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What! Keep a week away! Seven days and nights?
Eight score eight hours? and lovers' absent hours,
More tedious than the dial eight score times?
O weary reckoning.
—Shakespeare: Othello.

TROOPS TO MEXICO

THERE IS NO real man on horseback in Mexico. The hand of Diaz must have lost both its cunning and its vigor. Diaz' attempts to put down the insurrection are fitful and puny beside the vigorous repressive measures that characterized his movements in other days. It is wholly unlike the Diaz who rode into the Mexican capital at the head of a victorious army on June 21, 1867. His 81 years of life, his term in the Mexican presidency beginning in 1877, and his continuous service in the position since his election to a second term in 1884 have probably exhausted his physical powers and left in the presidential chair of Mexico a limp and impotent executive.

In any event, there is information at Washington of some character to indicate an imminent crisis in Mexico. The dispatch of American troops and warships to the Mexican border is in anticipation of important eventualities in the Mexican capital. If it is not due to a probable infirmity or expected passing of Diaz, it is difficult to guess the explanation.

It has long been accepted as certain that the passing of Diaz would be followed by hopeless disorders. Diaz himself has expected it, and sought to raise up a lieutenant for the succession. Vice President Corral is his choice, but divisions have appeared in his own cabinet that lead to the surmise that while Diaz can himself rule, his power to pass his rulership undisputed to another, is questionable. His feeble efforts to repress the insurrection heighten the doubt.

One hundred million dollars of invested American capital and 63,000 American citizens are in Mexico. Protection of these against probable disorders is the warrant for sending American troops to the border. Great Britain has equal or greater interests in Mexico, and Great Britain has acknowledged the authority of the Monroe doctrine. Under that acknowledgement, to us is committed the responsibility and duty of protecting British interests as well as our own, and this is part of the explanation why our troops and ships are being hurried to the border.

ECONOMY IN SALARIES

IT SEEMS AS IF the mad riot in salaries paid by big institutions had reached its climax and is now receding. The steel trust began by allowing its new president $50,000 a year instead of $100,000. The Equitable Life followed suit after Paul Morton's death by reducing the president's salary from $80,000 to $50,000. It is noticed that prior to the life insurance investigation in 1905 three presidents of large companies were receiving $100,000 a year or over. All have been set now at the $50,000 limit. A writer in the New York Evening Post considers $50,000 a year now the highwater mark, and this is reached only in New York. It is said that, one or two in Chicago excepted, no bank president in the west receives more than $35,000 a year.

It may be suggested that high prizes are necessary to develop enormous capabilities. But it is interesting to inquire on what principle these salaries can be said to be earned. If not earned then the stockholders in the first instance are being mulcted—in the ultimate end the public pays. Are men so scarce who are competent to sit in president's chairs, and more or less efficiently direct the destinies of the great undertakings of the twentieth century, that fancy posts entitle them to fancy pay?

It is the handling of money in enormous sums that seems to distort the perspective of all who deal in it or with it. They think in millions, and the sense of proportion fails when all who gather round the board table agree in fixing the president's salary at these fancy rates.

When the steel corporation drops the president's salary one half at one stroke do they expect to secure just as efficient service for $50,000 as has been rendered for $100,000? Unless reports fail the new man is just as good or better than his predecessor. Then the previous holder has been desperately over paid.

How is it that those who serve the public are contented, yes, well satisfied, on such far more modest pay? Supreme court, and other judges, in the ranks of their high and responsible profession, generals and admirals, entrusted with the fate of armies and navies and with the fortunes of the nation, the picked men in the arts and sciences, heads of universities and colleges—those whom the people delight to honor—all these are content with salaries that are far from excessive. The truth is that a false standard is employed—with the men who deal in money as the standard bearers. Not the intrinsic worth of services rendered, but how much can be handed over without protest and revolt, is made the determining factor. Other countries are not so lavish in their allowances, nor other pursuits in life. In cutting the hundred thousands to fifties a beginning has been made. The process should not stop.

A FIRST FRUIT

THE WHITE HOUSE has heard from the country. The Democratic landslide of last November has not been without its beneficial effect. It has brought a reversal of his policy by President Taft as to the interior department. He has remanded Ballingerism and Guggenheimism to the rear.

The change appears in the new head of the interior department. He is Walter L. Fisher of Chicago, a man of cabinet stature and reassuring antecedents. He has been since 1888 a practicing lawyer in Chicago, and a lawyer of the higher type. He was a member for years of the executive committee of the Municipal Voters' league, a reform organization. He was secretary of the league from 1901 to 1906 and president in 1906.

He has been vice president of the National Conservation association, president of the Conservation League of America and vice president of the National Municipal league.

Mr. Fisher is everything that the late Secretary Ballinger was not. His whole career has been as a soldier for good government and clean administration. He stands for the things that are uppermost in the minds and aspirations of those who want purified public affairs. His selection by Mr. Taft is a belated recognition of the fact that a costly blunder was made when, in the beginning of his term selfish interests were given a large hand in the administration of the interior department.

If his past means anything the country's resources will be safe in the hands of Mr. Fisher. His first acts will doubtless be such as to allay the distrust and unrest with which the interior department has been regarded for the past two years. It will be a satisfying change, and extremely helpful to Mr. Taft. It was fortunate that so many of the states voted the Democratic ticket last November. It was a people's protest that thundered effectively at the doors of the White House.

NUMBER 24,911

RUEF IS AT LAST in San Quentin. The story of Tweed has been repeated. Crime has surrendered to the law, and the criminal gone to punishment.

Ruef is the paramount anarchist. His kind is more harmful to society than a thousand of the puny people we are wont to dub anarchists. The law failed to restrain him before he was discovered, and was scarcely able to land him in prison after it had seized him. But for the happy episode of the government of California passing into the hands of the people, Ruef would still be at liberty with little probability that San Quentin would ever house him.

Ruef was the product of a system, and his fall the fruit of that system. It is unfair to men that they should live under a scheme of government that makes possible a boss and a career for a boss. It was such a system that helped to send Ruef to San Quentin. It ought to have sent Schmitz there. It nearly sent there, public service magnates, in whose escape justice was cheated, the courts put to the strain and civic and social affairs in a great city shaken to their foundations. None better than Ruef knows that there are others who ought to be companions with him in San Quentin.

A big fact in the passing of Ruef is the steadfastness of the trial judge. Through all the storm and turbulence of the graft trials, Judge Lawlor was the unpurchasable and unmovable judge. His example lights the way for judges everywhere, and his acts were a first factor in the final fall of the boss.

In San Quentin, the criminal is not Ruef, but "number 24,911." He is shorn of everything, and reduced so low that even his name is a mere prison number. For cell mates he has a thief and a murderer. It is a long way from boss of San Francisco to number 24,911.

LAME DUCK OPPOSITION

THE REFUSAL OF the late congress to approve the Arizona constitution was a childish business. Its excuse was that the instrument carried provision for the initiative and referendum, the recall and corrupt practices.

The lame ducks who limped out of the body last Saturday all joined in the opposition. Their objection was the protest of men repudiated by their constituents. The very hostility of such a group is sign of the justice of Arizona's claims to statehood.

The refusal was a last stand of bourbonism in its own citadel of privilege. It was an attempt to postpone the coming of the inevitable. Time and experience have demonstrated the efficacy in government of the initiative and referendum, the recall and corrupt practices measures. In effect, the fiat has gone forth that they are to become recognized and fixed processes in the policy of almost every state.

Oregon already has them. Oklahoma has them. Other states have one of more of them. Bitter experiences have demonstrated the need of them and proven the weaknesses of government without them.

Systems make or mar men. The old system in Oregon ruined Mitchell. It ruined many another Oregon politician. The state is full of political cadavers who shudder at recollections of the past. Our state history is a trail of wrecked careers and ruined reputations.

Arizona has profited from the history of other state governments. It wants no Lorimer to scandalize it. It wants clean government and the means of clean government, and ought to have it. It is to the discredit of the late congress that it attempted to bar the way.

POSTAL MESSENGERS

THE POSTOFFICE IN England, owning and operating both telegraphs and telephones as a national enterprise, employs thousands of boys in the service. These lads drop out when a certain age is reached and, hitherto, have been joining the ranks of the unemployed, or unskilled workers, until gradually absorbed in various branches of industry. The postmaster general and his officials have given much attention lately to the question of the disposition of these boys turned onto the world at the most critical period of their lives.

Two remedies are being tried. Girls are being taken on in the places filled by the elder boys prior to their discharge. They are permanently engaged, and are being carefully trained for work as telegraphers and in the telephone branch.

The boys are to be also permanently engaged in the nation's service. When too old for messenger boys they are to go for short terms in the army or navy. When such short terms are passed they are to return as adult workers in the postoffice, in some one of its many divisions.

The care of the children in London is being made a matter of new attention by the London county council. There is a law—of the widest scope—called the children's charter, passed not long since. The various trades in which children may be employed are strictly regulated and frequently inspected. Hours for work and for schooling are laid down. Like all laws the children's charter is not self operative. To pass such laws is easy, to carry them out to the full in a great metropolis, with seven millions of people within its boundaries, is no holiday task. The county council has an aroused conscience now in this respect, for which the children in the streets of London will fare the better.

REGULATING COLD STORAGE

AN ATTEMPT TO remedy cold storage abuses has been begun in New Jersey by the passage of a bill in the assembly requiring warehouses to fix the date of reception and delivery of all packages of food accepted for storage. It is a measure to which reputable dealers cannot make objections that will bear scrutiny. Opposition so raised would be equivalent to a plea of guilty to the accusations of abuses that have been brought against the warehousemen.

Dr. Wylie, the famous chemist of the department of agriculture, has made specific charges of the deterioration of foods kept in cold storage for over long periods. Recent revelations have established that some plants have held poultry, eggs and other products for periods of a year or two, or even longer. A sacrifice sale of such products in Chicago recently was one of the sensations of the daily news reports, and called out unfavorable comment throughout the country.

A law requiring the date of receipt and delivery of storage articles to be given the public is a very reasonable control. It is a far less radical control than the law is exercising over the railroads. And the food products kept in a cold storage warehouse with deteriorating consequences and resultant effect on the health of consumers is of equal if not greater concern to the public than regulation of the railroads.

CACTUS FOR FOOD

NOT MUCH HAS been heard lately of Luther Burbank, but "unhasting, unresting," he pursues his beneficent way. California and Arizona are already deeply in his debt for the spineless cactus—the huge leaved plant, food for stock, and also for man, in the developed form produced by the endless selections and replantings carried on by Mr. Burbank through many seasons. Its value to a community, rather to a nation, was measured by the $5000, stated to have been paid by South Australia for only a few leaves of the perfected plant. For as now supplied by its originator the wonder of it lies not less in the shedding of its spines—untouchable by man or beast—than in the ease and certainty of its reproduction on an enormous scale.

It is certified to be both wholesome and satisfying for stock, and when cooked to be most palatable as a table vegetable.

South and east of us it has passed the experimental stage in regions where not over 14 degrees of frost are to be expected. But it has not yet been acclimatised for the arid or semi-arid districts of eastern and southeastern Oregon. The progress of the experimenter in hardening the cactus to withstand zero and subzero temperatures will be watched here with continuing interest.

It is good to be told that Luther Burbank has set a date, and not a distant one, for the perfecting of his experiments in the hardening process. His audacity in predicting future results for the methods that he follows would be startling were it not for the changes in size, coloring, flavor, hardiness, fecundity of his plants that he has already wrought.

President Taft is game in defense of Ballinger. His flings at "the press" can be passed by as the effervesence of an official who is trying to make the best of a bad job. Ballinger never should have been appointed. "The press" said so. It says so yet. Ballinger was a blunder. He was more — a calamity — to Taft.

Letters From the People

Results From One Acre of Land.

Ashland, Or., March 4.—To the Editor of The Journal.—There has been so much said about what can be done on a small tract of land, I will give a statement of results for one year, and there are any amount of tracts will beat these figures:

Area of ground, 250x160 feet. House, lawn, woodshed and chicken yard take up 50x160 feet. From the balance our family of four had all the vegetables, fruit and berries we wanted for one year and besides we sold the following: Potatoes, $30.95; carrots, $2.40; beets, $1.10; onions, $20.50; lettuce, $2.15; turnips, $1.55; cherries, $19.15; peas, $11.15; loganberries, $3.95; dewberries, $6.10; blackberries, $9.05; string beans, $4.90; cabbage, $6.15; cucumbers, $1.15; apples, $2.20; green corn, $1.00; parsnips, $5.65; tomatoes, $11.05; carrots on cow feed, $40. Total, $181.15. Family use, 50 cents per day, $187. Grand total, $368.15.

B. N. SMITH.

Thinks Newspapers Are Deceived.

To the Editor of The Journal.—After reading of the arrest of the person called Hulin for cutting the hair from the heads of several girls, I am curious enough to ask why the newspapers fall for such stuff as the "wealthy connections," "college graduate," "football star," etc. Looking back over the list of arrests for forgery, bogus checks, and similar games played, one-half of them are credited to "graduates" of some college or university, and most all of them have wealthy parents—bankers, etc., in the east.

The polite term of "Walla Walla" should be given such claims, as the question arises, namely: Do colleges teach that kind of stuff or is it only that kind of cattle that attend colleges? Wouldn' it be a good idea to send them to the rockpile while waiting for a letter from Pa?

JUSTICE.

The Paramount Measure.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The United States senate has under consideration a number of measures of importance. But there is no question in the public mind that among these the reciprocity bill is first.

Reciprocity is, indeed, more than first. In an important sense it has no second. It is upon a plane by itself.

There are some great measures which plainly transcend politics, and reciprocity is one of these. Out among the 90,000,000 of American citizens this is recognized. Shall it not be recognized among the ninety American citizens of the United States senate?

The bill to put into effect the Canadian convention is above party and above politics. If the senate lives up to its highest traditions it will deal with this measure in the spirit of patriotic statesmanship. It will disentangle this measure from the complications of factional or party strategy. It will put away considerations of local or special interests and petty fears, and it will deal with the reciprocity bill as a great measure demanded by the highest and widest interests of the American and Canadian nations, an interest improtant enough to call imperatively for immediate action, yet destined in future years to prove far greater and more beneficent to the two great peoples of the continent.

This is an issue that no senator and no faction and no party can afford to juggle with or evade. It is the paramount issue in the senate. It is the paramount issue in the political thought of the nation as the Sixty-first congress draws to its close. It is being opposed by Republicon senators. They should realize that if because of their opposition the reciprocity bill is strangled by dilatory tactics or defeated, they must accept full responsibility for about the severest blow that could at this time be delivered to the prestige of the Republican party. They must also accept responsibility for compelling the president to call a special session, as it is understood he will do and as they will justify him in doing.

If this special session is compelled, if the country is subjected to an otherwise premature and unnecessary period of business uncertainty and financial anxiety, if partisan politics revives and the exasperated people are treated to a partisan squabble and scramble instead of a statesmanly consideration of their vital interest, then the responsibility cannot be shirked by these Republican senators who have failed the president, defied the sentiment of the party, and ignored the broadest interest of the nation.

The Progressive Republican League.

From the World's Work.

The four main purposes that it has are:

1—The popular election of United States senators.

2—Direct primary nominations for all offices, including the direct popular election of delegates to the national conventions, so that the voters themselves may express their preferences for presidential and vice presidential candidates.

3—The initiative, the referendum and the recall.

4—A stringent corrupt practices act.

These "progressive" proposals meet opposition of two kinds—the selfish opposition of the bosses and party managers and the unselfish opposition of many men who believe that the old system of representative government, with all its evils, is correct in principle. This latter class would keep the present system and reform it in its workings. If the voters, they say, would do their duty, every man taking a personal interest in every convention and in every election, the present system would work satisfactorily. They maintain, too, that any new system would fail as soon as individual voters neglected these primary duties.

True, but this program of the Progressive league, nevertheless, has vitality. The men who believe in it are in earnest. They are not seeking personal gain. They are convinced that purity in political life cannot be hoped for until radical changes are made in party machinery and in our electoral methods. The "Oregon idea" is the most vigorous political idea now making its way among the people and it is making its way with energy and rapidity. Such a program may not quickly (and it surely will not easily) be carried into general effect. But it already has an unsuspected volume and earnestness of support among the people in every part of the country. If you who read this have not yet thoroughly considered these proposed changes and the one general idea that underlies them, you will do well to look into the working of the "Oregon idea." If you live in one of the eastern states, you will have seen little about it in your local newspapers.

President Taft's Broad Policy.

From the Milwaukee Wisconsin.

It is an error to assert that reciprocity with Canada would give the manufacturers of the United States protection while withdrawing it from the farmers. Practically there are no manufactures in Canada to come into competition with those of the United States.

Instead of menacing the farmers, reciprocity will help them, by enlarging their home market—making a near-by demand which will absorb perishable products that now in many instances go to waste; so that even while the cost of living is lower to the consumers, the farmers' income will be increased at the same time that he is getting the benefit of cheaper lumber.

President Taft, in his speech at Columbus, Ohio, ventured this prediction:

Let the agreement be adopted and go into operation and in six months the farmers on the border who now have fears will rejoice in this great step toward closer business and social relations with our neighbors. The whole country—farmer, manufacturer, railroad company, middle man, warehouse man—will all be gainers.

The president is working to the best of his ability for a broad public policy that will be a blessing to the people if it prevails. Some of the inhospitality extended toward his recommendation is due no doubt to genuine solicitude based on habitual horror of change, but a great deal of the opposition he is encountering is purely factional and does no credit to those engaged in it.

Hard Words From Brother Davey.

From the Harney Valley News.

What an outrage on the good sense and political decency of Oregon if that brainless demagogue, Albert Abraham, had succeeded in reaching the governor's chair last November, as he wished to do. During the session of the legislature just closed there was no man in either branch who could so successfully make an ass of himself on every occasion.

Klamath Falls is likely soon to have a five acre nursery for the propagation of fruit, shade and ornamental trees, vines, shrubs and small fruits.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

It is at least near spring.

* *

Watch that new garden grow.

* *

Will Lorimer be a Chautauqua lecturer this summer?

* *

The robin is a standpatter; his song is ever the same.

* *

Thousands are just now packing up in the east to come to Oregon.

* *

As Bailey swells in his own estimation, he shrinks in public esteem.

* *

It has been an "awful" and protracted struggle to get Abe Ruef into jail.

* *

The Oregon country needs and has ample room for many real laborers.

* *

Bailey of Texas will land in Wall street, or near 26 Broadway, in a few years more.

* *

Pinchot says he is a Republican, but would rather be right than regular. But Pinchot is on the blacklist.

* *

Rev. Aked says he sees no hope in his big New York Rockefeller church. Perhaps the church was baptized in oil.

* *

Richard Achilles Ballinger did not exactly resign "under fire," perhaps, but he foresaw that a fire was about to be kindled.

* *

A woman hygienist says underwear shortens life. If we would believe every health raddist we could neither wear nor eat anything.

* *

A Portland man had to pay $60 for 10 kittens he let die, yet many people would pay something to have kittens mercifully destroyed.

* *

There must be some Theodore Roosevelt Smiths, Joneses, Browns, etc., grown up now enough to hurrah for Teddy when he comes.

* *

Bernard Velguth and Nadine are a pair between whom there isn't much choice. What they apparently need is a long spell of rockpile, or something of that sort.

* *

There being no election of congressman for a year and a half, the party managers kindly forbear to issue this spring books filled with misinformation and misrepresentations, as they will next year.

* *

If Rev. Aked can change from a Baptist to a Congregationalist without any twinge or twitch, it should not be very difficult for lay members of these and other evangelical churches to join forces and minimize differences.

* *

Well, there is nothing strange about a man with a large inheritance being broke after his business had been attended to by certain firms of Seattle attorneys, some members of which have become prominent politically.

* *

There are humorists in the Texas legislature; they want to invite Lorimer and Bailey to come and lecture to that body on "Purity in Politics." Lorimer is probably too coarse to see the joke, and Bailey's dignity will be offended again.

* *

Help a little, lift a little, as you pass along; ease a burden here and there, if you're smart and strong. Some are starving, some are slow, some are faint and ill; boost a little, cheer a little, then folk climb a hill. Give a little to the needy, to the weak be kind; maybe you'll have need of mercy, 'ere heaven you shall find.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Work on Grants Pass & Rogue River railroad is progressing rapidly.

* *

Man near Albany expects to have 3000 or more chickens in a year or two.

* *

The strangers are still coming and Monmouth will double her population this year, says a correspondent of the Dallas Observer.

* *

Looks like Salem had some councilmen who are not afraid of another railroad. Some men of that town are skeared of being run over.

* *

Many favorable comments are heard on the excellent condition of the roads leading in and out of Lents, says the Reporter. And well we might, for nowhere in the state have they any better.

* *

Ione correspondence of Heppner Gazette: The traveling minstrels were in town Monday night. The audience was small, the program slack, and the manager had to pawn a guitar to get out of town. He says they will be back again soon. We hope not.

* *

Harrisburg Bulletin: S. L. Robinson says that he has knowledge of 11 new houses to be built in this vicinity this summer. Two years ago this announcement would have caused some people to think that a bunch of lunatics must have wandered into the country.

* *

Oregon has a forest reserve area of over sixteen million acres with Lane county occupying third place with 1,520,120 acres, remarks the Register. With all of this Lane county forest land held in reserve there is still room on the other lands for ten times the present population of the county.

* *

A Polk county citizen tells the Salem Statesman that "Polk county needs more five and ten acre farms and intensified farming; more men who are not afraid of a tax levy, more hens and fewer goats. More berries and fruit trees, less gray diggers and gophers, and 40,000 more men who are not afraid of a grub hoe."

* *

"We are picking up the holdovers," the Medford chief said "as we have a lot around here now that have gone stale from idleness. There are a lot of men in town who are not working right now who will commence to do so the minute the paving work begins. I am going to clean out the idlers here that I know spend their time looking for work and praying they won't find it."

* *

Nehalem Enterprise: Our farmers are complaining of high taxes. In many instances the increase has been 50 per cent over last year's taxes. This may seem high when compared to the amounts formerly paid, but when we consider that land values have increased by leaps and bounds to $200 per acre in many cases, an increase in taxes must also be expected. The average assessed valuation of farm property is about one-fourth the asking price, which also applies to other real estate.

* *

Silver Lake Leader: The two things necessary to make this county splendid for farming are transportation and irrigation. The soil is rich in potash and lime and is naturally well adapted to growing grapes, hemp, and hops. At present the principal industry is raising stock. There are sold annually out of this county 10,000 head of beef cattle, 60,000 head of sheep, and 1,200,000 lbs. of wool. In the county are pastured 220,000 sheep, 10,000 horses and 10,000 cattle, besides a large number of mules, goats and hogs.

SEVEN LITERARY WOMEN

Felicia Hemans.

"Beneath the gloom
Of overshadowing forests, sweetly springs
The unexpected flower."

For more than a score of years during the early part of the past century, Mrs. Felicia Hemans was the most popular of the female poets, and today she shares equally with any others in the esteem of the public. She was an exceptional woman in many respects. While she wrote poetry with a woman's soul, it was equally absorbed by the opposite sex. She was praised by both alike, but no woman writer ever met with a more cordial indorsement from her own sex than did Mrs. Hemans.

No less a woman critic than Mrs. Grant, of Laggan, wrote of her: "She keeps us hovering on the wing, like birds of paradise, for want of a perch to repose upon."

Lydia Sigourney, also a woman writer of much fame, paid her the following beautiful poetic tribute:

"Every unborn age
Shall mix thee with its household charities:
The hoary sire shall bow his deafened ear,
And greet thy sweet words with his benison;
The mother shrine thee as a vestal flame
In the lone temple of her chastity;
And the young child who takes thee by the hand
Shall travel with a surer step to Heaven."

If there be such a thing as a born poet, Mrs. Hemans is undoubtedly entitled to be one of the first in that class. Imagine a child with so well developed a mind that at the age of eleven she is able to write such lines that have about them the ring of true poesy:

"Or borne on fancy's heavenly winds,
To listen while sweet Ariel sings!
How sweet the native wood notes wild
Of him the Muse's favorite child;
Of him whose magic lays impart
Each various feeling to the heart."

When only fourteen years of age her first volume of poetry appeared. She had begun to write when she was only nine years old. Not mere doggerel, but poems that would not have disgraced any period of her life. Imagine a child of nine with such a remarkable gift. Is it any wonder that the English public marveled when they learned that the beautiful verse, which had been giving them so much pleasure, was penned by a little girl in short frocks?

Being gifted, aside from poetry, with a beautiful disposition and an attractive personality, at an early age she was surrounded by a great many admirers but she was rather unfortunate in her choice of a husband, when she married Captain Hemans. For a time they lived happily, but the rough and ready type of the captain hardly fitted to the pastoral life and ideals of the poetess. Consequently, after the birth of their fifth son, Captain Hemans, ostensibly for the improvement of his health, decided to retire to Italy, leaving Mrs. Hemans to struggle along as best she could. She never saw him again.

She is credited with having a most remarkable memory which enabled her to master tasks with great ease. To dissipate the credulity of her brother, who was skeptical of her possession of the power, she committed to memory the whole of Bishop Heber's poem of "Europe" (four hundred and twenty-four lines), in one hour and twenty minutes, never having read the poem previously.

The early death of her mother, for whom she had a great affection, was another affliction, which she bore with great fortitude. But the loss of those she held so dear to her, was in a measure made up in the many friends among the great literary lights whom one by one she added to her list. One of the closest of these was Sir Walter Scott. Among the many kind words which Scott spoke to her, he said: "One would say you had too many accomplishments, Mrs. Hemans, were they not all made to give pleasure."

Wordsworth was another of her most ardent admirers, and they spent many delightful hours in the discussion of their favorite art.

In 1834 her health failed her and she removed to Dublin where, unable to leave her couch, she spent her time reclining upon it repeating to herself whole chapters of the Bible, and page after page of Milton and Wordsworth. On the 26th of April she dictated the last effort of her muse, and, on May 12, 1835, after a gentle sleep, her spirit passed away.

Felicia Hemans was indeed a "child of song," being thoroughly imbued with the true inspiration of the poet; and she likewise possessed that in which all should imitate her—resolution and perseverance, without which her books would have been unwritten, and her name unknown beyond the circle in which she moved.

Tomorrow—George Eliot.

Senators by Direct Vote

From the St. Paul Pioneer Press

The states that have gone on record through their legislatures in favor of selecting and electing United States senators by popular vote are: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Only one more state is needed to furnish the two-thirds necessary to force action by even an unwilling senate at Washington.

It is not necessary now to discuss the advisability or the wisdom of this change. The sentiment for it is so pronounced that it must come, and that quickly. Already 14 states are employing some plan of registering popular expression before the meeting of the legislatures, in the form of primary expression of preferences for United States senators or some other means of recording the popular will. There are three ways now in process of completion for evidencing this demand of the people. One is in congress, to secure the initiative by that body. The second is action by the state legislatures to force action by congress, and the third is through the adoption of the Oregon plan, which makes binding upon the legislature the preference expressed by the voters at the primaries. By either of the first two plans an amendment to the federal constitution would be secured. By the Oregon plan the same effect would be obtained by making the legislature, in this particular, simply a body for officially and formally recording the will of the voters already expressed at the polls.

The senate itself is responsible for this demand for popular election of its members. The reform is inevitable. The Lorimer scandal in Illinois, the deadlock in the New York legislature, the election of a cotton trust magnate in Rhode Island and the evidence of corruption and bribery and defeat of the popular will in other states have convinced the people that the old system, whatever its primal advantages may have been, must be discarded and action taken which will make the United States senate more representative and more responsive to the will of the people.

Beats a Reno Divorce.

From the Los Angeles Times.

A Shanesville, Ohio, justice of the peace formulated an agreement of separation between his clients as follows:

"Mr. Ben Biticofer agrees to give Mrs. Ben Biticofer $650, $50 in cash and a note for the remainder at 4 per cent interest, and the meat of one hog weighing 200 pounds or more, and she can have it at any time after the hog is butchered. Mr. Ben Biticofer agrees to give Mrs. Ben Biticofer 18 hens and Ben is to keep them until April 1, 1911, unless Mrs. Ben calls for them before. Ben is not to serve as husband to Mrs. Ben Biticofer hereafter; Mrs. Ben Biticofer is not to act as wife to Ben Biticofer any more. This means that they are settled and parted in full, and parted and settled forever."

Fare thee well, and if forever
Still forever fare thee well,
E'en though unforgiving, never
'Gainst thee shall this heart rebel.

Take the hog we've fed together,
Take the hens on April first;
Never more, whate'er the weather,
'Gainst thine shall this sad heart burst.

You may keep the whole six fifty.
Ben will walk this earth alone.
He is broke, but you are thrifty.
He's a dog with ne'er a bone.

When you eat the hog, remember
Ben is now quite out of meat.
We parted, dearest, in December
Amidst storms and snows and sleet.

Never more you'll be my honey;
Never more my cares relieve.
Take the hens, the hog, the money,
Take my note and take your leave.

Tribulations of a Populist.

From the Los Angeles Times.

Tom Watson, the Georgia Populist leader, seems to be out of luck. He went into a swamp near his home in Thomson, Ga.

Whether he went there to compose a speech in favor of the initiative, the referendum and the recall, or in search of snipe, is not stated—probably the latter, since he carried a gun. While meditating and muttering to himself on the wrongs that capital has inflicted upon labor, and on the outrageous conduct of the sheriff of Fresno county in rockpiling and hose bathing the Industrial Workers of the World, Mr. Watson tumbled into a ditch and lost his gun and his hat.

On reaching his home he learned that three or four men had been seen lurking about his premises. He believed his life to be in danger from Georgia Democrats who did not take kindly to his populistic views, and thinking that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure he took prompt measures to protect himself.

He offered a reward of $500 for the apprehension of the guilty lurkers. He called upon the sheriff, the town marshal and the people of the town of Thomson to protect him and to make a thorough search of the woods and swamps for his enemies. He further employed 20 armed men as a guard about his home to protect him from those who he thinks are trying to kill him.

Yet there are doubters—Democrats of course—who are so unkind as to assert that instead of a conspiracy of "Special Privileges" and "the Interests" to eliminate Mr. Watson from an unappreciative world, it is simply a case of old fashioned Georgia jimjams.

Just As Good

(Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the famous Kansas poet. His prose-poems are a regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal).

I called upon the grocer man, and asked him for a gallon can of syrup, and he cried: "Too bad! We've just sold out the last we had! But we have something just as good; this kerosene of ours has stood the fiercest tests you ever saw; and scientists lay down the law that oil's in a class apart; it tones the liver and the heart; it fills you full of rich, red blood, and makes your hair and whiskers bud. So throw your syrup jug away and buy some kerosene today." I smote that merchant with his scales, and soaked him with a keg of nails, and biffed him firmly with my lyre, and set his one-horse store afire. I called upon the druggist then, and wished to buy a fountain pen. "I do not keep such things," he said; "the trade in fountain pens is dead; they seldom serve you as they should—and I have something just as good. Now, I've a squirtgun here, my friend, that I can safely recommend. The London Lancet rightly claims there are no better, saner games than squirting water from a gun——" I reached across and poked him one. Is there no merchant in this land to say: "Such goods are not on hand; there is none in this neighborhood, and there is nothing just as good?"

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Walt Mason