

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER: Occasional rain; possibly part hail or sleet; winds mostly southerly.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

So there will have to be a special session of Congress to consider the Cuban question. It is not probable the Cuban Constitution will reach Washington before the expiration of the present Congress; and if it should, the time will be too short for consideration of it. Cuba is going on the assumption that she is to be an independent state. We promised her independence. It is not to be expected that her constitution will contain any covenants or guarantees for protection of the large interests of the United States in the welfare or future of the island. Cuba's revolutionary statesmen could not thus consent to their own obscuration. But what is especially necessary to the United States is the recognition by Cuba of our right to supervise the foreign and financial policies of the Cuban Republic; to have the right to intervene for the protection of American residents and other foreigners in Cuba, and to guard the commercial interests of our people. But under these conditions Cuba would not be a sovereign and independent state. The personnel of the convention that is at work on the constitution is no guaranty of stability in the government it will create. It represents mainly the extreme elements of revolutionary agitation, and it is published as a fact by the newspapers of the island that there is not one member of the convention who is owner of \$1000 of property. There is a Pandora's box of troubles in store for the United States in our relations with Cuba; and we shall owe it to our own dignity in our own Congress, who commended the Nation by needless and foolish resolutions, at the time of the declaration of war with Spain.

When one looks at the vastly increasing demands upon the property of the state, there need be no wonder that the returns of the Assessors show that it does not increase, but even decreases in value. In the State of Oregon there is no growth of property at all comparable with growth of demands upon it. In state, county, city and school district it is the same. In a state of 4,000,000 inhabitants everything is demanded that is had in states of 4,000,000. Legislative appropriations run to excess. A public educational system is demanded for all children and youth, from the kindergarten to the university—everything "free." Then, the "defective classes"—those either morally or physically defective—must be coddled, at enormous increasing cost. Every effort is put forth to make state institutions of all kinds as extensive and elaborate as possible, even to their esthetic appointments. The inhabitants of towns and cities, especially those who pay no taxes, or but petty taxes, demand all the conveniences that belong to the richest municipalities. Politicians encourage all these demands. The self-styled Indian War veterans call for state pensions; localities thinly inhabited demand state high schools, and get them. As a consequence of these multifarious demands, there is a marked and increasing public expenditure and public taxation. Property, touched with this blast, shrinks up like verdure under a blizzard. It is beyond doubt that the sum of appropriations by the present Legislature will enormously exceed any previous sum, and provision is to be made by the laws of the present session for vastly larger exactions for the coming years. Let no one be surprised, therefore, at the poor showing property makes on the assessment rolls. Worse, the end is not yet.

The "survival of the fittest" should be the answer to the question, Who shall be the candidate? It is not fairly a question of aspiration at all, for an imbecile might ask for the earth or a seraph's halo to play with. The best man that can be obtained and elected should be in all places of public trust. Retire the incompetent, put the stalwart man to the front, and promote no man on the stupid theory that he wants to be promoted. It is but a stupid theory of politics that periodically puts sleek and smug mediocrity in power, that makes a bargain and sale, booty and beauty measure of politics. The average voter knows the difference between mere aspiration and ability, between a silly, tall-expanding peacock and a sun-scanning eagle. There is no need of the lantern of Diogenes to discover the proportions of a capable man, but it takes a searchlight of great power to make out the fog-buff political phantoms who think an office converts the engi-

neer and evangelist of a petty faction into a statesman. The public business needs men who do not find it necessary to offer affidavits as to their own personal ability and worth. The public business ought to be entrusted to a man of conspicuous character, despite the whimpering protest of ill-represented obscurities who think they are in the line of promotion and want to have something because it is "their turn." It is nobody's turn, it is always the turn of men of eminence for ability and worth that have lifted them into the rank of conspicuous citizens. The people need candidates whose fame is not a matter of dim tradition, and whose honorable history there is no need to establish by affidavits. Give us the eagle, who is capable of vigorous flight, rather than the peacock who is only capable at regular intervals of spreading his tail in honor of himself, assuming God to give the state the peacock has already blessed.

The disaster that has befallen sixty-five men in the Cumberland coal mine, on Vancouver Island, is but a repetition of like events that have from time to time shocked the community since coal mining became a great industry and coal the most important of the commercial products of the world. Disasters of this nature differ in degree, but not in kind. Imprisoned men, possibly alive, probably dead, in a subterranean cavern, the only opening to which is a north-redounding "smoke and ruddy flame," an excited throng vainly striving to devise means of relief for the hapless prisoners; frantic women and horror-stricken children waiting at the pit's mouth, and finally cages loaded with intrepid rescuers descending into the forbidding depths to return with human forms, blackened and distorted out of all semblance to the men that they represented a few hours before—these are the features of colliery disaster wherever it occurs. The one consoling fact in connection with a calamity of this character is that death comes soon, if not instantly, to the victims of the explosion of coal gas in these confined inner chambers. Less fortunate, in a way, are the contingent sufferers from the disaster—the wretched wives and mothers and the appalled children of the men sent so quickly to their doom. To the credit of corporate philanthropy be it said, substantial assistance, often of the best because of the self-helpful order, is almost universally given by employing companies to the families of miners who perish in this way. So far as developed, there is no cause for this explosion that was in any way avoidable. It is simply the old story. The deadly element which men fancy they control, for the moment burst all barriers, and human life and human energy went down before its power. Frequent happenings have not deprived such incidents of their horror, nor has the ingenuity of man, though reducing their liability a hundredfold, been able to prevail wholly against them.

THE AMERICAN SALOON.

The career of Carrie Nation has at least done this good, that it has set people thinking about the saloon, and that is something hardly anybody ever does. We have a great deal of partisan declamation about the saloon, on both sides, but no thought. Now, unprejudiced and careful thought about the saloon as an institution will reveal the disastrous confusion which has hitherto prevented the saloon's friends and enemies from finding any common ground to argue from. Temperance advocates confuse the saloon with drinking, and therefore when they propose to abolish liquor as a means of eradicating the saloon evils, they encounter an obstacle which is practically insurmountable. Very similar is the error of the opposition, which, in defending the individual's right to legitimate use of alcohol, mistakenly concludes that this involves no defense of the saloon, which does not at all follow. No less a historian, philosopher and moralist than Mr. W. E. H. Lecky calls alcohol "the comforter of the nations," and when we think of its use in the family life of Asia and Continental Europe, or of its use among the temperate Scotch and cultivated Irish, we all incline to agree with him. But its employment in the American saloon, while "comfort" may be its incident, results in a combination of discomfort, misery and disgrace that make us wish Mr. Lecky had modified his definition. The abuse of liquor, obviously no crusade against saloons can do away; for as it is, many persons drink themselves to death who never go into a saloon. Yet if the saloon could be abolished, it is certain the abuse of liquor would be very materially lessened. It is a mistake to suppose that the moving force behind liquor selling is a Satanic desire to destroy men's souls and bodies. Its object is purely commercial, and the Government recognizes the trade in alcohol as legitimate, along with that in other articles of commerce. But liquor of all sorts can be obtained and used to whatever extent is necessary without the practice of guzzling at a bar or a free lunch, or playing games for drinks. If they were so obtained and used, the world would be the better for it.

How far back shall we go before we come to the fundamental difficulty with our American life that sends men to swill in the barroom when they should do their drinking moderately at home? Certainly, the explanation is not in the saloon itself, however attractive competition has made it; for thousands of drinking men are set foot in one. Why, then, do they prefer to be elsewhere. They, then, does one man hurry off to a saloon while another stays at home? Shall we not at once confess that we lack in domesticity? The European does his drinking with his family, either at home or in a respectable garden. European groups in this country do so. Our German Jews, for example, contribute very little to the support of saloons, but almost without exception they have wine and beer on their tables. Few of our British citizens are public stainers, yet those of them who frequent saloons are very rare. Temperance agitation has alienated its ablest allies because it has made it impossible for those to aid it who hate saloons, but believe in the sane and proper use of alcohol. Reform is apt to miscarry when half of its forces turn savagely upon the other half.

What we need in this country is more homes and fewer boarding-houses; fewer saloons and more innocent cakes and coffee, crackers and

beer at little social family gatherings. The passion for public eating and public drinking is leading us out upon the streets. Men do not appreciate the blessings of domestic joys until they have driven them away. Women do not understand the supreme importance of making home attractive until their households are wrecked through some more assiduous woman or some more tempting place of refuge. A commercial civilization indicates many virtues, such as honesty, frugality and toleration. But it has grievous temptations, among which is sacrifice of domesticity to money-getting. Regard for the dollar and display keeps our young people from marrying and our married people from having children. Many a man will be drunk in a saloon tonight and many a woman crying at home who, if she were sober, would have a house full of children calling for Mamma's comfort when in trouble, waiting eagerly for Papa's return from work.

This gigantic tree of Intemperance, spreading out over the biggest and richest land under the sun—we see its branches in the saloon and the criminal records and the divorce courts, but where is its root? Is it our imperfect American home, sickly loved and tended, sacrificed to avarice and vanity and laziness, starved alike of parental affection and discipline, afraid of childhood's pranks and tears, and then complaining at its losses? They were wise in old Greece who taught that the foundation of the state is the family. Where a man takes his pleasure, there his character is largely formed. There his soul is open to influences of good or ill. There his guards are down, there his environment molds him. America needs, as Napoleon said of France, mothers. With the implements God has fashioned to their hands, they should never have time to complain that they were over-ruled by the tawdry glare and hollow gaiety of the American saloon.

ANTHONY HOPE'S SECRET.

Portland has already had the pleasure, under Mr. Hackett's able presentation, of attending the success of the dramatization of Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zenda." How is one to explain the hold that this book has upon the affections of the American people? Is it because we have hidden away somewhere a sheepish fondness for the ancient moated castle, with its gloomy dungeon, secret passages and frowning drawbridge? Or is it the sublime audacity of the story that appeals to one? Certainly, there is a naive and healthy excitement in pursuing the adventures of a normal, everyday man who, by the concatenation of events, is transformed into a sort of gallant, cheerful-tempered Dumas hero, and actually personates the King of Ruritania for three months, in this role winning the love of a royal beauty.

There is something so daintily absurd about the plot that the very originality and recklessness of it was enough to insure success with a novelty-loving public. That the book has held its popularity during six years is due to the fact that Mr. Hope really has some man for a story-teller. He hurries the reader along through such a whirl of intrigue and knotty entanglement of love-making as to leave him quite breathless at the last chapter. What could be more fascinating to the democratic mind of today than such sly fun-making with a pasteboard King? This, more than any grace of style or permanent literary quality, is the secret of the book's unprecedented success.

Anthony Hope has sometimes been called a man of one book, yet this is not entirely just. The sequel to "The Prisoner of Zenda," viz., "Rupert of Hentzau," has already been dramatized with some success. His "Dolly Dialogues" achieved great popularity several years ago among matinee girls and boarding-school maids, for their sunny humor and coquetry. He has written two stories with a "purpose," "Father Stafford" and "Half a Hero," but it is not these so much as his romances, "Phroso," "The Heart of Princess Ostra," and the rest, that have won him readers. Up to the present time, his work has shown no enduring qualities, and it is probable that 20 years from now it will be quite forgotten.

BORN OF STATESMANSHIP RATHER THAN PHILANTHROPY.

The eulogists of Lincoln again this time describe him as "God," who came distinctly raised up by God, who came to the front and literally burst the chains of the colored man." The act of emancipation is not Lincoln's peculiar glory. It was not executed by him as a humanitarian act; it was forced upon him as a grim political necessity. No matter who had been elected President by the Republican party in 1860, civil war would have surely followed, and a long civil war would surely have created the same situation as that which reluctantly compelled Lincoln to proclaim the freedom of the colored man. Before the Civil War, John Quincy Adams on the floor of Congress predicted that in event of a civil war between North and South slavery would be sure to perish through the invocation of the war powers of the Constitution in shape of a proclamation of emancipation; and Theodore Parker in more than one of his political sermons preached before the war predicted that slavery would continue until it was rolled up like a scroll and destroyed through the collision of a great civil war.

From the very nature of the war the pressure for a proclamation of emancipation had been very strong. It began first in Butler's declaring fugitive slaves who came within his military lines to be "contraband of war," since they were property belonging to the enemy. Then, in August, 1861, General Fremont issued a proclamation of emancipation from his department headquarters at St. Louis. This measure Lincoln promptly refused to approve, and officially repudiated. Then, in May, 1862, General Hunter, in South Carolina, issued a proclamation which Lincoln also refused to ratify. Lincoln did not "sit down" on these early proclamations of emancipation because he approved of slavery or because he was doubtful of popular support. He was not seeking to play the part of a humanitarian by seizing upon the first pretext for a proclamation of emancipation from his department headquarters of the destruction or perpetuation of slavery. He had taken an oath to defend and preserve the Union. If he

could do this most effectually by saving slavery, he would save it. If the Union could be restored most quickly by wrecking slavery, he was ready to wreck it. He knew that the Union men of the border states of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri were not ready for emancipation the first year of the war, and so he wisely saved Fremont's hand in August, 1861. He checked Hunter again in May, 1862, because the fate of the great aggressive campaign of McClellan against Richmond had not been decided. Had McClellan taken Richmond, as he might have done had he been an able and enterprising commander, by the first week of June, 1862; had the great army of Halleck, 120,000 strong, pushed forward from Corinth and captured Vicksburg in June, 1862, as it could easily have done, the war would have ended in a peace which would have been patched which would have preserved slavery.

Lincoln knew that under these circumstances of victory peace could be made easier without the embarrassment of emancipation, so he held his hand until it was clear that the Union Army under McClellan at the East had been hopelessly defeated and the Union Army under Halleck at the West had been hopelessly dispersed by its commander. Then he was ready for emancipation, not as a humanitarian measure for it was not an act of humanity, but a cruel military necessity executed not to rescue the negro from bondage, but to hasten the restoration of the Union by weakening the sinews of the Confederacy. The glory of Lincoln is not the act of emancipation, for that was inevitable in a protracted civil war under any President. His glory lies in the conservative statesmanship which persuaded him to issue the proclamation of emancipation until he could deliver it at the most favorable opportunity for its highest political and moral effect. He refused to issue it in July, 1862, on the heels of a great Union defeat; but issued it in September after the Union victory of Antietam. The proclamation did not take effect until January 1, 1863, by which time the war had made such progress that the Union men of the border states had no choice but to cast their lot with Lincoln's Administration. The people were favorable to emancipation as a military measure long before Lincoln was willing to execute it. It was an inevitable outcome of the great Civil War, but Lincoln's greatness lies in the fact that he held it in leash resolutely until he found a desirable opportunity to let it slip with his other dogs of war. Let it was no humanitarianism about it; it was purely an act of statesmanship, a military measure, as Napoleon's Milan or Berlin decrees.

The season begins its last week as it began its first, with the question at issue whether the state is to call to its aid in an important commercial crisis a man fit as Mr. Corbett is to represent its commercial interests with dignity and force at Washington, to perpetuate the present unsatisfactory regime. If there is any new complication, it is that the air is filled with ominous rumors that, rather than accept the choice of the majority, the minority will force an adjournment without an election. They can do this, perhaps, but the responsibility is a heavy one to shoulder. The people of the state expect an election, and they can less afford a vacancy now than at any previous step in our history. Nor will they go far in sympathy with a minority that insists the majority shall come to it. Meanwhile, the various stalking horses of the Mitchell outfit have done, it would seem, their full measure of service. The announcement that their chief will himself take the field in the voting today or tomorrow is certainly to be desired. If Mitchell can make it, let him come in and make it. If he can't, let him get out of the way so somebody can be elected.

A superintendent of police in Chicago, when complaint was made to him recently against gamblers, by a man who had lost money on "the game," made the following answer: "So you lost your money gambling, eh? What do you play for if you weren't ready to lose? Then, when you lose, you come around here and 'roar.' You are just as much to blame as the fellows you played with."

The superintendent was censured by one of the newspapers of the city for this answer. Now, we think no fault should be found with the statement in itself; but this is not quite all of it. Contemptible as the fellow is who "hunts the game," loses his money and then "roars" or "squeals," yet society cannot accept the censure of this individual as a quality. It has a proper interest in stopping the abuse; and it may use the testimony of one party or the other, or of both, as it may see fit, as a means toward abatement. Use is made of confessions of participation in crime, in prosecution of all offenses or abatement of all evils.

It seems that the bill for improvement of Soda Springs, Linn county, so as to make it a Summer resort, has gone through one branch of the Legislature. Now let an amendment be added requiring the state to pay for transportation of the people to and from the springs, and we shall approach a realization of the idea of Mr. Bryan, one of whose complaints uttered last year was that the wives of rich men could go to Summer resorts, while the wives of poor men couldn't. Rich men's wives, however, often have costly jewelry, and poor men's wives haven't. But perhaps some way will be devised to correct this inequality also.

If mirrors and saloon fixtures could feel Mrs. Nation's punishment, her hatchet might strike nearer the evil. If she should demolish drinkers, there would probably be no more drinking. But if inanimate objects are not anthropomorphic they are just as well demoralized, because that is their natural state.

Three Generations in the Navy.

There was only one vacancy at large at Annapolis this year for the President, and he has filled it by selecting the younger son of Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, Jr., over instructions to report attempts to establish a new navy. The grandfather is Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, who was retired from active service in 1866 and is now nearly 100 years old. He has the honor of being the oldest man in the Navy Register shows he was in the Navy in 1838. His son, Rear Admiral Selfridge, Jr., was retired three years ago for age. Still another brother, Rear Admiral Selfridge, was retired several years ago. Admiral Selfridge, Jr., had a son at Annapolis who would now have been a Lieutenant had he remained in the service. No family in the history of the Navy was ever so well represented.

PESSIMISTIC EX-PRESIDENTS.

In the current number of Puck there is a cartoon in which Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison are represented as attitudes of remembrance and expostulation with William McKinley for the course he is pursuing in relation to the Philippine Islands. Yet there is reminder that Mr. Cleveland, when he was President, was on the point of forcing us into war with Great Britain, on account of Venezuela, and that Mr. Harrison, when President, strove for annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. Puck's cartoon emphasizes the fact that either of these persons, were he President now, would be controlled by conditions and the course of events, just as McKinley was. Very many people, the Salt Lake Tribune says, have tried to invent a business for ex-Presidents. Some have suggested that they be made Senators for life. Others have tried to fix a station where they would be advisory. Some would fix them at the head of great universities. Judging by the disposition which our two ex-Presidents seem to possess just now, it looks as though there ought to be a Presidential rest cure home provided for them, where they could have warm rooms, porous plasters, trained nurses, soft music and readers to entertain them with the classics and the other usual means taken to divert the souls of those who are afflicted with melancholy, until their minds are led up into more cheerful and more hopeful channels. The Cleveland of today is not much like the Cleveland that was ready to declare war in 15 minutes against the greatest power on earth over some snakes and alligators in Venezuela. And the General Harrison of today, who is afraid to see our country a world power, who is dissatisfied with everything in the Philippines, in the West Indies and in the home Government, is not the same Benjamin Harrison, ardent at that when a boy fought at Peach Tree; not the same that when President and his Secretary of State was ill, steered the country through the troubles caused by the killing of our sailors in Valparaiso; negotiated a treaty for the acquisition of the Hawaiian Islands, and showed himself in every lineament a clear-brained, country-loving American, ready to fight at the drop of the hat, if necessary. The new century has started its loaded up with vast store of dry rot, and certain great men are demonstrating the fact that death is a good thing in the world; that there is only about so much in a human life, and that only now and then a brain is able to maintain a continuous steadiness until the outside tabernacle falls away from around the soul and leaves a glorified memory.

USURPATION BY THE COMMITTEE.

Effort of Republican National Committee to Lobby Shipping Bill.

Chicago Tribune. The functions of a Republican National committee are not defined by law. They are defined by long-established usage, which is as binding upon cautious and conscientious men as a law would be. When the delegates to a National convention select a National committee they do so in order that there shall be an organization to take charge of the ensuing campaign. When it is over the duties of the committee are at an end until the season arrives to determine the time and the place for holding the next National convention. No committee has ever assigned other duties than these to the National committee selected by it. No committee before the present one has ever ventured to assume other functions than those assigned by the constitution. The Presidential campaign of 1900, successfully managed by the present National committee, is over. That committee is functus officio until the Winter of 1901. But it refuses to resign, and is actively engaged in an attempt to influence in a certain direction the legislation of Congress. It is not denied that the committee is busied in sending out to country newspapers, throughout the Middle West, prepared editorials and plate news matter—the cost of getting up and distributing which is paid out of a campaign fund presumably contributed for entirely different purposes—advocating the passage of the ship subsidy bill. The committee is unwilling to follow public opinion on this subject. It seeks to create a public opinion in favor of the subsidy legislation and thereby influence the action of Congress.

This is a serious and startling departure from the party usages of nearly half a century. No one has even suggested in the past that the wisdom of the party as represented in each House of Congress was not competent to determine upon the action of the party concerning measures of legislation as they might arise. It has never occurred to any Republicans that there was need of a supervising or advisory body to influence the action of the Republican Congressmen. Assuredly the delegates to the Republican National Convention did not think they were creating such a body when they selected the present National committee. They had not the lack of confidence in the party representatives in Congress which would have been implied in the designation of the National committee as a Congressional "steering committee." Nor is it to be supposed that this new policy of the National committee was determined upon or approved at any meeting of the full committee or of the Executive committee.

The intention for which some members of the National committee are responsible, should not be permitted to ripen into established custom. If permitted, there will be created within the party an oligarchy which will create conditions which are adverse to the representatives of the people in Congress duly elected according to law. The Republican Congressmen should be the first to resent an attempt to usurp such an oligarchy. They will do so if they have proper self-respect. They cannot afford to ignore this effort now being made to bring unofficial, outside pressure to bear upon them by covert appeals to the country newspapers in their districts.

If this procedure on the part of the National committee is not an attempt to usurp the functions of the legislative department of the government it is one to usurp the functions of the lobby. It is difficult at this moment to say which it is. In either case there is a manifest and dangerous violation of the unwritten law of the party, which should meet with earnest, prompt and effective rebuke.

Tralfalgar Hats.

The Gentleman's Magazine. The year 1805 was a memorable one, as on October 21st was fought and gained the battle of Tralfalgar, and then, as now, the British flag was carried flying over the tolls named in their honor. So a glorious Nelson was commemorated by a hat—the "Tralfalgar"—and every woman and child adopted the wondrous structure. The tolls named in their honor were of enormous width, and breadth, something of the size of a round table, and so loaded with plumes that the wearers must have looked all hat.

SUBSTITUTES FOR SALOONS.

St. Paul Pioneer Press. The idea that the way to get rid of the saloon is to provide substitutes for it which shall be equally attractive to the multitudes who are now drawn to the saloon by other inducements than the mere desire to drink has been frequently advocated, and has resulted in some experiments to that end which have usually proved abortive. It is interesting to find that this belief is strongly indorsed as the outcome of a long and painstaking investigation conducted in Chicago under the auspices of Royce Wiley, and the results of which are embodied in two interesting papers printed in the American Journal of Sociology for November and January last.

Probably never before in the history of the temperance agitation has so fair and unprejudiced a presentation been made as in these articles, of the hold which the saloon has upon the popular mind, and of the reasons therefor. The common belief among that portion of our people who do not patronize the saloon that it exists solely for the purpose of ministering to the appetites and passions and promoting the reasons therefor. The common belief among that portion of our people who do not patronize the saloon that it exists solely for the purpose of ministering to the appetites and passions and promoting the reasons therefor. The common belief among that portion of our people who do not patronize the saloon that it exists solely for the purpose of ministering to the appetites and passions and promoting the reasons therefor.

The declaration is made that not more than 20 per cent of the habitual visitors to saloons are primarily for drink. Quite a number go there who drink only very rarely if at all. Multitudes, especially among the Germans and other foreigners, take no more than a slight nibble with no more thought of infringing upon the rules of temperance than when they eat a slice of bread. Whole families of this class spend social hours in the saloons, with the thought of contamination in its surroundings. To multitudes of other classes the saloon is the only resort open for social life. It is not only "the poor man's club" but "the woman's club," and "the neighborhood" in numerous cases, rooms where the social organizations of the working classes, their lodges, unions and dancing clubs, can hold their meetings clear of the noise and confusion of the city whatever. For the bachelor tenants of rows and rows of lodging houses—more dreary and cheerless than our prisons in their appointments—the saloon affords the only practical place where society and good fellowship may be found; where a man is welcomed even if he is moneyless; where, if he is out of town, news of his own class stand ready to report, out of courtesy and politeness, where news and politics and familiar social problems are discussed, and where everybody is welcome to participate in the discussion. Lastly—and this is one of the most powerful attractions of the saloon—nowhere else can a hungry man get so good a meal for 5 cents as in the saloon with its "free lunch" attachment. If he is not hungry for food, he will find it forbidden him unless he becomes "too regular" in his attacks thereon. The big brewing companies maintain these lunch counters as a paying attraction to promote their sales of beer; and they are not in great quantities, and expecting no profit beyond that made on the beer, they are able to set before this saloon habitué for cents a bill of fare which would be responsible for any restaurant to afford. And then the meal is served amid surroundings so much more comfortable than those of the ordinary cheap restaurant that its seductions are irresistible. Not infrequently music adds its charms to the meal. Toilet conveniences, free to all comers, such as city authorities should provide but do not, also add to the forces which draw men to the saloon.

Since it is shown that only 50 per cent of the frequenters of the saloon go there for drink, the theory is advanced that if the saloon were to be abolished, it would as well or better meet the needs of the other 50 per cent, then a long step will be taken for the elimination of the saloon evil. The difficulty is, of course, to convert the saloon into a place where the social substitutes, Mr. Melendy does not believe that the saloon will ever be entirely abolished by substitution, certainly not by legislation. But says he: "Gradually some of the causes of the present evil may be removed. By improvement in methods of lodging the people, as by model tenement-houses. By increased facilities for obtaining cheap and wholesome food, such as is provided in the coffee-houses of London. By a ministerial by proper authorities to such necessities as public toilet conveniences, and the furnishing of public places of recreation and amusement, and the means of social intercourse for the masses. By a more general spread of education—education in the trades and professions—education that leads to equality of opportunity. There is nothing Utopian in these suggestions. Most of them are in process of being carried out. The model tenement-houses, the cheap food, the furnishing of public necessities in public parks, and the furnishing of places of recreation and amusement, and education in the trades and professions, have all passed beyond the stage of experiment, but they are all on too small a scale and confined to too few localities to exercise the wide influence on the social problem which would be doubtless their general introduction on a scale commensurate with the evils to be corrected, and on plans suited to the needs of the people. But when all has been done that can be done to provide counter attractions to the saloon, Mr. Melendy sees in the result only a diminution of its evils. He says: 'What is a fair question whether the reason is obvious. The desire for stimulants is well-nigh universal. It has existed in all countries from immemorial time. The means of gratifying this desire cannot be abolished so long as the desire itself exists. This is a fact which must be recognized in dealing with the saloon evil, and is a fact upon which the most efficacious substitutes for the saloon would not be the inclusion of arrangements for the satisfaction of this desire within temperate limits. The only way to deal with the saloon evil would do away with temptations to excess and to the evils of intemperance. Neither is this an experiment. In Germany, where beer is the common beverage of the people, and in the other continental Europe, where light wines are in common use for domestic and social purposes, their intemperance use is rare even when drunk in popular resorts.'

An Oversight Note.

Louisville Courier-Courier. The St. Louis Globe-Democrat lately requested that it be allowed to name the 10 greatest persons identified with the history of that state, living persons excluded. As a result it gives the following list: Benton, Blair, Sterling Price, Zane, James A. Rollins, Eugene Field, Bates, Doniphan, Bland and Bishop Marvin. The memory of the present generation in Missouri does not seem to extend back to the names of the men who were the Duke of Grafton, who got hard up and sold it to a merchant named Harrison. As Queen Victoria did not smoke, the office was a sinecure, but the descendants of Harrison are entitled to the privilege of entering the presence of their sovereign at any time.

Pleasantries of Paragaphers.

Acceptable—She—Yes, your poetry sounds pretty, but I haven't heard it in a long time. "George, what's that? Then I may hope to get into the leading magazines."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. A Helmsport—Interested Party—And so you are married now, Lavinia? I hope your husband is a good provider? The bride—Dear me, I miss it! He got me three new places to wash last week—Frick. "Well meaning, but—Puffer—For goodness' sake, what's the matter with your meerschaum pipe? Mr. Puffer—Why, dear, I noticed it was getting awfully brown and discolored, so I put a coat of that white enamel paint on it."—Philadelphia Press. To settle the question—"You believe, then, after all, that Shakespeare wrote the plays himself?" She—Yes, but to make sure, the first time I saw across him to name the man. "But 'pose he isn't there?" "Then you can ask him."—Brooklyn Life. Extreme Provocation—Murphy—Why were you whippin' yer Maize so hard in the 'nigger's' kitchen? Hank—Ah, you young devil, sez he, "Poppy, sez he, 'git yer pinter tick, an' I'll send you 'em to the tucker, fr a valentine."—Baltimore American. Clara (extending photograph)—"How do you like it? Hattie—It's perfectly lovely. "You think it a good likeness?" "Oh, no; it doesn't look a particle like you, you know; but I wouldn't mind that. Clara, you are not likely to have such luck again, if you sat a thousand times."—Tit-Bits. Mrs. Green—I suppose the Chittings are awfully stuck up since they got that money from Mrs. Chittings' uncle? Mrs. Gray—Not so much as one might have supposed; but I notice that when they have mince-meat on the table they call it croquette; it used to be mince-meat. A Careless Woman—Wife—Can't you let me have some money today? Husband—What did you do with that dollar I let you have last week? Wife—I bought a new hat. Well, I had to have a new bonnet, and a heavier wrap, and Willie and Katie needed new shoes, and John had to have a new suit, and Prudence—Mrs. Green—And you had a new gown, and Mary a pair of gloves, and David an overcoat—and—and—and, really, Henry, I don't remember what I did with the change.—Detroit Journal.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Madrid seems to be bidding for fame as the Wichita of Spain. Another transport is on a reef. How many reefs are there in the Philippine, anyhow. It is rumored that the only person who was surprised by McBride's fluke was Mark Hanna. A Kansas saloon-wrecking bee, it would appear, is a peaceful affair compared to a French wedding. A Southern Oregon man wants to know why we need a legislature when we have an Insane Asylum. It might pay the telegraph company to put up a special wire for the exclusive use of Binger Hermann. It looks as if General Dewet would be able to accomplish a great deal when he really gets to fighting. Wilhelmina has promised to "obey" as wife but not as queen. It's ten to one she will be queen all the time. General Buller is said to be the only Englishman who can account for the British failures in South Africa. China refuses to do any more executing. Since she has 40,000,000 people it is natural she shirks from a big job. Bryan and Wooley can give Mrs. Nation a few bits of philosophy on the efficacy of rear platform speeches. If Mrs. Nation were here she might use her little hatchet on the Senatorial deadlock on Washington's birthday. King Edward may reasonably expect to have a long reign but he certainly does not hope to see the end of the Boer war. Since the country is going so fast to the devil, it is positively treacherous for Cleveland to persist longer in retirement. The Ingenious correspondent can always get a dollar or two by sending an alleged Pat Crowe story to a Chicago paper. A Nebraska statesman has married a Cuban widow with \$100,000. A little more of this and the Cuban question will settle itself. There is going to be an extra session of Congress. However, let us be thankful that the Legislature's labors will cease with this week. Bryan was introduced at a Lincoln banquet as the "Next President." Although he is determined to be a private citizen, he was not insulated. W. K. Vanderbilt has started for the Mediterranean. It is suspected that he will look over the Vatican with a view to buying it for himself and J. P. Morgan. The South African war having created a great demand on the part of toy dealers for leaden soldiers, a number of Parisians have formed a society to occupy the manufacture and sale of the martial playthings. "The League Against Lead Soldiers" is the name of the new organization, and Emile Zola is its president. The circular sent out by the league states that the members desire to combat the prevailing practice of French parents who perpetuate the military spirit which is so prevalent in the Republic, by buying toy soldiers for their children.