal terms with himself, whereas one man can easily dominate a multitude.

Your contention is occasionally made, but it is so contrary to the facts of history that it seems astonishing that you should project it.

Perhaps the most notable instances of the control of a crowd by one man were shown in the election of Louis Napoleon to the Presidency of the second French Republic and the plebiscite whereby his seizure of the government in violation of the constitution was ratified after the event.

The nomination of candidates by direct primary insures control by one man or a small group. The fact that their plans have been ratified by a vote, which is in the nature of a plebiscite, gives them a certificate of popular approval of their proposals which they could not secure in a convention of delegates unless, if there is contention, they prove their case.

For the benefit of your readers permit me to quote from Mr. Emerson's essay on "Self-reliance": "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."

It is a truism that it is only in a crowd that a man loses the mental security and fixity of will which he possesses in solitude. Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM BARNES. New York City, April 18, 1914.

THE CHRISTIAN LAW

The Sermon on the Mount Is Cited Against the Death Penalty.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your correspondent W. C. C. in to-day's Tribune seems to forget that as a Christian nation we are living under the new dispensation and that the new abolished the old.

All his quotations are Biblical, but they are from the old Jewish law and not from the New Testament. The Master, in the Sermon on the Mount, distinctly abolished this particular law that W. C. C. urges as Biblical authority for capital punishment. He said:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you that ye resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."—Matt. v. 38, 39.

The law he, W. C. C., quotes is Jewish, but the founder of Christianity certainly abolished it in the word he spoke, as above. T. H. Morristown, N. J., April 20, 1914.

WAR OVER A SALUTE

This Reader Fails to See Why American Blood Should Be Shed in Such a Cause.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: All patriotic Americans are one in their belief that reparation for the Tampico affair should be demanded of Huerta; but will some one explain wherein the refusal of Huerta to comply with our demands makes it necessary for this powerful nation of 100,000,000 souls to open war on a little nation, already torn with strife, of only 15,000,000 people?

Why all this to-do and fuss? If Huerta will not accede to our demands, why not just sink two or three of his measly gunboats and then have our feet steam back home?

I very much fear the President's action will only jeopardize the lives of Americans in the interior of Mexico by inciting race prejudice among all classes of Mexicans. Because of our trouble with Huerta, certainly that is no reason for training our guns on the Constitutionists, heretofore our friends.

The recent victories of the Constitutionists give every assurance that if left to themselves the Mexicans will be able to settle their own affairs as quickly as we could for them. And the sending of two or three of Huerta's gunboats to "Davey Jones's locker" will alone serve the double purpose of bringing Huerta to his knees and of hastening the end of the war by the aid thus rendered the rebels. Why, then, should American blood be shed when the spilling of Mexican blood alone will suffice?

It seems to me it would have been far better had the President just left the whole affair in Admiral Mayo's hands. Had he done so, I venture to say it would be ancient history now.

We don't want war, and there is no need of war, just because Wilson and Huerta can't come to terms about a salute. J. C. LOCKE. Monticello, N. Y., April 20, 1914.

BIBLICAL PENALTY FOR MURDER

A Reader Refuses to Regard its Precepts as Infallible.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In this morning's Tribune W. C. C. presents several Biblical statements by which he attempts to prove that the penalty of murder is in accordance with the word of God.

It is a pity that there is such a large number of otherwise broad men who regard as infallible a position that can be supported by a quotation from the Bible. It is a mere platitude to state that the devil himself can quote Scripture to justify his acts. All creeds, no matter how diametrically opposed, maintain their tenets by producing extracts from the Bible.

What W. C. C. and other Bible quoters should bear in mind is that the admonitions and regulations contained in the Bible were for the guidance of the people who lived in Egypt several thousand years ago. Were a man to attempt to lead a life in accordance with the Scriptural teachings he would find himself limited to the few dishes that were known by the ancients; he would be obliged to remove his shoes upon entering a house, and in the cold winters of the north that custom would entail severe hardships; he would lend money to whomsoever requested a loan, etc. Of course, I do not mean to imply that every Biblical precept is antiquated. The Ten Commandments are as true to-day as they were in the time of Moses.

We should not permit the Scriptures to bind us in our thinking. The Bible is a history of the times of long ago. We can as consistently transplant into our mortal life all the customs prevailing four thousand years ago as we can administer the laws of a fifteenth century European polity to-day. HARRY SHAPIRO. New York, April 20, 1914.

REFORM IN THE CRADLE

But Who Will Reform the Mothers First?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Marjorie Dorman in yesterday's Tribune presents a great scheme for reforming the voters of the country, which is to "go back to the cradle." But since the mother is presumed to do the reforming, some one will have to reform the mothers to make them reform the prospective voters.

Now since "only 8 per cent of the women are suffragettes" and suffragettes cannot "bear and rear children," it is up to the "antisl" to effect this reform.

Probably the mothers have been doing the best they know how to bring up their boys, so that Marjorie Dorman should give directions to the present mothers of boys, and as each boy is born supply the mother with the book of instructions.

It will take twenty years for those now in the cradle to vote, and probably a hundred years before the ordinary voter will have died off and the improved stock established. We hope the "antisl" that commence this method right away, so that our grandchildren may have the benefit of it.

I am just wondering if there might not be some difficulty in enforcing the foreign mothers of the lower classes to reform their boy babies and make sure that there will be "not more but better voters." We have heard that these "women are to be feared."

Of course, Marjorie Dorman has this worked out. It lifts a great burden of our minds to have the positive assurance that all this highway, water system and canal grafting will be stopped within fifty or a hundred years. JOHN M. WILKINSON. New York City, April 20, 1914.