

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED BY E. S. JACKSON. Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at the Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, Portland, Oregon.

I hold not with the pessimist that all things are ill, nor with the optimist that all things are well. All things are not ill, and all things are not well; but all things shall be well, because this is God's world.—Browning.

POOR REPARATION.

THE Oregonian publishes today an editorial fully exonerating Senator Fulton from suspicion of being in any way involved in any land-frauds or under any investigation.

An apology voluntarily given is an honest and manly act. But since this one comes so late and in coincidence with the presence in town yesterday of Senator Fulton's brother and the sitting of the grand jury which will enforce the law without fear or favor it is robbed of much of its honorable quality.

The Oregonian says that Senator Fulton has complained of its aspersions and has asked for the source of its information, but that it cannot find any source. "On the contrary," says the Oregonian, "the government here through its special agents repudiates any suggestion or intimation that it purposes to attack the record or character of Senator Fulton."

What shall be said of the moral tone of a newspaper which prints nearly two columns with these glaring headlines, "Suspects Fulton of Land Frauds," and then admits that it thus libeled the character of our senator and fellow-citizen on the mere word of a reporter who had "no information"? Would it not have been better to have ascertained this utter lack of foundation before printing the libel? An apology never overtakes the original hurt. Would it not have been more just, before thus assailing Senator Fulton, to have wired him for his reply or explanation in the matter, and to have confined the article to the facts?

THE "HIGHER LAW."

NOTWITHSTANDING laws, and the command, "Thou shalt not kill," and the edict, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed," mankind will differentiate and make exceptions; and one of the cases in which they are certain to do so is that of homicide by a man who thus avenges the ruin of his sister or daughter. It avails not to say the girl was equally to blame. In fact, she scarcely ever is so, for she trustingly depends on promises that are not fulfilled and that perhaps were not intended to be kept. The blame and the vengeance properly fall on the male; the woman is sufficiently punished for her fault; and there is no excuse for him. Since in such a case the law can afford no remedy, and provides no adequate punishment, mankind will always find excuses for the avenger.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

COMMENTING on the recent report that the interstate commerce commission would recommend the government ownership and operation of coal mines, William Allen White, who has written a great deal in ridicule of Populism, says: "Fifteen years ago when a Populist orator said such things we Republicans said he was crazy. Yet that is one of the coming things. The country is rapidly drifting toward government ownership and operation of public utilities. The government will own and operate the mines of this country, and will control the railroads closely. There is no private business. Every man is his neighbor's partner, and every man has an interest in every other man's welfare. We are all in the same boat, and some day—and that not far away—this will be recognized by statute, as well as it is by common sense."

Having gained some notoriety by his ridicule of reformatory ideas and efforts, White found profitable occupation as a magazine writer in New York, and has to write something readable and that will attract attention. His first object is to sell his stuff, rather than to tell the truth, yet telling the truth may at times square with his interest in producing something that will yield him a piece of money.

There is indeed a trend of public sentiment toward government ownership of "utilities," providing all other means of protecting the people against the rapacity of corporate cormorants fail. There is at present no definite prospect that the government will own and control the coal mines, though that this may be brought about is not inconceivable. A good many things will have to occur first, some of which are not likely to occur soon. A good deal depends on the results of the government's efforts to regulate and control certain classes of industries. If these efforts signify fail, and railroad, coal-mine and other allied corporations, with Standard Oil at the head, continue to oppress the people and defy the laws, a political revolution may be expected that will put some party in power that will largely adopt socialistic principles. But this will not happen while the good times last.

SHALL WE FIGHT?

THE Willamette region ought to be rescued from the toll-taking to which its products are subjected at Oregon City. The process is a relic of primitive civilization and ought to be discarded. It ought to have gone with the ox yoke, the flail and the flint lock. In spite of the fact that it costs the farmers and consumers of the region an immense sum every year, it is retained. And this is the twentieth century, too.

The Journal is for rescuing the magnificent Willamette region from this relic of pioneer days by purchase of the locks or construction of new ones. The Journal would discard this tollgate maintained for mulcting traffic, and make the Willamette what it was designed to be, a free and open waterway, the people's own and not a private corporation's.

In a recent issue of The Journal Mr. D. B. Ogden, a government engineer, showed how comparatively small would be the cost of new locks, how no corporate power could intervene to prevent the people from building new locks and how great would be the benefit. It all makes the wonder grow, why have the people of the Willamette valley paid this toll so uncomplacingly and so long? If they will rally now in an effort to throw down this barrier to an unhandicapped traffic, The Journal will do everything it can to aid them. Will not the commercial bodies join in a movement to open this splendid waterway? Will not the newspapers take up the fight? Will not the granges and other farmers' organizations utter a ringing protest, and petition for redress?

A strong pull and a pull all together will rid Willamette of this toll-taking pawshop establishment at Oregon City and let her commerce flow unfettered to Portland and the sea.

The Spokane Spokesman-Review editorially credits—or discredits—western Oregon with floods last week equal in size and damaging results to those of western Washington, but its news columns do not bear out such a statement. Aside from some damage to railroad bridges and tracks, the harm done by high water in western Oregon was slight, scarcely worth mentioning. In fact, no part of western Oregon has ever suffered as destructive floods as frequently occur in the low country back of Puget sound.

While the ordinary directors of Standard Oil are expected to walk into court and give bail like other common criminals, Mr. Rockefeller enjoys the privilege of arrest by proxy. Just for the pleasure of learning if Mr. Rockefeller is rich enough to hire a substitute on the rockpile or in the jute mill, we should like to see the trial go to what might be considered a successful termination.

Oklahoma will be a great state, in population and wealth as well as in area, from the beginning of its statehood—unless congress, because the proposed new state is Democratic, or not surely Republican, shall devise some scheme to prevent its admission.

Senator Platt will not resign yet because he has a virulent grudge against Governor Higgins. The people of New York hope he will not manufacture a grudge against Governor-elect Hughes.

Palermo, Italy, hands Americans many lemons—\$2,653,627 worth in 1905.

A Little Out of the Common

THINGS PRINTED TO READ WHILE YOU WAIT.

Tale of a Coat.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin. The clawhammer or evening coat, has many oddities of cut. These oddities were once essentials. There was, in fact, a time when every idiosyncrasy of the clawhammer served some useful purpose.

Bishop Webb's Birthday.

Bishop Coadjutor Walter W. Webb, who succeeds Bishop Nicholson as head of the Episcopal diocese of Milwaukee, was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, November 20, 1857. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania he went to New England, first as a student at Trinity college, Hartford, then to Berkeley Divinity school, where he was ordained to the diaconate by the bishop of New Hampshire, later elevated to the priesthood by the bishop of Connecticut, and became assistant at the Church of the Evangelists, Philadelphia, and rector of St. Elizabeth's. In 1902 he was called west to become a teacher at Nashotah seminary, near Milwaukee. A year later he was made bishop coadjutor of the Milwaukee diocese. Now he has been advanced to charge of the diocese and will be crowned early in December.

November 20 in History.

1841—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, premier of the Dominion of Canada, born. 1865—Earl of Elgin, former governor-general of Canada, died. Born July 20, 1811. 1896—First national encampment of the G. A. R. assembled at Indianapolis. 1899—Centennial celebration of the ratification of the constitution of the United States by North Carolina begun at Fayetteville. 1899—The Amalgamated association declared the Homestead strike at an end. 1899—Commercial bodies in Spain urged speedy conclusion of peace with the United States. 1899—German emperor arrived at Windsor castle on visit to England.

Gabriel Hanotaux's Birthday.

Gabriel Hanotaux, one of the foremost statesmen in France, member of the academy, and for many years minister of foreign affairs, was born in the province of Alsace, November 19, 1853. In the Ecole de Chartres he distinguished himself by winning the medal in paleontology. Later he was professor in the Ecole des Hautes Etudes. In 1879 he entered the employ of the government and was attached as under officer to the cabinet for many years. In 1883 he entered the diplomatic service and for a time had sole charge of the embassy at Constantinople. On his return to France in 1888 he was elected deputy from his native province, and in 1889 was re-elected over the Bonapartist candidate. Shortly afterward Hanotaux became minister of foreign affairs, an office which he held without interruption through many changes of administration.

They are good people for us and the Pacific coast to stand in with—and all others who are pulling for open waterways. United effort and action will force Uncle Sam to loosen up his pursestrings for the purpose of improving rivers and harbors. If we must have a great navy, let us also have a great fleet of domestic freight carriers and freight regulators.

Government postoffice banks in Great Britain have proved to be a great encouragement to thrift. The number of depositors has doubled in 15 years. Would they not be helpful to wage earners in this country?

Mr. Harriman says railroads are not given enough power and Mr. Root asserts that they have far too much. That is a very pretty basis for a quarrel—but please pass the turkey.

Mr. Harriman will have to hire a pretty good speech writer, and will need a speechmaker besides, to equal Mr. J. J. Hill when he has something to say and wants to say it.

Sheer carelessness, or foolhardiness, is responsible for the death of thousands of people annually. The sinking of the steamer Dix is the latest of such accidents.

A good many workmen and women feel that instead of paying a nickel to ride on the crowded cars they ought to be paid about six-bits a ride.

Nobody seems to pay any more attention to Vice-President Fairbanks while the president is out of the country than they did before.

Mr. Hearst's reported declaration that he will not be a candidate for anything again will make him popular enough to be elected.

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How the Barber Got His Sign.

The striped barber pole originated in England in the middle ages, when the professions of the surgeon and the tonsorial artist were one. Phlebotomy was then considered a cure for every ill. During the operation, the unfortunate patient had to grasp a pole firmly in his hand, that the blood might flow more freely. This pole was usually painted red, and to it were attached the white bandages which the barber, surgeon, or the surgeon's barber, used to stop the blood. When not used the pole was suspended outside the shop, sometimes capped with a basin, to inform wounded travelers where they might obtain relief.

O, Isle of Rest!

From the Cleveland Leader. O Isle of Rest! Though where you In what bright seas, 'neath what fair sky, By what warm winds and waves caressed, I know not—yet, of east or west, Once I would find you ere I die. I'd watch the fleecy clouds drift by, And listen to the seagulls cry, And gain that gift, of all gifts best, O Isle of rest!

Queen Mary's Spelling.

President Roosevelt and advocates of simplified spelling will read with interest a letter from Mary Queen of Scots to her son, written in 1570: "Dear Son: I send this bearer to see how and bring me word how so do, and to remember you that I have in me a loving moder that wishes you to learn in times to love, know and fear God; and next yet, conform to God's command and god nature, to remember ye Jewels that your father has borne you, in his rhydes. I send you a book to learn ye samyn, and pray God so may I give you his blessing, as I do hartly give you myne. In hope you will do as I say, and I pray you to be discreet. Your loving and god moder, Marie R."

Omens.

To sneeze on Friday presages misfortune. To see a shooting star means all sorts of good luck. To pick up an old organ regains the acceptance of some one's evil fortune. Finding a piece of jewelry portends the bestowal of wealth. To put on a stocking wrong side out, and the left shoe first, are both lucky. Finding an unopened letter means the reception of good news. To dream of a funeral is an excellent omen. To chase away a black cat means the throwing away of good luck. Bad luck will pursue you if you carry the handle of your umbrella down.

Cats Like Olives.

An eastern woman recently discovered that her six cats are passionately fond of olives. She says they will leave milk for fish or any of the foods that cats are supposed to love if any one offers them olives. Although they are an acquired taste with human beings, cats seem to take to them naturally.

The Independent Voter.

The independent voter holds the balance of power. It behooves the party leaders henceforth to pick the best men they can try for elective office. In state, in city and in county that fact is made apparent. The discrimination shown in the mixed partisan complexion of the county ticket in Ramsey, and the city and county tickets both in Minneapolis and Hennepin, demonstrate clearly that the reign of the independent voter has begun. The time has passed when a party committee or political ring can dictate a slate of nominees from the county. But the political committee still has a field for usefulness. It has an opportunity for effective work in behalf of good government, not by trying to elect its candidates after nomination, as in securing the right men to make the race for the nomination. That is a task not to be despised. Nor is it easy. But it would be a service to the community that would pay for all the labor. The results of recent elections indicate that a committee which prevails upon the right kind of men to seek the nomination of its party will find that the discriminating voters will show their appreciation of such nominations. And the public service will be benefited.

The Air Is Free.

The Institute of International Law, sitting at Göttingen, has recommended to be applied to aeronautics and wireless telegraphy. The following articles were adopted: 1. The air is free. The only rights that states have in it, in peace or war time, are such as are necessary to their preservation. 2. In the absence of special circumstances the rules applicable to correspondence by ordinary telegraphy shall be applicable to wireless telegraphy. 3. Each state shall have the faculty, so far as is necessary for its safety, to oppose the passage of Hertzian waves over its territorial waters, whether such waves emanate from state apparatus or private apparatus, placed on land, on a ship or a balloon. 4. In the event of correspondence by wireless telegraphy being prohibited, the government shall at once warn other governments of the fact.—Heuter.

Saving a Ha'pence.

Alexander H. Revell, formerly president of the Chicago Civic Federation, an affiliated member of the National Municipal League, told Mayor Dunne, the other day, a story gathered by him in Glasgow, where he recently went to investigate the working of municipal ownership. Mr. Revell said that he met a Scotch laboring man on his way to work and asked him how he liked the city's possession of the tram car lines. "Not over well," replied the canny Scot. "Before the city took the cars I saved tuppence by walking; now I save but a ha'penny."

Watch the Result in the Bay City

From the San Francisco Bulletin. It is to be expected that San Francisco should be the object of general interest throughout the country. All the sister cities are putting their heads together and whispering about the relapse of this stricken city from a high moral and orderly condition to a state of crime and despair. All sorts of rumors are going the rounds, and while San Francisco has been a proper target for the criticism of her more moral sisters of the east, there is no reason why the so-called religious press should deepen the black record.

The main thing San Francisco has been contending against is the grater who has sprung up within the civic life of the city, and the gasp man who comes from other sections—Honolulu, Boston or New York. Following upon abnormal conditions created by the calamity the city passed through a period of lawlessness which a new grand jury, a new assistant district attorney, a new awakening of the civic conscience respecting the judiciary, and a fresh expression of public opinion, together with the arrest of the chief gasp pipe fiends, have checked.

The citizens of San Francisco are not persecuting the Japanese, neither by sending Mr. Onuma to the earthquake expert into insensibility, nor by the advocacy of the scaffold by President Wheeler, all of which has been exploited in a sensational way by the anti-yellow religious press of the east. A new political San Francisco is shaping itself and will soon be a reality. As to the thugs who come here from other religious communities, it would have been better had their own communities hung a millstone around their necks and drowned them in the depths of the sea. The only good thing that the gasp man has done is by hitting the ordinary citizen over the head, the moral of the Pacific coast. San Francisco is conscious of a duty to the grater. Proper attention is being given to their case. The administration of justice is being improved. A new political San Francisco is shaping itself and will soon be a reality. As to the thugs who come here from other religious communities, it would have been better had their own communities hung a millstone around their necks and drowned them in the depths of the sea. The only good thing that the gasp man has done is by hitting the ordinary citizen over the head, the moral of the Pacific coast. San Francisco is conscious of a duty to the grater. Proper attention is being given to their case. The administration of justice is being improved.

Letters From the People

Immortality and Humanity. Walls, Wash., Nov. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The Journal of November 15 "Investigator" says: "Then came the modern scientist and taught that the soul of man was an immaterial entity," etc.

Religious Science. Larkin says: "The most rigid scrutiny made by conservative scientific psychologists during the last 20 years has been totally unable to detect any trace in body or brain or find any being better than a mere collection of quibus now come to discretion. Your loving and god moder, Marie R."

Selling or Donating Public Land.

Sandy, Or., Nov. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Apropos of reading a recent address of Mr. C. E. S. Wood, I find that the public land should be sold and should have been preserved for the people and for posterity. The people (the voting mass, at any time) is and was insignificant in proportion to what the coming generations will be, and hence have and had no natural right to the whole land, or sell stretches of the public domain, although by the United States constitution it may and could, but to me it seems doubtful. Yours truly, T. H. ANDERSON.

Overcrowded Streets.

Portland, Nov. 19.—To the Editor of The Journal.—"One of the Herd" is right. The way the streets are crowded is a disgrace to civilization. There are cities in the east where they do not allow drunken bums to crowd into the streets. But everything seems to "go" here. Certainly the city is full of hordes of the street traffic, which is hideous.

A Run of Bad Luck.

Driven to desperation by their heavy losses, gamblers have often sought by some coup either to repair their shattered finances or to bring down the curtain upon themselves. One of the most curious instances of this kind comes from England of the eighteenth century. A notorious gambler had been losing steadily in a game for high stakes with Lord Lorne. Exasperated by his continued ill fortune, he suddenly sprang up from the card table, seized a large and costly punch bowl, and, balancing it above his head, called out to his opponent: "For once I'll have an equal chance of winning! Odd or even, for 15,000 guineas!" "Odd!" replied the peer, placidly, and the gambler hurled the magnificent bowl against the wall. When they counted the pieces Lord Lorne had won.

Who's Yellow Anyway.

From the Albany Democrat. The papers of the country generally were against Hearst, charging yellow journalism as the reason for it. And yet it is a peculiar fact that the same papers are the Examiner and other Hearst papers in a great many things, in fact almost everything but the high moral standard along temperance and social lines. Papers which make fun of the Hearst papers for their red ink proclivities now themselves have red ink and yellow ink and all the colored inks needed. It just makes a difference whose nose is red. The truth is some of the yellowest papers at heart are those which are continually yelling yellow about their neighbors.

BIRDSEYE VIEWS OF TIMELY TOPICS

SMALL CHANGE.

One week more, Mr. Gobbler. The railroads also have their troubles. Has every member got his anti-graft razor ready? Speaking of Thanksgiving, think first of the needy. Small tracts for homeseekers are what is needed. Political bossism isn't so easy a job in Oregon as formerly.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

The fruit-raising industry is going to boom. Hillsboro may have a new first-class hotel. Albany expects some important new industries. More money in Albany banks than ever before. Many golden weddings indicate longevity in Oregon. Lots more alfalfa will be raised along the Malheur hereafter. Klamath county may levy a 4-mill tax to build a new courthouse. Land in small tracts is being sold around Medford. That's good. Sheridan is proud of its fine new school building, costing \$9,300. Sherman county people may go to the Crook county mines with teams for coal. McMinnville now has "rich river water," says the N. R. But it will have mountain water, "not so rich," before long. Salem hoodlums interfere with the fire-tonguers who are noisily holding forth there, and for once some sympathy is felt for the hoodlums. Home grown strawberries still on the market; lettuce in the gardens; exquisite roses and many other flowers blooming out doors, along Myrtle creek. A farmer lost in Canby a purse containing \$850 in cash and checks. It was returned to him with contents intact by the finder, a stranger. Moro Observer: Never in the history of Sherman county has so many varieties of winter wheat been seeded as this Fall, and we all look forward as to what variety "will be the winner." An unusually large amount of winter barley has also been seeded.

Work of a Municipal League

The Los Angeles Municipal League, an affiliated member of the National Municipal League, has a long record of useful and effective work. It runs a little monthly known as "Municipal Affairs," and from the latest issue we take the following striking account of its recent achievements: "Recently an evening paper, speaking in a friendly spirit of the function of the league in city affairs, said that it was a power for good, but not so much in the matter of initiating new legislation, as in detecting wrongs and in following up the evil-doers. "Now it is perhaps rather doubtful that to look a gift complement in the mouth, but "Municipal Affairs" must take gentle exception to this theory of the proper function of the league. Inevitably this organization must at times find fault with city officials, and when checking up of any kind is absolutely needed, we are not going to refuse a duty that others perhaps neglect to perform. Still we submit that a body of 850 good citizens joined for the purpose of making a city government, should have logically a much higher purpose than that of serving as a general detective agency; and we maintain that the career of the organization up to date exemplifies the correctness of this theory. "Let us name, for example, nine things of major importance which the league has accomplished, and eight more that check up in hand—for the league does come slowly—that are not at all in the detective line: (1) The league gave the city its civil service system, which is a vast improvement over the old spoils system. (2) The league gave the city a permanent board of public works. (3) The league secured the signatures for the paving of 10 miles of street in the hill areas west of the present paved district. When this work is completed (within the next five or six months), it will stop the carrying of quantities of mud on our principal streets. (4) The league secured the nomination and election of a non-partisan school board of high character. (5) The league prevented the reelection of an unsatisfactory street superintendent. (6) The league has fought successfully against the participation of city employees in local politics. (7) The league secured the passage of the two-mile-a-year clearance of poles ordinance. (8) The league has secured promptness in city council meetings. (9) The league made a successful fight against the river-bed franchise. (10) And to the work in hand: (11) The reorganization of the city's accounting system. (12) The working out of a sanitary garbage system. (13) More thorough system in the filling of excavations. (14) Protection to the rights of the property owner in the matter of alley locations. There is only one ultimate outcome to this contention, no matter how it may be delayed. (15) The passage of a law that will compel the payment of interest on city deposits. (16) Changing city elections to non-political years. This goes into effect in 1909. (17) Assisting disinterested newspapers and conscientious city officials in raising up a powerful spirit for good city government. (18) Better housing conditions for the poor of the city. "Of course, the league does not claim to have done or to be doing all these things enumerated above, alone and single-handedly; but it does claim, with regard to a majority of them, and can make good its claim before any jury that inquires into the facts, that they would not have been accomplished, or under way to be accomplished, had not the league or some similar organization been in existence. "The functions of the league are as broad and as deep as those of the municipality, that it seeks to serve. The city has a few detectives. It is true, but they are of small importance in comparison with the thousand other lines of effort and interest that occupy its attention."

Filipinos Will Meet in Congress.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. March 27, 1907, will be an important date in the history of the Philippines. On that day a general election will be called to choose delegates to a Philippine assembly. This is in obedience to a law of congress which provides that two years after the taking of a census of the islands this grant of self-rule should be made. The census was published on March 27, 1905, and attracted wide attention. It was the first count of the inhabitants of the islands which made any close approach to accuracy. The population of the islands, as revealed in that count, was 7,635,000, of whom 847,000 are classed as uncivilized. Under the law of congress all made residents of the island of 23 years of age, who can read and write either Spanish or English, or who own a certain amount of property, can vote for members of the new assembly. Under Spanish law 21 years was the minimum voting age. The Philippine parliament will consist of two chambers, a popular branch of not less than 50 nor more than 100 members, and an upper branch, which may be made up of the Philippine commission, part of which, it is probable, will consist of the present commission for the islands. This will be the first step toward the establishment of self-rule for the Philippines, but they will, even by this beginning, have a larger voice in the government of their local affairs than Spain would probably have granted to them if she had remained in control half a century longer. It is a larger measure of self-rule than is possessed by any of the Asiatic colonies of the European powers. The grant will be extended as fast as the natives show an intelligence to use their power wisely. It is altogether probable that within a third of a century the Philippines will have almost as much of a voice in the management of their home concerns as Canada has under the British system. This experiment in home rule for an Asiatic dependency will be watched with a good deal of interest by the world.

The Weather Plant.

From the Boston Globe. Herr Nowack, a meteorologist, claims to have discovered a plant which will be either the rheumatism or the weather bureau in forecasting storm and sunshine. It grows in Cuba, alongside of bananas and revolutions, and bears the very simple name of abrus praecox, or the noble N. N., alias the pater noster pea. Two or three days beforehand, so it is said, rain or snow districts can be determined to a distance of nearly 2,000 miles by merely watching the leaflets. If Mr. Nowack is not too sanguine in his expectations of correct results from observation of his new-fangled plant it will soon be possible for a man to know on Sunday whether or not he will need his goshawk the next Wednesday, and on Wednesday a housewife can decide with certainty whether she will have a lawn party or an indoor whist game the following Saturday. But the Austrian meteorologist goes farther than a promise to predict the weather. He declares that when he gets his stations established in London, New York and Tokio the leaf-midwife will enable him to give notice of dangerous convulsions of nature 14 to 28 days before they occur. If such a warning could have been sent to the people of San Francisco a month prior to the awful earthquake which shook and shattered that city, hundreds of lives and thousands of dollars' worth of property could have been saved. Herr Nowack has been conducting his plant experiments for years and the Austrian government has had faith enough in him to back him with money. Now the world is waiting for him to make good.

Peculiarity of Plums.

From the New York Sun. Newton had just discovered why the apple fell down. "But," he asked, "why do plums fall to those higher up?" Herewith the great man hastily had business down street.