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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair, preceded by showers in early morning; westerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 74; minimum temperature, 59; precipitation, 0.02 inch.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25.

THE LIMIT IN FRANCE.

In 1850 France had a population of 35,000,000; now, only 38,600,000—a rate of increase slower than that of any other of the great nations. Reason for it is found in the social conditions that followed the Revolution, with unlimited subdivision of land, with loss of individual initiative, and with formation and adoption of the universal habit of dependence of the people on the operations of government. Land has been subdivided to an extent not known elsewhere, until in a great many instances a point has been reached where the area will do no more than supply the needs of a very small family. For a freehold farmer thus situated to have his landed estate divided among several children would mean to condemn all of them, unless they abandoned their holdings, which they are almost always reluctant to do, to lives of misery, and for this reason, for merely prudential considerations and with a regard for the future, the families become very much restricted in size. Thus, families having only one child, or at most two children, are becoming the almost universal rule in the country as well as in the town.

But this is not all; for the restrictions imposed by the marriage dowry system cause a large number of women to remain single, and the selfish habits of the men contribute to the same result. In France a girl must have a dot—that is, a dowry—before any one will marry her, and this idea holds good not only among the socially highest and wealthiest, but through all the ranks of society, down to the lowest. No matter how attractive a young woman may be, through her beauty or intellect, there is almost no chance of her becoming married unless she can bring into the new household a sufficient capital to represent practically the cost of her future maintenance. The husband in France does not propose, on account of his marriage, to deprive himself of those conveniences to which he had been accustomed; he wishes to have as much money to spend on himself as before he took a wife, and, as it is incumbent on parents to provide their daughters with the requisite dot, it also becomes evident that a daughter is an incumbrance to be avoided.

Extravagance of women, their love of pleasure and their desire to avoid the care of children, are contributory causes. It is clear that in these conditions France has reached the limit of population, and it is even probable that actual decrease will soon begin and continue as a steady consequence. From a stationary condition to one of decline cannot be a long step in a country whose civilization has reached this stage.

A PRACTICAL EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

Strenuous and systematic effort for the building up of the rural public schools in the South is a notable and most promising feature of the new development of that section. The intelligence of prominent men and women is the inspiring influence of this movement, the earnestness of which is its surety of success.

The pitiful ignorance of the isolated rural population of many sections of the Southern States—North Carolina, for example—has become known to the outside world in recent years through pen and pencil sketches of the people and their environment. The relief of this condition is long overdue. But the movement looking to that end is now well established, and the fact that it is engineered and pushed by Southern people themselves gives it character and standing among the rural population poor to the last shift of poverty, thriftless to the last limit of indolence, ignorant to a degree that is at once astonishing and appalling, and proud beyond the dream of worth based upon culture and character. The effort now being made to shed light in these dark places is systematic, and promises to be thorough. The Governors of two states, North Carolina and Virginia, go about making stirring public addresses in behalf of the movement. The Woman's Clubs of Georgia have taken up the cause, and men and women of prominence in their respective communities give it the sanction of their influence and the impetus of their money. Meetings are held in the principal towns to lay plans whereby money can be secured to equip the public schools in the adjacent country. This equipment means first of all the building of schoolhouses. Teachers will not be difficult to secure, and that, of course, comes next. Missionary work among the older people, whereby they may be aroused to the necessity of sending their children to school, is held to be the most discouraging part of the task. To overcome this contempt for "book learning" among this class, handicrafts will be taught in conjunction with the alphabet and the multiplication table; school gardens will be cultivated—in brief, schools that shall train the children of the rural South in accordance with the economic needs of their people are of the type contemplated. Several such rural schools have already been established in Georgia, mainly through the work of Woman's Clubs, and these are working an industrial revolution in their respective communities.

The movement, being an intensely practical one, will doubtless succeed in due time. Its success, however, will not in all probability be as rapidly realized as some of its more enthusiastic workers expect. The reason is not far to seek—not farther, at least, than the ramshackle cabins in which the self-neglected rural population live in contented indolence and stagnant ease, as their forefathers have lived for generations, their world bounded by the line where the mountains meet the sky.

HARMONY INTENSIFIED.

Such reaching out and gathering in of harmony as Mr. Cleveland neglected in his arraignment of Bryanism at the Tilden banquet, Mr. Bryan supplies in his counterblast against "Clevelandism." Harmony is now so thick that it can be cut up in chunks and put on the market. In another column this morning we print also Mr. Henry Watterson's contribution to universal Democratic amity. Our Oregon Democrats are always strong for harmony with a big "H." They at least are for a united Democracy, not so much in principles as in votes. Let Bryan and Cleveland think what they please, so they vote the ticket and don't abuse each other. That is the doctrine of the rank and file everywhere. Fortunately for the welfare of the country, the Democratic rank and file cut very little ice. They are always ready to follow some political shyster like Hill or loud-mouthed blatherskite like Bryan, vote him a great man without regard to his principles or purposes, and be led like lambs to the slaughter.

Who is going to control the Democratic party in 1904—the Clevelandites or the Bryanites? That is the interesting question which nobody knows but everybody asks about. Perhaps the wisest course is to look for the unexpected. There is no accounting for the fury against Cleveland that possessed the Democratic party as soon as it found out he was a man of courage and convictions. There was no accounting for the frenzy that seized upon it under the hypnotic spell of Bryan's impassioned and foolish speech at Chicago in 1896. Something quite as unforeseen and unaccountable may turn up with the Democrats in 1904 and the faithful sheep will bow down and worship the new "greatest man of the age," declared so by the majority vote of the nominating convention.

Mr. Cleveland has the better of the fight in that small and vanishing portion of the party which thinks and comprehends ideas and the meaning of the English language. His success would be preferable on that score, inasmuch as he comes nearer than Bryan does to Republican, that is to say, to sane, views. Wrong as he may be on many things, he is not incurably crazy enough to suppose that legislation can establish the value of metals or make the poor rich. In a party composed of rational beings there would be no doubt of Cleveland's success; but nothing can be safely predicated concerning a party that will accept the vagaries of "Coin" Harvey and Bryan as sacred "principles" to be fought for and made the basis of party loyalty.

The Democratic party has tied itself to Bryanism, and the task of excision discovers greater formidableness the more closely it is approached. Henry Watterson represents a considerable following of veteran Democrats who view the gold wing with unconquerable aversion for Cleveland's course regarding patronage, the labor vote, the income tax and the "Money Power," and especially his uncompromising and never-dying warfare on the dominant element in the party. They have been with the temporizing Hill and Gorman rather than with the stubborn Cleveland. Neither Olney nor Whitney has stood as militantly for correct views of money and property in party platforms as Cleveland has, and they hesitate at if they do not openly discountenance his belligerence. Then there is no use disguising the firm hold Mr. Bryan has maintained, not only upon the machinery, but the affections of his party. Cleveland's vote in 1892 was 5,556,000, but Bryan's in 1896 was 6,502,000 and in 1900 6,374,000.

Democratic harmony is impossible along the lines proposed by the leaders of the sundered wings of the party. One side will be satisfied only with confession that Bryanism is to blame for the defeats of 1896 and 1900, and the other side will agree to peace only upon condition that Bryan is absolved from that charge and the real responsibility is located upon the "traitors" who helped elect McKinley. Harmony without these hostile conditions is less preferable to either group of leaders than war, even if it involves defeat. Behind each of these groups of leaders stands a determined section of the party, numbered by hundreds of thousands. The party seems as hopelessly bound to financial heresy as it was for twenty years to its sympathy for slavery and secession. Mistakes like these cannot be rectified in a day. Cleveland himself as a Presidential candidate would be opposed by many who could conquer distrust of the party as a whole. The evil that Bryan has done will outlast his generation, though he live to be a hundred years old.

Supersensitiveness of the South to rehearsals of cruelties in the Civil War, drawn by General Grosvenor and others impartially from the records of both sides, is becoming very wearisome. The annals of Grant's orders and Sherman's and Sheridan's campaigns, as well as those of Libby and Andersonville, afford a perfectly pertinent and cogent answer to the Democratic wails over cruelties in the Philippines. War is always cruel, and war with a savage foe is sure to be barbarously so. There is a distinct streak of dishonest pettifogging in this attempt of Southern Democrats to escape the legitimate consequences of their complaints of cruelty through outcries of "sectional persecution." Just this course was pursued incessantly by Tillman until his Democratic colleagues shut him up. He would bewail in plaintive tones the disfranchisement of the poor Filipinos and when it was fairly retorted on him that he might show a little consistent sympathy for the poor disfranchised negro in South Carolina, he threw up his hands and cried "sectional persecution." It is very funny for Messrs. Tillman and Carmack in the Senate and for Bartlett and Richardson in the House to give punishment, but a most outrageous and immoral thing that they should be expected to receive punishment. Hence the "baby act," which does not argue any overwhelming strength of the cause that pleads it.

NO SEX IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Certain English women, like Lady Jeune, think the presence of a King rather than a Queen upon the English throne will surround it with a new political influence. This view is more plausible than profound. Since the revolution of 1688 no sovereign of Great Britain has dared to be other than a constitutional ruler, and in time of severe national trial the ship of state in England has breasted the waves quite as gallantly and successfully whether the nominal captain was a man or a woman. It would not be fair to take Elizabeth of England as a typical female sovereign, as it would not be fair to take Sardanapalus as a typical King, for Elizabeth was really a dexexed woman in speech, manners and temper, but even in the case of Elizabeth it is safe to say that the English people saved Elizabeth rather than Elizabeth England. The circumstances of Elizabeth in her contest with Spain were not more difficult than those which Queen Anne encountered in her great contest with Louis XIV of France. Queen Anne was a very weak, mediocre woman, but she "won out" as triumphantly over France as Elizabeth did over Spain. The sturdy, splendid English people, voiced by their great statesmen, won the day for Elizabeth and for Anne. The English people would have won in any case, whether the monarch had been a man or a woman, so completely from an early day have the English people in serious circumstances proved equal to their own salvation, whether their rulers were weak or wicked.

The assumption that the social and political changes which took place between 1837 and 1861 during Victoria's reign would have advanced at a slower pace or in a different direction had a King rather than a Queen been upon the English throne is probably not well founded, for Queen Victoria never sought to be other than a constitutional sovereign, to govern solely through her Ministers, and during the important years of her reign she was the wife of a most able and accomplished statesman. There is no just ground for believing that, had the occupant of the throne from 1837 to 1861 been a man rather than a woman, there would have been any less number of important political and social reforms. The reform bill of 1832 had become a law, the application of steam to the forces of transportation had begun in both Europe and America. The wheels that had been set in motion could not have been checked, and whether William IV had been succeeded by a man or a woman, it is likely that the so-called "Victorian age" would have been about what it is in social and political reform; in art and literature, and the development of science applied to the world of trade and business. The pretense that the womanly personality of Victoria seriously affected the events of her reign is absurd, for outside of the fact that the sovereign of Great Britain in constitutional limitations knows no sex, Queen Victoria's personality in her most critical years was dominated by that of her husband. Since 1861 Victoria governed absolutely through her Ministers, and matters were decided exactly as they would have been had the sovereign been her son, so completely is the English sovereign become merely the exponent of the views of his people as expressed through Parliament.

Women are generally assumed to be advocates of peace, but there is nothing in the record of Victoria's reign that inspires the belief that after her husband's death she did other than approve the policy of her Ministers, whether it was for war or peace. This much is said to point out how powerless the sovereign of Great Britain is, whether man or woman, to shape or control important political events. King Edward, for whose natural and acquired abilities the enlightened world feels nothing but respect, will, through his constitutional limitations, be able to exercise no more influence over the government of Great Britain than did his mother. His Ministers will govern Great Britain according to the manifested will of Parliament. The personal popularity of the King will be of service to him in matters of comparatively small importance, but in matters of large and serious state policy the sovereign simply listens with respectful bended head to the exposition of the views of the British House of Parliament.

Passing from the sphere of political to that of social influence, the official potentiality of the new King is very great. Queen Victoria was not only a woman, but became a very old woman; a woman too old to be in touch with the manners, the tastes and the temper of her time. She was treated with profound respect in her social retirement consequent upon her personal bereavement, but nevertheless the presence of an aged female sovereign at the head of the court exhausted its welcome long before her death. King Edward is in his 61st year, but he is a well-preserved man of the world, of genial temper, of excellent education, a man of tact, good sense and good feeling. His wife is a charming woman, and the advent of the royal pair to the throne is assurance of a court that will be distinguished for social charm. The manners of all England take their color and tone from that of the court, and while King Edward retains bodily health and activity he is sure to be a popular sovereign. His intellectual and social equipment is so superior that he has been spoken of with admiration by accomplished Americans of the quality of the late E. J. Phelps, and our present Ambassador, Joseph H. Choate.

The disappointment of the English people at the delay of the coronation of King Edward is only exceeded by their anxiety for his life. The operation to which the King was subjected yesterday may have been a very simple one, but there is a feeling that a surgical operation of any kind means a good deal in the way of danger to a man who is past 60 and whose entire life has been a more or less elaborate function, combined with much eating and drinking. It is certain, moreover, that the case was urgent, as otherwise the operation would have been postponed for a week in order to let the gorgeous coronation pageant, with the King as the figurehead, pass in review before the multitudes assembled to witness it. Naturally, therefore, the gravest fears are mingled with the bitter disappointment incident to the postponement of the coronation of the King. As the civilized world shared to some extent the interest of the British Nation in this long-heralded event, so it will now share in like degree the disappointment and anxiety of the British people at the serious interruption of the coronation festivities.

Before ex-Governor Hill again ventures the assertion that all Democrats are united for popular election of Senators, he should find some means of explaining away the simple fact that among its outspoken opponents have been Senators Gray (now Judge), of Delaware, Morgan and Pettus, of Alabama, and Representatives William Everett, of Massachusetts, and Franklin Bartlett, of New York. Probably this list could be extended almost indefinitely. A favorite argument against the proposal is that it offers to impair somewhat the prerogatives of the states as such, emphasizing the people as voters and subordinating the states as governments. This is more Democratic in tone than anything else.

The automobile, like the bicycle, requires special track or road accommodations if its speed is to be made fully available. In recognition of this fact a number of automobile owners of New York City are planning to construct on Long Island fifty miles of road, to cross other roads above or below grade, so they may have a free course on which to speed their machines. Is there in this a suggestion of the coming of railways without rails? From running a single motor on such a road to attaching one or more trailers thereto, says the Youths' Companion, "is a short step, and the next leads to passenger and freight service." This is the natural course as judged by the evolution of the electric railway.

There is joy in the Senate because the Administration's just and necessary Army reform bill has been stabbed to death, and now there is a gleeful determination to force Grandmother Jones on the President for a place on the Canal Commission, partly to reward him for his long and consistent existence as a Senator and steadfast refusal to become anything else, but principally as a thorn in the President's side. The civic ideals of righteousness and efficiency in public life, held by Theodore Roosevelt, are utterly unbearable to the dignified and courteous Senate, and its honor must be vindicated. It is to be hoped that the joke will be on the other side when the people have time to be heard from.

A pathetic record of a brief life was closed in Seattle Monday with the burial of the body of the Underwood infant, for whose murder the parents are in prison in that city, awaiting trial. Sympathy in the case has been transferred to the parents of the criminal young couple who destroyed the pitiful evidence of their ungoverned lives. This is where sympathy belongs, now that the suffering babe no longer needs it. Sympathy extended to the unnatural creatures who destroyed their offspring would be clearly misplaced, and leniency cannot be shown to them without violation of the simplest tenet of justice.

Bryan comes back from Cuba with the conviction that self-government will be a failure there. He hasn't brains enough to see that this completely overthrows his contention for the Philippines, and if he had the brains he hasn't the moral backbone to admit it. The Republicans have granted Cuba self-government, hence it is a failure. They have not granted the Philippines self-government, therefore it is the thing to do. "One of the greatest men that ever lived" is this Bryan. Jim Raley or Pat Powers will swear it on a stack of Bibles.

Mr. Bryan does not like the idea of a harmonious Democratic party led by Mr. Cleveland. The cause of this is not far to seek. The situation is, indeed, self-explanatory. Naturally enough, the remote possibility of a triumphant Democracy with any other man at its head is gall and wormwood to a man whose strenuous yearning for the Presidential office will cease only with his breath.

Elect Senators by the people, says Senator Lodge, "and the states will be hopelessly weakened, and the balance of the Constitution will be destroyed, centralization will advance with giant strides, and we shall enter upon a period of constitutional revolution of which the end cannot be foretold." Really, we had no idea Lodge is as unpopular in Massachusetts as all that.

It is now "up to" the Common Council to compel the Standard Oil Company to move its storage and supply depot. No delay should be permitted. Nor should the company be permitted to plant its depot on the river above the city. The stream will carry burning oil. Compel removal of the depot out of the city, and not upstream.

County Clerk Swetland, in trying to keep Frank S. Fields out of the office to which he has been elected, is in very small, discreditable and dirty business. The effort will not succeed, cannot possibly succeed; and Swetland is advertising his own littleness, to no end except his own discredit.

It would have been quite as well for Mr. Bryan to have left out his reference to the "convictions" of silver men, which he thinks Cleveland wants them to abandon. If any of them ever really believed in 16 to 1, they have given it up and are trying to forget it.

Every Democratic paper says that "Geer is the logical Republican candidate for the Senate." Ah! had he been the actual Republican candidate for Governor, wouldn't they have scored him? You would have heard a lot about him!

The rain that fell Monday was general throughout the Willamette Valley, and was hailed by farmers as the one thing needed to insure the perfection of their grain and hay crops and to bring on their garden stuff.

Senator Quay does no more than his duty in supporting the Democratic demand for statehood for all the territories. The Democrats of Pennsylvania know no master or representative but Matthew S. Quay.

Bryan has ground of complaint against Cleveland, however, for he kept him from being President.

BOER WAR'S LESSON.

Minneapolis Times.

The general conclusion of expert writers upon the Boer War is that the lessons it has taught are, after all, old lessons. Captain Mahan, in his extended review of an English history of the conflict, says the Boers have received credit for their individuality in fighting, for their extended formation, for their skillful use of cover, and for their great mobility. But he also points out that the American Indian successfully practiced similar tactics, until he compelled the American troops to imitate him in open-order fighting, and in taking advantage of the ground. And as long ago as the time of Thermopylae it was shown that a handful of men, suitably disposed, may stop an army in a defile, as well as from the kopjes or the bed of a South African river. At Bunker Hill and at New Orleans the British commanders learned the danger of a frontal attack against an entrenched position, which their successors of this generation failed to heed. The British Army in South Africa at first showed the same indisposition or inability to adopt new tactics adapted to the situation in hand that General Braddock displayed in Western Pennsylvania in 1755.

The Boers did not evolve any new principles of warfare, but they displayed great ability in adapting their tactics to the country in which, and to the conditions under which, they fought. Much has been said about the advantage given them by modern arms of precision. But it is questionable if their tactics would have been much different with the old weapons if the enemy had been similarly armed. The modern rifle compels a single line of battle, and an extended formation of five paces' intervals. The Boers improved upon this formation by making the intervals wider and each soldier virtually his own commander during the actual fighting. With the old "Brown Bess" the British formation would have been in two solid ranks, and the Boer formation, no doubt, a skirmish line, and the comparative difference would have been about the same.

There is reason to believe that the British tactics would have been effective against a highly organized and thickly populated state. It does not follow that because the Boers were enabled to defend themselves so successfully that the people of one of the small states of Europe, like Belgium, Holland or Denmark, each with a much larger population than the Transvaal and Orange Free State combined, could do as well. The Boers were men especially fitted for such a conflict, every male being accustomed to outdoor life and the use of firearms, and possessing an advantage of terrain that is nowhere found in Western Europe, save perhaps, in somewhat less degree, in Switzerland. The Swiss, by adopting essentially the same tactics as the Boers, and availing themselves of their mountain defenses, maintained their independence against the assaults of the powerful neighboring states for centuries; and if they were called upon to defend their national life again, could no doubt sell their liberty at a price that would appall humanity.

Salvation That Saves.

Boston Transcript.

The late annual conference of the Salvation Army shows to splendid advantage the practical side of its work. Commander Booth-Tucker is an adept in organization. During six years the officers have increased from 2000 to 3000. The social institutions, the stronghold of the army's popularity, have multiplied to 307—and 9000 in a year have been lodged, and in six years, 3,000,000 beds have been furnished. Twenty-one rescue homes for girls are now in active operation, while seven homes six years ago were considered sufficient to meet the demands of this part of the work.

The increase in the efficiency of the army's equipment goes to prove how much practical aid it is rendering the hopeless and forlorn. There is no institution that gets down to the supply of real needs among the poor like this. Its philanthropic work is interesting from two sides. It is not only doing an excellent service of relief, but also one of prevention. The side of relief in the annual report is very evident, and the side of prevention is not hidden. It is, however, prevention that should be more and more in evidence in philanthropic work. More relief is good, and commendable, but it is often unduly made prominent.

At this stage of practical Christian work, when the agencies of relief are so varied, it is noteworthy to mark the increase of rescue homes for girls. The Salvation Army has cared for over 1500 girls in six years. This is peculiarly a work of prevention, and while the tactics of the army may not be responsive to the minds and methods of all workers engaged in moral reform, this feature of the army's work must enlist generous indorsement. Mere charity work is apt to keep the poor poorer on account of its methods. But the policy of the army in different agencies which it controls is increasingly preventive, and each annual conference is making this more evident, much to the joy of its outside backers.

Chamberlain as a Speaker.

Chambers' Journal.

Mr. Chamberlain makes his way to his place, and, before sitting beside the leader of the House, takes from the table an order paper of the day. This, as is generally known, contains a programme of the business to be transacted at that evening's sitting. Having seated himself, he studies the paper intently for a few seconds, and, having apparently mastered its contents, throws it from him with an impatient gesture. Mr. Chamberlain then readjusts his eyeglasses, thrusts his legs straight out before him and looks around the House.

On rising to speak he places his neatly written notes on the brass-bound box before him, and, having put the edges straight, fires away. Mr. Chamberlain speaks slowly and uses scarcely any gesture. Most dangerous when most polite, his face becomes like a piece of parchment when roused to anger. In the art of crushing an adversary by an inconvenient quotation or by some personal thrust, Mr. Chamberlain is unequaled. It is this gift which makes him as formidable on the platform as he is in the House of Commons. At public meetings he always seems to expect a few of his old Radical friends among the audience. But woe be to the interrupter! Led on by the orator with a seductive question, his opponent gives just the reply expected. Back like lightning comes a crushing retort, and thenceforth all is smooth sailing. His perorations are invariably written out in full in his study, and frequently committed to memory. His voice is firm and clear, but not very musical; his enunciation perfect.

The Barbarous Fourth.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The Mayor deserves emphatic approval for his Fourth of July proclamation and the interview in which he declares that it will be rigorously enforced. It is a fact, as he says, that the celebration of the National holiday is barbarous. Sentimentalists who urge that we should remember our own relish of the day and sympathize with the boys accordingly overlook some important changes besides the growth of the older boys. Fireworks are not only noisier, but far more dangerous than they used to be. They are a public nuisance and a public menace, causing more and more discomfort every year and greater peril to life, limb and property.

"The discharge of cannons, guns, pistols, revolvers, dynamite or cannon-crackers" should certainly be forbidden, and also "the sale or gift of toy pistols or metal caps to children," and the influence of the public should help to make the prohibition effective. If parents would do their duty, the children would be kept within bounds, and if the police would attend to the grown imbeciles who play with revolvers and think it an exquisite joke to throw cannon-crackers at street-cars, the day might be passed in comparative peace and safety.

RECREATION OF AUTHORS.

Philadelphia Press.

A look through "Who's Who" discloses the fact that most authors nowadays seek recreation in outdoor sport. At one time the author who lived out of doors was an exception. Wordsworth was a prodigious walker. So was his friend, Professor Wilson ("Christopher North"). The latter was also a wrestler and jumper, who could meet all comers. George Borrow was a giant in stature and physique, notwithstanding his hairless face and effeminate voice. He is credited with ability to walk 60 miles a day. No one who has ever read "Lavengro" will forget his account of his fist fight with the Flaming Tinman. That encounter showed that he had not only "science," but staying power. Byron prided himself on his dexterity with the gloves. Necessarily he was badly handicapped by his lameness. However, he seems to have been a respectable amateur boxer. The stories of his prowess as a swimmer are well authenticated. When virtually untrained he covered long distances in the Lake of Geneva, and he duplicated the classic feat of Leander in swimming of the Hellespont.

Among the poets of our own day Swinburne appears to be the one who has excelled in swimming. Edgar Allan Poe was addicted to this form of sport, and had few equals in the days of his own vigorous manhood. He was known to have an ambition to swim the English Channel from Dover to Calais—a feat which in later years was accomplished by the daring but unfortunate Captain Webb, who perished in his foolhardy attempt to swim through the Whirlpool rapids at Niagara. As a jumper Poe must have been remarkable, and in our times, when college athletics are so assiduously cultivated, he would probably have taken championship honors. William Cullen Bryant took gymnastic exercises up to the time of his death. Writing to a friend, in his 77th year, he says: "I rise at 5:30 and begin a series of exercises designed to expand the chest and call into action all the muscles and articulations of the body. These are performed with dumb-bells, with a pole, a horizontal bar, and a light chair swung around my head. After a full hour passed in this manner I bathe from head to foot."

George Meredith was celebrated in his earlier years for handling heavy weights and wielding Indian clubs. He was also an untiring walker. Before Tennyson began to feel his age he was also a noted pedestrian. Charles Kingsley was the typical "muscular Christian"—a good boxer, a good oarsman, and fond of walking. Dickens, as a pedestrian, was almost a prodigy in the matter of speed and the amount of ground he could cover. Conan Doyle is a cricketer of some reputation, but he takes an active interest in other athletic sports. Andrew Lang is the arch apostle of golfing. Caledonian sports had a loving participant in Robert Burns, who delighted in feats of strength. In "putting the stone" he could give odds to most men and beat them, and he is said to have had few equals in lifting heavy weights. George Bernard Shaw is probably the only living writer who actually confesses a contempt for athletics. He admits that he takes exercise in cycling, but describes his recreations as "anything but sport."

"Vissch" on the Stage.

Chicago Chronicle, June 20.

William Lightfoot Visscher and Miss Hazel Kirke Strayer, with assistance by Paul Schoessling and his orchestra, gave their announced entertainment in the Bush Temple of Music last night before an audience moderate as to numbers, but warmly friendly as to temper. In their song-romance, as they call it, "The Tiger Dove," they have taken hold on an idea of which a very clever sketch may be made for the vaudeville stage if worked out with more lightness of touch than they have thus far, at least, attained. An old soldier, Southern presumably, has left his very young daughter, charming, but with a temper, and hence the title, and gone out as a soldier of fortune, and the daughter, now grown up, knows nothing of his fate. Returning, doubtful, apparently, of the condition, he appears first as an old colored servant, bringing gifts as from the father and promise of his early arrival. Then he reappears as an old officer of the army of Egypt, asking the privilege of resting. In both capacities he induces her, on very airy pretexts, to sing, to which she responds with various songs, from the jewel song in "Faust" to "Ben Bolt" and "Dixie," and finally, after some recitations running along with the songs, reveals himself rather tamely. Miss Strayer sings with fair ideas of expression, and when she can conquer her nervousness and he put more light and shade into his work—and both make clever approach to impersonation—the sketch may be made quite entertaining. The programme was filled out with a 'cello solo by Mr. Schoessling, two songs by Miss Strayer, some of Mr. Visscher's dialect stories and sketches and two or three orchestral numbers.

Mr. Bryan on Cuba.

When William J. Bryan was in Cuba he regarded the outlook as not at all flattering for the success and permanence of the new Cuban Government, and wrote that internal quarrels might be expected to give trouble for the future. President Palma, noting this sinister prediction, sent the following remarkable message to the publisher of the newspaper that sent Mr. Bryan to Cuba, and printed his articles:

Mr. Bryan has made statements indicating his belief that there are not only dissensions among the political parties here in Cuba, but that a certain faction evinces a revolutionary spirit which is bound to lead to civil war in our new republic. If Mr. Bryan really thought he heard the distant roll of revolutionary drums and a whispered call to arms in this island when he was here, then the people of Cuba, all of us, have cotton in our ears. I have received no notices of disturbances or of anything except utmost harmony among all elements. Certainly, however, our economical situation is extremely bad. I am aware of a great crying demand throughout the island among the poorer people for work. At the same time I have every evidence of the people's patience under great suffering, and am conscious of their confidence in the future and of their determination to assist my administration through this exceedingly difficult period.

Rain on the Roof.

Coates Kinney.

When the humid darkness gathers
Over all the starry spheres,
Flows and falls like sorrows softly
Breaking into happy tears,
Then how sweet to press the pillow
Of a cottage chamber bed,
And lie listening to the raintrops
On the low roof overhead.

To the quick beats on the shingles
Answer echoes in the heart;
And dim, dreary recollections
Into form and being start,
And the busy fairy, Fancy,
Weaves her air-threads, warp and woof,
As I listen to the patter
Of the light rain on the roof.

Now in memory comes my mother,
As she used, far Summers gone,
Taking leave of little faces
That her loving look shone on;
And I feel that fond look on me
As I feel the old refrain
Here repeated on the shingles
By the patter of the rain.

Then my little seraph-sister,
With the wings and waving hair,
And her star-eyed cherub-brother—
A serene, angelic pair—
Glide around my wakeful pillow
With sweet praise or mild reproof,
As I shut my eyes and listen
To the soft rain on the roof.

And another comes to thrill me
With her eyes bewitching blue,
And I mind not, musing on her,
That my heart she never knew;
I remember but to love her
With a passion kin to pain,
And my quickened pulses quiver
To the patter of the rain.

Art hath naught of tone or cadence,
Naught of music's magic spell,
That can thrill the secret fountain
Whence the tears of rapture swell
Like the weird nocturne of Nature,
That subdued, subduing strain
Which is played upon the shingles
By the patter of the rain.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Here's better health to Edward. Long live the King!

Appendicitis by any other name sounds even more serious.

Tillman ought to change his name from Pitchfork to Pelee.

School is out, and the parents will be when it "takes up" again.

Let us make the free baths compulsory and solve the tramp problem.

Mr. Rockefeller erects universities in some cities, and oil tanks in others.

We shall not be truly happy till we see the circus posters on the billboards.

People who are looking for trouble now quietly purchase tickets to Paterson, N. J.

It has been demonstrated that both kerosene and gasoline will burn if exposed to flames.

The small boy will now do his best to bear up under the enforced idleness imposed by the Summer vacation.

Portland's record in Seattle this week can't be any worse than it has been. That ought to be some consolation.

There is no controversy as to Captain Clark, of the Oregon. And it will not be healthy for anybody to try to start one.

The Hawaiian Islands are now equipped with all the modern improvements, including annexation and an active volcano.

Why should the School Board elect teachers in June, when they never know until after the Summer vacation how many will be left?

If one can of kerosene can blow a servant girl half a block, how far can half a million gallons blow the rest of the population of the city?

Let us hope that Manager Dugdale will treat the Portland nine kindly. It has been so long since they won a game that they are getting discouraged.

Now that another bunch of graduates is loose on the community, the knowledge already in existence will have to be compressed or crowded off the earth.

Mr. Boutwell in his "Reminiscences" holds that Sumner's removal from chairman of the foreign relations committee was justified by the fact that he was not on speaking terms with either President Grant or Secretary Fish.

Victorien Sardou amuses himself at the expense of the solemn Gross, of Chicago, from whom Rostand is alleged to have stolen "Cyrano de Bergerac." The idea of Rostand finding Cyrano "already prepared, perhaps in canned form, on the shore of Lake Michigan," Sardou considers to be very funny.

Queen Wilhelmina's crown is very gorgeous. It is of dull gold, only the edges being polished. It consists of a crimson velvet cap inclosed in a circle set with sapphires and emeralds. The imperial arches terminate in 16 points, eight of which are surmounted by large single pearls, and the other eight, bent toward the center and there crowned with the globe and cross, are set with nine pearls each, which are graduated in size, the smallest being placed at the top.

"The popular idea that the age of a horse can always be told by looking at his teeth," said a veterinary surgeon, "is not entirely correct. After the eighth year the horse has no more new teeth, so that the tooth method is useless for telling the age of a horse which is more than 8 years old. As soon as the set of teeth is complete, however, a wrinkle begins to appear on the upper edge of the lower eyelid, and a new wrinkle is added each year, so that to get at the age of a horse more than 8 years old you must figure the teeth, plus the wrinkles."

A Philadelphia hatter said the other day: "They are beginning to use Panamas for livery now. A young millionaire came in here last week and bought four—one for his head coachman and the rest for his second coachman and his head grooms. He had the hats blocked stiff and straight—like a livery Derby hat—and he put brown ribbon, his color, around them. He paid $15 apiece for the livery hats, and $30 for a small hat for himself. The small hat is very fashionable now. It is of the same shape as old men used to wear. Last year I sent back to my importer dozens of these small hats, because they wouldn't sell. But this year they are selling like hotcakes."

The Claim of the Suburbs.

London Spectator.

The suburbanite cannot get everything, but he takes what he can get. Even as things are he can get a good deal. Half an hour's railway journey—an hour spent in the train out of the day of 24—brings him down to a road of gardens instead of a road of houses. The gardens are small, no doubt, as the houses are small, but the gardens are there. Within the next few years the engineer will run his electric railways and tramways to pass within a hundred yards of his door, and he will be transported quietly, quickly and cleanly from his suburban garden, his trees and his pure air, to the telephones of the office, and quietly, quickly and cleanly back again. It is only the lack of facilities of transport which prevents him even now from enjoying to the full all that the out-and-out town dweller enjoys; when those facilities increase, as they will increase, the word "suburbs" will, of course, mean more. But meanwhile he is in the right place; he should not be afraid of the word "suburban."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

An Insinuation.—Flora—Yes, I sing in a church where they have an awfully small congregation. Dora—Then why don't you stop singing?—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Our College Girls.—"Bella, tell me honest—are you engaged to Mr. Jones, of Yale, or to that good-looking Harvard man?" "I don't know yet. Wait till after the boat-race."—Life.

A Hitch.—"Then the police didn't raid the poolroom?" "No. When they got there they found that somebody had neglected to give the tip, and the place was running in full blast."—Puck.

The Complaint.—"You object to that man because he used money to secure your election?" "No," answered Senator Sorghum; "that's not the point. He didn't use it. He wasted it."—Washington Star.

Kelly's View.—Hoggn—Would yez loike t' see King Edward coronated? Kelly—Would Oi? Glory be! Troth, Oi'd loike t' see him coronated an' his ashes trun on a shippery pavement in front av a Saint Patrick's-day parade."—Judge.

Willing to Oblige.—"See, here," said the kindly old lady, "I'll give you a dime, if you'll promise not to go right off and spend it in that saloon on the corner." "All right, lady," replied Thirsty Tanques, "if you got a grudge agin dat boose-joint I'll cut it. I'm willin' ter paternize any rum-shop yer int'rested in."—Philadelphia Press.

A patriotic Celt, orating at a public function one evening last week, informed his audience that "the brightest gem in the British crown was the famous coronation stone." As the stone formed a good-sized seat for some of our ancient Kings, one can well believe the remark made by the late Mr. Shakespeare (or was it Bacon?) that "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."—Glasgow Evening Times.