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Man is his own star, and the soul that can
Render an honest and perfect man,
Commands all light, all influence, all fate.
Nothing to him falls early or too late.
Our acts, our angels are for good or ill,
Our fatal shadows that walk by us still.

—John Fletcher.

A MAN OF FITNESS.

A Director-General of the Lewis and Clark Fair is to be chosen from among the public spirited men of Portland. The person selected must be a man of indomitable energy, of brain resource, of quick action, of rare good judgment, of imaginative, speculative and ideal temperament, and, at the same time, a practical man of affairs. There is such a man and possibly if he had reason to believe that he could serve his fellows, advance the interest of the city, enlarge the world's view of Oregon as well as Oregon's horizon, he would accept the honor of Director-General of the Fair and give to the duties thereof such careful and painstaking attention as would insure success to this vast and far-reaching enterprise which is to celebrate a long stride of progress and enlightenment in a great nation's history. The gentleman that The Journal has in mind is Mr. William D. Wheelwright.

DODGING THE ISSUES.

The refusal of Binger Hermann to accept the challenge of A. E. Reames, his Democratic opponent, for a joint canvass of the First Congressional District, simply confirms the belief that the Republican nominee is not willing to go before the voters of the district upon the real issues of the campaign.

There is nothing surprising in this. Mr. Hermann would find it impossible to define clearly his position upon some of the important questions which will come before the next Congress, without alienating a large element in his own party. He will not declare himself either for or against tariff revision, and if he were to enter upon a joint campaign with Mr. Reames, evasion of the issue would no longer be possible. Mr. Hermann could not advocate a reduction of the tariff as a means of checking the trusts, without placing himself in antagonism to the views of President Roosevelt. He could not oppose such reduction without offending the growing sentiment among intelligent Republicans in favor of tariff revision. His only safe course lies in dodging the question, and in avoiding the utterance of any positive opinion which might cost him a vote.

Voters of the First District who wish to cast their ballots intelligently will do well to demand of Mr. Hermann that he define his position upon this important question. Of all the matters which will come before the Fifty-eighth Congress none will be of such vital moment to the welfare of the nation as tariff revision and the control of the trusts. The voters of the First District should send no man to Congress without knowing explicitly and positively where he stands upon this question. Mr. Reames has defined his stand clearly and emphatically. Will the voters compel Mr. Hermann to do the same?

THE "IOWA IDEA."

Iowa Republicans are awaiting with great interest the return of President Roosevelt to their state, a month hence. It is expected that his coming will be marked by a strong effort to restore party harmony in Iowa, and to bring the local leaders into some degree of outward accord with the President and his tariff policy.

One of the most serious obstacles that Roosevelt must overcome in order to gratify his ambition for a second term is the strong sentiment within his own party in favor of a modification of existing duties, as a means of restraining the trusts. This sentiment has come to be known as the "Iowa idea." Governor Cummings of Iowa is a strong advocate of tariff revision, and he has at his back all the party machinery of the state. It will undoubtedly be in his power to name the delegates from Iowa to the Republican National Convention, and it is reasonable to suppose that they will reflect his views upon the tariff issue.

Hitherto Governor Cummings has been uncompromising in his determined stand for tariff revision. The President was at one time in sympathy with the "Iowa idea," but finally underwent a change of heart, and his views as announced at Minneapolis are now directly opposed to those of the Governor and his fellow revisionists. The split that has thus been caused within the party is the most serious obstacle at the present time in Roosevelt's way. His friends are keenly aware that even though his attitude upon this question might not endanger his nomination, it would prove a source of unknown danger in the election.

It is reasonable to expect that when the President again arrives in Iowa, he will do all in his power to reach an amicable understanding with Governor Cummings which shall prevent the injection of the tariff issue into the national convention. Much depends upon the success of the efforts to secure a truce. The movement for tariff revision has been gaining momentum among the Republicans of the Eastern states, notably Massachusetts and New York, and the President's pronounced stand against revision has been the subject of much adverse criticism. There can be no doubt that if the Iowa revisionists stand by their guns and make it plain to Roosevelt that they will not abandon the principle for which they have declared, they will have powerful support from Eastern Republicans. The situation is pregnant with possibilities which may exert a grave influence upon the coming campaign. In any event it would seem inevitable that President Roosevelt will be forced to plant himself even more positively than he has done yet on the side of the protected trusts, and for the continuance of the policy which has made them possible.

RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA.

In the light of recent developments in the Orient, it is interesting to recall the remark made a year or more ago by the Grand Duke Boris, cousin of the Czar, that "Russia now regards Manchuria as a part of its own territory and government." That the Grand Duke's utterance was no random remark is sufficiently shown now that Russia has thrown off the mask of diplomacy and revealed her true intentions.

Manchuria is a prize well worth striving for, and has long been the object of Russia's covetous glances. Lying on the borders of the Yellow Sea it is the northeastern division of the Chinese Empire and contiguous to the vast Asiatic dominion of the Czar. Its area is approximately 300,000 square miles, a territory almost as great as the states of Washington, Oregon and California combined. Estimates of its population vary from 7,500,000 to 21,000,000. Mighty forests cover the hills of Manchuria and its soil is rich in gold, silver, iron and coal. Fur bearing animals abound and the rivers swarm with trout and salmon. The soil is fertile and yields large crops of grain.

It is reasonable to suppose that the Grand Duke Boris spoke with knowledge of the plans of his government, and that Russia already looks upon Manchuria as an integral part of her empire. What the Russian bear once gets within its clutches is seldom surrendered without a fierce struggle.

An Ohio farmer purchased a tombstone and a lot in the cemetery, arranged with an undertaker to bury him and then committed suicide. The example is commended to those thoughtless persons who take their own lives and leave all the subsequent arrangements to their friends.

In declining the challenge of his Democratic opponent to make a joint canvass of the First Congressional District, Binger Hermann doubtless had in mind the old saying that he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day.

The election of a member of the French Chamber of Deputies has been declared void on account of bribery. The evidence showed that he had bought 1,600,000 drinks for his constituents. Where could the Anti-Treating League find a better field for missionary work?

A full sized quartz mining claim is 600 feet wide and 1500 feet long, yet few of them are more productive than the modest area of our County Building has proved, for those who have worked it "for all there was in it."

Since J. Pierpont Morgan has learned that camels have four stomachs he has decided to bring over a cargo of them to aid in disposing of his stock of undigested securities.

The discovery of Pharaoh's chariot at Thebes seems to set at rest the popular impression that it was in soak in the Red Sea.

It would take more than a local option law to make Oregon dry.

Manchuria will make a luscious meal for the Russian bear.

The other night in Chicago while on their way to the home of a clergyman who was to have married them Miss Ivy Hale and Roy D. Naylor were struck by an electric car. They were picked up unconscious and taken to a hospital, where the doctors said the injuries were such that the wedding must be delayed a few days. The lovers were of a different mind. They left the hospital in a few hours and were married the next day.

THE OTHER FELLOWS

The Oshkosh Times remarks:

"Attorney Frost of Milwaukee, speaking at Madison against spring shooting of aquatic fowls, said: 'Gentlemen, we can have no large families if we shoot young couples on their wedding trip.' That ought to catch President Roosevelt all right."

However, the decision rests not with the Federal Executive but with the Wisconsin Legislature.

* * *

The Falls River Journal contains the following interesting contribution to the history of the evolution of agriculture in Wisconsin:

"A great change has taken place here in recent years. Twenty years ago the entire tillable area of St. Croix and Pierce Counties was practically given up to the cultivation of wheat. Other things raised were mere accessories, necessities—as oats and hay enough to fo feed the teams needed in the cultivation of the land. Upon the advent of chinch bugs, in about 1885-6, the method of farming gradually changed. Aside from the ravages of the chinch bugs to deter farmers from sowing wheat is the added fact that even when these pests are not numerous not half the crop can be raised that was produced 20 years ago. Nor does the land produce such large crops of other grains as it did. Mixed farming with special reference to the raising of stock and hogs is now the custom here. The large amount of stock, sheep and hogs marketed here every week is an evidence of the kind of farming in vogue here now."

* * *

The Wausau Central Wisconsin, which a year ago estimated the value of the annual produce of dairying in Marathon County to be about $1,000,000, says:

"A gentleman, who is well versed on such matters and has a personal interest in them, and who has lately completed a tour of the county, states that he thinks the Central's estimate a conservative figure for last year and that the increase in value of dairy products this year will be nearly 50 per cent. A large number of new creameries have been established during the past winter and the outlook for those previously in operation is that their product this year will be greatly increased."

* * *

The Monroe Express publishes the following verses which undertake to apply the science of mnemonics to the learning of the geography of Wisconsin:

Seventy-one counties we combine
To form Wisconsin's varied clime,
Six and fifty miles of land
Of mingled prairie, loam and sand.

Kenosha, Walworth, Rock and Green,
La Fayette, Grant, the next are seen;
Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine,
Wren, Iowa, Jefferson, and Dane between.

Next on the north Ozaukee goe,
Washington, Dodge, Colur ola,
Sauk and Richard then we greet,
And Crawford where the rivers meet.

Next up the river then we'll stray,
At rest at Vernon by the way;
Next find La Crosse, and then Monroe,
And farther on we'll reach Juneau.

We'll ferry o'er Wisconsin's tide,
View Adams on the other side;
Waushara too, but don't forget
We've reached at last our own Marquette.

Green Lake, Winnebago, Fon du Lac,
Next lie upon our journey's track,
While eastward yet Sheboygan's met,
With Manitowoc and Calumet.

Next northward on Lake Michigan's shore
Lies Kewaunee and also Door.
Brown, Outagamie, Shawano,
To Waupaca and Portage go.

Wood, Jackson, Clark and Trempealeau,
And on the river Buffalo;
To Eau Claire now we'll take a run,
And thence to Pepin, Pierce and Dunn.

St. Croix, to Polk and Barron stray,
Then on to Gates and Chippewa.
Next we'll go before we're done
To Taylor, Lincoln and Marathon.

Langlade, Osonto, Marinette
Upon our Journey now are met,
Florence, Forest, counties two,
Oneida and Price now came to view.

Vilas, Iron, both counties new,
Ashland, Sawyer, Washburn too,
Burnett we greet as we pass along,
Douglas and Bayfield end our song.

As poetry, this may be entered for consideration in the same class as Homer's catalogue of the ships and some of the strings of proper names in Milton's "Paradise Lost." It is verbal carpentry—requiring ingenuity and patience rather than imagination on the part of the author. Still, it sometimes has its uses. The author of the above lines was S. D. Forbes, and he composed them while holding the office of Superintendent of Schools in Marquette County. They were sung to the tune "'Tis Geography We Learn." It would be easy to see a humorous side to this exercise; yet the time of school children is often wasted in other ways. A little concrete knowledge is a good thing for everybody, and the names of the counties of Wisconsin are not unworthy of a place in the memory of natives of the state. Many will find it easier to memorize them by means of Mr. Forbes' rhyme than without it.—Evening Wisconsin.

Wonderful Record in Deserting.

Professional bounty jumpers were developed during the Civil War; but it may be doubted if any one of them displayed so much activity in his profession as Harry E. Mason has shown as an enlister and deserter during the past two years. On February 15, 1901, Mason enlisted in the army at Brooklyn, and on April deserted. On April 18 of the same year, under the name of Harry E. Low, he enlisted at Detroit, and deserted the same day. Then he waited a year—at least he seems to have done so; but on April 28, 1902, as Harry Edwards, he enlisted at Philadelphia, only to desert five days later, on May 3, on which day he enlisted at Louisville as Harry Briggs, to desert on May 7. Coming to this city he enlisted as Harry Dubois on July 25, 1902, and deserted on July 29. At Mobile, on March 24 of this year, he enlisted under the name of Harry E. Bates, and deserted at Jefferson Barracks on March 27. The day before his departure, however, he had gone to St. Louis and enlisted as Harry Hastings; but on the way to Columbus Barracks he deserted again, and hurried to Cincinnati, where, as Harry Lewis, he enlisted for the eighth time, on April 2, only to desert while again en route to Columbus Barracks.

As no bounty is given for enlistments, and as he could have drawn pay only during his first enlistment, the reason for his performances is not clear.

Childhood's Days.

I do not sigh for childhood's days,
As singers often do;
I do not miss those guileless sports
Which left me black and blue;
I should not care to climb a tree
And eat unwholesome fruit,
Nor struggle with examples which
E'en now I can't compute.

I'm glad that I no longer fear
A room that's still and dark;
I'm glad that I can sit up late
Without unkind remark.
I oft suspect, when all these words
On "childhood's days" I view,
That grown-up folk enjoy them more
Than real children do.

Professor Huxley, the English scientist, gives this hint to literary men: "It is an excellent rule always to erase anything that strikes one as particularly smart when writing."

A FEARLESS NEWSPAPER, A PUBLIC BENEFACTOR

Portland, Or., April 28, 1903.

To the Editor: While it doubtless must be gratifying to The Journal to see its fearless efforts on behalf of a long suffering populace liberally supported and appreciated, it speaks as well for the tendency of the people at large to have a clean and honest service both on the part of its public servants as well as the press.

Your announcement that two weeks hence The Journal will don new and improved garments, enhancing its news service in proportion to its increased facilities for printing and disseminating it, should be as much a matter of general local pride as it must be of gratification to those who for years have longed to see the fetters broken which the great newspaper monopoly had forged upon this community.

In view of the multitudinous evidences of corruption among public officials which constantly crop out in one investigation or another all over this fair land, an honest, incorruptible and fearless paper is a consummation devoutly to be wished and I for one express the hope that the announced increase in the mechanical power of The Journal may be a means to the much greater power of educating the masses to a standard which will make it impossible for these deplorable conditions to exist much longer.

Topographically speaking, Portland is a beautiful city, abounding in wealth and scenic attractions, but its fair name has oftentimes been soiled by the methods of those whose greed for more material wealth has not only blinded them to every higher consideration, but destroyed in them every sense of honor and duty which they owed themselves as well as to those who placed them in the positions they held.

But evolution is busily at work and a fearless press, coupled with a determined public to punish the offenders regardless of standing or possessions, will doubtless emancipate us, in due course of time, from the terrible stigma which unscrupulous politicians have placed upon our national government and municipal government alike.

But a constant vigilance is absolutely imperative and it is a pity that it should be so. However, the facts remain and the general apathy towards official honesty, or rather official dishonesty, has been productive of a class of criminals which, while entrenched behind political power, money and other strong influences, have in many cases become so brazen in their affronts that it is a wonder the strong(?) arm of justice has ever dared to mete out a punishment to them at all.

Thus far quite a few of the names of those who directly benefited by the tax graft, so lately exposed by The Journal, have been published, but I have failed to find the names of those who were directly instrumental in the perpetration of the frauds. Let their names be published in fat print and let the people know what their trusted servants(?) have been doing. Then demand a thorough investigation by the proper authorities and in justice to all, punishment for the law-breakers.

Let the younger generations once learn that retribution will be sure and swift for the offender and there will be hope for better and more satisfactory administrations in the future.

Meanwhile, and as long as necessity seems to demand it, let us have an auditing committee whose duty it shall be to examine into the accounts of public officials at least once in three months and publish in full all receipts and disbursements of the various funds and, like in every well regulated commercial establishment, a clean balance sheet will be the result. Yours truly,

JULIUS ADLER.

THIS YEAR'S PARIS SALON.

Lack of Originality and Daring Observed in the Exhibition.

This was varnishing day at the salon of the National Society of Fine Arts. The day lacked sunshine, and the official opening of the exhibition generally reflected the surrounding dullness, which was accentuated by the absence of President Loubet. It is the general opinion that the exhibition is below the average, though, as often happens in such cases, it is relieved by a few works of remarkable merit.

Eugene Burnand's "Jesus Resting at Bethany," a curiously strange example of the impressionist school, deserves the chief mention. If it were hung in a church it might easily pass as the work of an ancient master, so reverential is the treatment. Christ is represented as sitting slumbering, with His clasped hands resting on a table, on which there is a loaf of bread.

Martha and Mary are seen approaching, the former bearing a basket of fruit, while Mary's hand stays her further approach, fearing that Christ will be awakened. The color, drawing and craftsmanship are faultless, and the execution is truly remarkable.

Carolus Duran is represented by his usual finished portraits, which, somehow, are lacking the spirituality of the work of Mr. Sargent, the American painter. Mr. Sargent's portrait of the Misses Hunter is delightful. The pose and finish of the work are attracting general notice.

The five exhibits of M. Raffaell are specimens of his new system of using solid oil tubes in painting. The work is undoubtedly fine.

Boulard is represented by fine seascapes.

M. Monard excels in his forest and interior scenes, which are full of atmosphere and light.

Faulkner, Gay, Maurer, Hassam and Stokes, American painters, show nothing uncommon. They display a rather general tendency toward repetition, losing themselves in color schemes, to the detriment of the subjects represented. Maurer's fine work is ruined by low tones without relief. Eugene Vail is also a victim of the color scheme, yet he has succeeded in making his personality felt. Veber's work, representing M. Jaures declaiming in the Chamber of Deputies, attracted general notice, owing father to its actuality than its merits.

M. Bertrand's "Funeral of President Carnot," like the ordinary state-ordered paintings, occupies enormous space. It has good technique, but its weak composition leads to wonder why it was ever ordered.

The general note of the exhibition is repetition and lack of originality, daring and new ideas, which have been totally eclipsed by color schemes.—Paris Correspondence New York Sun.

WHAT ARE PRESIDENT'S CHANCES?

New York No Longer Pivotal State in National Contests.

Political statisticians have been moved by the enthusiastic reception of the President in the West to calculate his chances of re-election without New York. For some reason Mr. Roosevelt has not been as popular in his own state as elsewhere. His majority over Judge Van Wyck was small, and more recently New York has shown symptoms of an intention to step out of the Republican column. But, as the mathematicians point out, New York has ceased to be the pivotal state. Two hundred and thirty-nine votes are necessary to elect a President. If Mr. Roosevelt loses New York and Nevada, but carries all the other Northern States, he will have 283 votes. He could lose Illinois and Indiana in addition and still have enough to win. The inside estimate of the states that the Republican managers are sure they will carry, with the electoral vote of each state, is given in this table:

Connecticut	7	N. Hampshire	4
Delaware	3	North Dakota	4
Illinois	27	Ohio	23
Indiana	15	Pennsylvania	34
Iowa	13	South Dakota	4
Kansas	10	Vermont	4
Maine	6	Washington	5
Massachusetts	16	West Virginia	7
Michigan	14	Wisconsin	13
Minnesota	11	Wyoming	3
Nebraska	8		
New Jersey	12	Total	243

It will be observed that the states considered "doubtful" include California, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Montana, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Utah. We venture to say without prejudice that six out of these nine will go Republican. On the figures it will be seen that the Democrats are beaten already, even if they succeed in carrying New York. But this is a large country, with many different kinds of climate and subject to great atmospheric disturbances. Perhaps the sturdy Democrat, in looking at the terrifying figures, will feel like that great man Captain Anson, when he had matched an amateur sprinter against an "unknown," who turned out to be the fastest professional in the world. "I can't beat this man," said the amateur. "He is two yards better than I am." "Run anyway," said the gallant captain; "he may fall down."—Collier's Weekly.

Learn first how to make a living and make a great name later.—Dallas News.

ENGAGED MEN'S CLUB.

May Be a Rival to Anti-Race Suiciders—Professor in the Anti Club.

Columbia's Anti-Race Suicide Club gained much prominence at the university last week owing to a dissension in its ranks and its acquisition of a faculty member. The dissension arose through the surreptitious initiation of a prominent football player who was thought to be married at the time of his election to the club, but was afterward discovered to be only engaged. He has proposed three other engaged men, but the married men have done a little investigation on their own account and have rejected all of the proposals.

In addition, an amendment to the constitution has been proposed to safeguard the club's membership, whereby only those students who have become fathers will in the future be eligible for membership. There seems to be no doubt that the amendment will be adopted at the next meeting of the club. The football player has declared his intention of resigning from the club if the amendment is adopted and threatens to organize a rival organization of men who are engaged to be married.

The club played a great card on Friday by formally enrolling as a member Prof. Harlan F. Stone of the school of law. Prof. Stone became a father a few days ago, and as he entered his class room on Friday to lecture on "Carriers" he found the following card on his desk:

"We have learned that the cause of earth population is being fostered by you in the light of the birth of your first child. The Anti-Race Suicide Club of Columbia University believes it to be peculiarly fitting that you should become a regular member of the organization with all the rights, privileges and immunities thereunto appertaining. In consideration of these facts you are hereby apprised of your unanimous election to the club."

The card was signed by prominent members of the club who are students in the law school, and the professor made a public acknowledgment of the honor conferred on him, remarking that he thought the time had come for him to do something for the reputation of his family.

AMEN CORNER ON CHURCH.

Why a Young New York Preacher Gave Up His North Carolina Charge.

A young preacher who had a call to a North Carolina circuit, to which he preached for six months, explained to one of the elders why he resigned.

"When I went to the district," he said, "I found that a number of the new members were of one name, and the name was Amen. There were Squire Amen, John, William, Richard, Thomas, Jeremiah, Samuel, Leviticus and several others, and each had a son or two, and then there were a number of wives who were, of course, Amens. I don't know just how many there were of the family name.

"Well, you know, our church is great on the amen after prayers. Not only are we ministers required, as all ministers are, to say amen at the conclusion of our prayers, but the congregation frequently interpolates a prayer with that word when they hear anything that appeals to them. The Amens of my circuit were not award of this when I took charge.

"At the first big meeting, which I opened with a fervent appeal, the older members began to punctuate my appeal with the usual 'Amen!' I heard an unusual noise in the congregation and as I opened my eyes I saw Squire Amen and his old wife walking out. People were accustomed to stalking in and out of church down there, so I thought nothing of it.

"During the delivery of my sermon other 'Amens' arose from various pews, and as they did some of the Amen family got up and walked out. During the closing prayer there were more 'Amens' from the congregation, and at the conclusion of the service there wasn't an Amen in the sanctuary, and the departure of all of them left quite a hole in the big meeting house.

"This was followed by the withdrawal of the entire Amen contingent from the church. It was my duty to bring them back, but I never fulfilled that duty.

"While the family were ignorant, and fully believed that the frequent amens were meant as reflections upon them, they were also tolerably well to do, and their withdrawal reduced my promised salary to a minimum, which necessitated my resignation. I never understood how the Amen family got into the church before I took charge, but I know they got out, and why."

Beautiful Ambassadoress.

Baroness Speck von Sternberg is one of the most beautiful women in Washington. She is very prominent in society. Prior to her marriage the baroness was Miss Lillian Langham, the daughter of an immensely wealthy Idaho miner and the niece of Arthur Granville Langham, the well-known capitalist. She met the baron two years ago when he was attached to the German embassy in Washington.

WHAT IS BAD AIR?

That air which has been breathed is not fit to be breathed over again we all known from experience, yet it is not easy to give a satisfactory scientific reason for this fact. What is the vitiating constituent of the human breath?

Certain it is that the chief constituent added to the air by respiration—namely, carbonic acid gas—per se has little or no effect upon the health. Indeed, it has been stated that men can breathe for two or three hours without marked discomfort air which contains—with, of course, its full complement of oxygen—as much as 20 per cent of carbonic acid, and the presence of 1 per cent has not the slightest effect. But if the carbonic acid in the air be raised only to 1-10 per cent by human respiration the resulting air is most unwholesome and detrimental. There is no chemical difference, of course, between the carbonic acid gas of the human breath and the carbonic acid gas obtained from chalk or from the combustion of carbon or coal gas. The obvious deduction is that the carbonic acid gas of respiration has a poisonous companion, and this companion has so far eluded all attempts at isolation and recognition. This poisonous constituent may occur as a constant quantity in relation to the carbonic acid gas; possibly it does not. We do not know, although it is very important that this point should be determined.

We are content, however, to judge the impurity of air by measuring the amount of carbonic acid in it, and to some extent this measure is a valuable guide. It is not satisfactory that the evidence of impurity is not obtained more directly than this. Every one knows that air vitiated by human respiration is offensive and poisonous. In other words, bad ventilation—that is, a condition in which the products of human respiration are not removed—sooner or later produces toxic symptoms. There are usually loss of appetite, discomfort, severe headache and malaise, which cannot be traced to infective organisms any more than the absence of such organisms can explain the curative effects of fresh air. Moreover, it is a common experience that a sojourn in a badly ventilated room occupied by a great number of people predisposes to disease. There seems little doubt that the impurity of the air has some connection with the "catching of a cold." The presence of respiratory products is declared by an offensive smell and it seems odd that chemical analysis is not able to lay bare what actually the nose readily detects. The effect of bad air upon the health cannot simply be that of an offensive smell, though that undoubtedly plays a part. . . . It not only is absolutely devoid of the vitalizing effect of fresh air, but it has almost a sickening smell and sooner or later gives rise to a sense of oppression. What is the poison? It seems to us that the whole question needs a much more extended inquiry than has been hitherto carried out, for surely chemistry and physiology hand in hand could eventually elucidate this matter.—The Lancet.

Platinum Plate.

One kind of valuable plate quite abundant in New York is seldom stolen by burglars, though the metal of which it is made far exceeds silver in cost. Every college chemical laboratory and scores of factory laboratories have costly vessels made of platinum. The plain metal is usually worth about its weight in gold, and made up into crucibles and other vessels used in laboratories it is much more valuable than in its ordinary form. The makers of such ware, in fact, must earn large profits, for their charges are high, although the metal is made into the simplest forms, without decoration of any sort. A tiny crucible holding perhaps only a gill is worth $8 or $10, and some of the larger vessels used by chemists are worth several hundred dollars each.

The value of these vessels is so great that they are locked up ever night in a safe in any well-conducted chemical laboratory and frequently counted. Damaged vessels, and even the smallest scraps of platinum wire, are carefully treasured, and sent to the factory from time to time in order to be made over into new vessels. A chemist has somewhat the same feeling toward his platinum plate that a housekeeper has toward her solid silver, but the chemist's plate is worth far more than any but the most elaborately wrought silverware. It is also much more liable to damage.

The presence of a small quantity of lead in a hot crucible of platinum is likely to bring about a puncture of the crucible. A punctured crucible must go to the factory, and repairs are very costly. Much of such ware used here is made in a little Pennsylvania town by a single firm, and there are few workmen who understand the art of handling platinum.

Treated with care, platinum vessels are almost indestructible. They seem to suffer nothing from the high temperatures to which they are exposed in the laboratory, and however long in use, a brisk rubbing renders them as beautifully bright as on the day when they came from the factory. They are ordinarily cleaned, however, by the application of hot water and acid solutions, as they gradually lose in weight by rubbing.

One reason why platinum implements are seldom stolen by burglars lies in the fact that they are not easily disposed of. The metal is hard to melt, and a large vessel is not easily hammered out of recognition. Pawnbrokers are shy of accepting articles of platinum, because such articles, having a comparatively narrow use, are not hard to trace. Small crucibles and platinum wire and rods do occasionally disappear from laboratories, but the larger articles are rarely stolen. When a man presents himself in a shop with a metal worth in the neighborhood of $250 a pound for sale he is naturally expected to tell how it came into his possession.—New York Times.

Phoebe Cary's Explanation.

P. T. Barnum and his wife were very fond of the gifted sisters, Alice and Phoebe Cary, who often visited them at Bridgeport. To a friend the famous showman once remarked: "Alice was the more thoughtful, while Phoebe was always bubbling over with good spirits and wit. I never knew a brighter woman. One day I was taking her and some friends through my museum. At the head of the stairs was the cage containing 'The Happy Family,' which included owls, cats, mice, serpents and other creatures generally mortal enemies, but all living in perfect harmony mainly because we kept them so stuffed with food that they had no temptation to prey upon one another. The cage stood directly at the head of the stairs, and just as we reached the top a big serpent stretched its head toward Phoebe. Forgetting the glass thickness then separating them, she was so startled that she uttered a scream, and would have fallen backward down the steps had I not caught her. Looking up to me, she said: 'Thank you, Mr. Barnum; but remember that I am not the first woman that the serpent has caused to fall.'"—Argonaut.

SEEN AND HEARD IN GAY NEW YORK

No further withdrawals of trust companies from the clearing house have been announced, but it is known that at least five companies are seriously considering such action.

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The stockholders of the National Broadway Bank voted to consolidate with the Mercantile National Bank. The consolidation went into effect this week, and the business of the Broadway Bank from now on will be conducted at the headquarters of the Mercantile National.

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The yachting season has opened on the lakes in Central Park. Both of the larger lakes and most of the smaller ones are now dotted with the clean, white sails of the trim little craft all day long. To people who have seen Central Park lakes but seldom the foregoing statement would perhaps seem absurd. It is a fact, nevertheless, that much money, energy and interest is shown in the sailing qualities of the park craft each year. Many of these vessels are revelations in the way of marine architecture, showing as they do the careful details of design that would do credit to a Herreshoff or a Crowninshield. Several clubs of many years' standing arrange contests during the season, and the resulting sport is enjoyable in the extreme. It must not be imagined, however, that the park yachts are of large tonnage, for the largest never exceed four feet over all, and therefore never carry crews. By an arrangement of elastic rigging they are made to maneuver back and forth over the water, sailing before and abreast of the wind and tacking like the real thing.

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The Central Trust Company has declared an extra dividend of 20 per cent, payable May 1, in addition to its regular quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent. This is equal to an annual dividend of 80 per cent. The company has been paying dividends at the rate of 60 per cent since January, 1900.

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The question whether a sandwich constitutes a meal within the provisions of the Raines law was discussed at length in a decision handed down by Justice Garretson in the application of Excise Commissioner Cullian for the revocation of the tax certificate of Axel J. Young, a hotelkeeper at Coney Island. Justice Garretson takes an opposite view from that of another justice in a similar case, who held that a sandwich is a meal. Justice Garretson says that it is a mere subterfuge. The decision will be far-reaching in its effect if it is upheld upon appeal, and will be especially hard on Coney Island.

Tale of Ancient Titles.

The romantic claim of the sister peeresses, the Countess of Yarborough (Baroness Conyers) and the Countess of Powis, to the ancient baronies of Fauconberg, Darcy of De Knayth, Darcy of Darcy, Darcy of Aston, Darcy of Gilleesland, and Meinill of Meinill, came before the committee of privileges of the House of Lords recently.

Both ladies are already rich in titles. The elder sister is Baroness Conyers in her own right, and also the Baroness Yarborough of Lincoln and the Baroness Worsley. The younger is co-heiress in the barony of Conyers, and also Viscountess Clive of Ludlow, Baroness Herbert of Cherbury, Baroness Powis, Baroness Clive of Walcot and Baroness Clive of Plassey. But the barony of Fauconberg, if established, would be the oldest in existence. There is no rival claimant to the titles; the only question raised by the crown is whether the baronies can descend to any but heirs male.

The circumstances upon which that question turns are these. The baronies, created during the Scotch wars of Edward I. and II., existed in the male line until the fifteenth century, and then were carried by the daughters into the families of Darcy and Conyers, only to become extinct in 1635. But then a cousin, Sir Conyers Darcy, fourth Lord Conyers, petitioned King Charles I. to restore to him as heir male the original barony of Darcy. The King did so, and in 1641 he was created Lord Darcy.

Now, was that a separate creation or a restoration? If a creation only, then the title became extinct with the last male holder in 1778; but if it were a restoration, then it would descend through the female line to the sister peeresses. They have an original writ of summons to parliament dated 1679, (after the revival,) in which Baron Conyers is given the Darcy and Meinill titles as well. That would settle the question in their favor. But the crown says it was a mistake.

Mr. Asquith appeared recently for the claimants, and in the course of his case told many a stirring tale of the old days. One ancestor had his head cut off by Henry the Eighth.

The case, which was adjourned for a fortnight, will take months to conclude.—London Mail.

As to Mrs. Maybrick.

The release of Mrs. Maybrick, the "international peril," is announced for the spring of 1904. So will terminate the history of the most remarkable case of a woman not at all remarkable but whose misfortunes threatened strained diplomatic relations between this country and the "Mother Lodge," though much of the diplomatic temper never came to public knowledge. In 1889 Mrs. Maybrick, an American woman, was convicted of murdering her husband, an Englishman. She was sentenced to death. This sentence was afterward commuted to life imprisonment. Later, the judge who pronounced this sentence was discovered to be non compus mentis. As a matter of fact, he died in a madhouse. In the teeth of a desperate bombardment from both countries, insisting on the release of the prisoner, the British Home Rule Office declared the trial impartial and fair, and refused to interfere. Monster petitions were sent from America, but without avail. Secretary Blaine appealed to Lord Salisbury, and petitioned the Queen, and an international "Maybrick League" was formed in 1896 for the purpose of soliciting a pardon. In that year two more popular petitions were sent to the Queen. The case is remarkable for the fact that there is no good reason to believe the woman innocent of the crime charged. It seems to have been a matter of misplaced sympathy and popular sentiment all along. But for some occult reason public sympathy has always been hers. The fact that she is now required as a witness in a civil action may have given the Home Secretary a pretext to release her.—Collier's Weekly.

Eskimo Philosophy.

You cannot eat your candle and burn it too.

A whale in the pantry is worth two in the sea.

Many an honest heart beats beneath a sealskin jacket.

It is a long polar expedition that has no turning.

It takes a good man to stand in a slippery place.

Never look a gift walrus in the teeth.

Where there is so much grease there must be some blubber.

Do not eat your candle at both ends.