# GOSSIP OF THE HOTEL LOBBIES

STORIES OF HUMAN INTEREST FROM EVERYWHERE.

**American Firms Establish Plants in Japan and Manufacture Novelties There—Maryland Will Soon Become a Fruit-growing Center—Waiters' Strike a Thing of the Past—Other Interviews.**

"It is not generally known to persons outside of the trade, but there are a number of American firms who have factories in Japan manufacturing novelties for the American trade," said I. M. Meyer, of New York, who represents a large importing firm of Japanese goods. Mr. Meyer is a guest at the New Howard.

"There are many Japanese novelties that could be manufactured in this country just as well as in Japan," continued Mr. Meyer, "but the manufacturer in this country could not compete with the Japanese labor. In our factory in Japan goods are made especially for the trade in this country. We ship the goods to San Francisco, duty is paid on them, and then they are sent across the American continent to New York, and our salesmen sell them to the trade.

"The Japanese are the greatest imitators in the world. Postal cards bearing pictures of the capitol at Washington and other public buildings are sent to Japan, and the pictures are reproduced by the Japanese upon ash trays and other small metal articles. Perhaps the postal cards have originally been made in Germany.

"Our business is one of the few in this country that will be benefited by the lowering of the tariff. Our factory in Japan is owned by Americans. Japanese labor is employed, and when the goods are shipped to this country we pay the United States duty upon them. So if the tariff is lowered it will be a great saving to us and the means of lowering the prices on Japanese goods in this country.

"The relations between the United States and Japan at the present time are most cordial. There is absolutely no friction between the two countries and the commercial relations could not be better. What we need at present is lower freight rates. The freight rates are responsible for the high price of goods. The Panama Canal will help to lower the rates to a certain extent, but there should be lower rates at present. The Americans are not alone in bringing Japanese goods into this country. There are many Japanese firms that manufacture like ourselves a special line of goods for the American trade. Many of the little novelties in the five and ten cent stores are made especially for them in Japan. Our firm alone sells them $100,000 worth each year.

### To Become Truckgrowing Center.

"It will not be very long before Maryland will take her place as the foremost fruit center in the United States," said William C. Amos, of New York, at the Hotel Emerson. Mr. Amos was at one time a resident of Baltimore and spent many years of his life in Western Maryland. New York is now his home. He is president of the Regular Republican Club, of the Nineteenth Assembly district of New York, and one of the foremost Republicans in the state. Mr. Amos has made a close study of modern fruit growing and has found out a few things about his old mother state that are of interest to the country at large.

"By adopting ideas that have made the Western part of the United States the ideal country for apple culture, Maryland will shortly outdistance the Western apple growers," he said. "There is a district in Maryland, not far from Cumberland, that possesses requisites as to soil and climate that will make Maryland famous as an apple-producing state. Apples are known as the commercial variety and the farm apples. The commercial apples are raised for shipment. The difference in freight rates between the apple belts of the West and Maryland is from 50 to 52 cents a bushel, which means a handsome profit to the apple raisers in Maryland. The soil in the vicinity of the Green Ridge Valley has been examined by experts and found to be peculiarly suited to apple growing. In the modern orchards in the apple belts in the West the ranch manager's house is connected with an electrical device that sets a bell ringing when there is a drop in the temperature. Smudge pots are placed throughout the orchards and these are at once lighted. In a short time the entire orchard is enveloped in smoke and the trees are protected from frost. That is not necessary in the mountain districts in Maryland. There is no such thing as a failure of an apple crop under modern farming. It will not be very long before orchards in Western Maryland will be producing the best commercial apples in this country. Vast fortunes are to be made in apples. Over 9,000,000 barrels of apples were shipped to English ports from this country in the eight months prior to last October. Last year in two months about 1,000 tons of apples were shipped from New York to South American ports. Recently a prominent New Jersey grower was invited to go to South America to organize an apple growing community. In five years the apple crop in West Virginia will be of more value than the coal and coke industry. The people in Maryland do not realize it, but the strawberries raised in Maryland are the finest grown in the United States."

### Waiters' Strike Is Over.

"The waiters' strike in New York is virtually a thing of the past," said Gen. A. E. Booth, yesterday afternoon at the Hotel Belvedere. General Booth makes his home at the Belvedere, but has just returned from New York, where he was a guest at the Waldorf.

"The striking waiters in New York were a class of men who drift from place to place, with no regular home," continued General Booth. "At a number of old hotels in New York the waiters, who had been employed at the hotels for a long time, did not join the strike. It was the floating element. I was seated near a window in the diningroom of one of the best hotels in New York a few days ago. It was the dinner hour and the diningroom was fairly well filled. A party of the striking waiters came along the street and hurled a large stone through the glass window of the diningroom. I was showered with bits of broken glass. I decided that my position was rather a dangerous one and so I asked the head waited to get me a seat back from the window, which he did.

"In Baltimore most of the white waiters have made the city their home. Many of them own their own homes and have families. It is hardly likely that they will go on a strike, for if they did it would be the means of breaking up their homes. Waiters are, as a rule, well paid and with the tips they receive should be able to live well."

### Merit Badge Applications.

The Court of Honor of the local organization of Boy Scouts of America will meet next Friday afternoon in Room 1601, Continental Building, to pass on a number of applications for merit badges. The court of honor is composed of S. Walter Sparks, chairman; Dr. C. Hampson Jones, J. W. Magruder, Joseph W. Shirley and C. Wharton Smith. A number of applications will be considered, and the result will be announced on Friday evening.

A Boy Scout troop will be formed shortly at St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church, Preston and Chester streets. It will be under the supervision of C. F. Pennington, who has charge of the athletic work in the school of physical instruction at the church. The boys to form the troop will be the postgraduates of the school.

# OFFICER CRUST . . . . . He Tries to Bring Down the Price of Eggs!!

## MARYLAND'S BLUE BOOK

**The Sun Almanac for 1913 Full of Useful Information.**

There is no more useful annual published in Maryland than the Sun Almanac and the issue for 1913 keeps up the fine record. This is the thirty-eighth number of the Almanac and it has grown from 32 pages, in 1876, to 256 pages, this year. It is Maryland's Blue Book for sure and has fairly earned the honorable title. No other Maryland publication covers the same field, no other could cover it so well. It is a mine of ready information of the highest value to every Marylander.

Accuracy is one of the chief aims of the compilers and all information contained in its pages can be relied on. It gives in compact and handy form a record of the past year and the present status of government in city, state and nation. Of especial value are its election tables giving the detailed Maryland vote in the great political contest of 1912. Every polling place in the state presents its figures and the compilation is summed up with the utmost care. Records of the party conventions of last year with their platforms add to the political value of the almanac.

Especial attention is given to states adjacent to Maryland and to the South. Statistics of many kinds are included and the sporting records of 1912 are well presented.

The Sun Almanac is now being distributed and is a welcome visitor wherever it enters. It is published by the A. S. Abell Company and is sent as a free gift to every subscriber of the Sun.

### Will of Mrs. Wagner.

The will of Mrs. Josephine Wagner, who died January 24, was filed for probate yesterday. There was a notice filed through Attorney William Colton that the will would be contested by Josephine Wagner, a granddaughter. The testatrix bequeathed to each of her great-grandchildren, Elizabeth Hardwick and Alberta Hardwick, $50 each.

To her granddaughter, Josephine Wagner, the sum of $200; to each of her grandchildren, Caroline E. Hardwick, Emil Klein, Katherine Klein, George J. Klein, Henrietta Becker, Josephine Klein and Louise Becker, the sum of $100 each.

The residue of the estate is left to her daughters, Mrs. Louise Becker and Mrs. Katie Klein, who are appointed executors. The will was dated January 15, 1913.

## WEATHER OBSERVATIONS

UNITED STATES WEATHER BUREAU, Washington, February 4.

Forecase for Wednesday and Thursday: For Maryland, District of Columbia, Delaware and Virginia, fair Wednesday and Thursday; light to moderate west winds.

For New England, Eastern New York, Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, fair Wednesday and Thursday; moderate west winds.

For North Carolina, South Carolina, fair and slightly colder Wednesday; Thursday, fair; light variable winds.

For West Virginia, fair and slightly colder Wednesday; Thursday, fair.

Weather Conditions and General Forecast: Pressure is now above the normal over practically the entire country and fair weather is the rule. There were snow flurries, however, in the region of the Great Lakes, the Missouri Valley, the North Rocky Mountain Region and on the North Pacific Coast, and during Monday night there were rains and snows over the Atlantic Seaboard.

A further rise in temperature has taken place in all the districts east of the Rocky Mountains, except the West Gulf States and the weather is considerably colder in Washington and Oregon.

With the exception of snow flurries near the Great Lakes and in the North Rocky Mountain Region and unsettled weather and rains in the North Pacific States, the weather will be fair Wednesday and Thursday throughout the country. The temperature will be somewhat lower Wednesday in the Atlantic and Gulf States and will continue below the normal Wednesday and Thursday in the Great Central Valleys, the Lake Region, the Plains States and the Northwest.

The winds along the New England Coast will be moderate west and northwest; along the Middle Atlantic Coast, light to moderate west and northwest; along the South Atlantic and East Gulf Coast, light variable; along the West Gulf Coast, light east; on Lake Michigan, moderate west and northwest.

Steamers departing Wednesday for European ports will have moderate west winds and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

### Daily Report.

Custom-house, Baltimore, February 4.

| Time. | Thermometer. | Relative Humidity. | Direction of Wind. | Velocity of Wind. | Precipitation. | State of Weather. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 A. M. | 31 | 83 | SW. | 8 | .08 | Clear |
| 8 P. M. | 35 | 48 | SW. | 8 | .00 | Clear |

Normal temperature 33 | Highest temperature... 36
Mean temperature.. 34 | Lowest temperature.... 30

Maximum velocity of the wind, 12 miles per hour, from the west.

### Record of Temperature.

The following table gives the minimum temperatures at 8 o'clock tonight for the past 24 hours at the following named stations:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Atlantic City, clear | 28 | Montgomery, clear | 40 |
| Bismarck, clear | *16 | Montreal, snow | 12 |
| Boston, clear | 30 | Nantucket, clear | 30 |
| Buffalo, cloudy | 20 | New Orleans, clear | 44 |
| Charleston, rain | 56 | New York, clear | 36 |
| Chicago, clear | 6 | Oklahoma, clear | 12 |
| Cleveland, cloudy | 16 | Pittsburgh, clear | 14 |
| Corpus Christi, clear | 42 | Philadelphia, clear | 30 |
| Denver, partly cloudy | 12 | Portland, Me., clear | 20 |
| Detroit, clear | 14 | Portland, Ore., rain | 44 |
| Duluth, clear | *22 | Providence, clear | 28 |
| Eastport, clear | 20 | Quebec, cloudy | 10 |
| Galveston, clear | 44 | Raleigh, clear | 40 |
| Green Bay, clear | *10 | Salt Lake City, pt. cdy | 48 |
| Hatteras, clear | 46 | San Francisco, cloudy | 48 |
| Havre | *18 | St. Louis, cloudy | 14 |
| Helena, snow | *8 | St. Paul, clear | *12 |
| Jacksonville, cloudy | 64 | Scranton, pt. cloudy | 26 |
| Kansas City, cloudy | 14 | Shreveport, clear | 32 |
| Knoxville, clear | 34 | Spokane, pt. cloudy | 14 |
| Louisville, clear | 18 | Tampa, rain | 68 |
| Marquette, clear | 8 | Washington, clear | 30 |
| Memphis, clear | 32 | Winnipeg, snow | *24 |

*Below zero.

### Almanac for Today.

Sun Rises....7:31 A. M. | Sun Sets.....5:29 P. M.
New Moon.....12:21 A. M. Thursday.

HIGH WATER.

5:49 A. M.....0.7 Foot | 6:50 P. M.....1.3 Feet
[Calculations expressed in Eastern Standard Time.]

## COMPTON TELLS OF PAVING WORK

AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE AT McCOY HALL.

**Explains Use of Different Materials on Different Streets and Points Out the Reasons for the Use of Certain Kinds of Paving—All Goes Into the Cost—Lecture Was Open to the Public.**

In an illustrated lecture yesterday afternoon at McCoy Hall, R. Keith Compton, chairman of the Paving Commission, explained what the commission is doing toward ridding Baltimore of its cobblestones. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides reproduced from photographs taken in all sections of the city where new streets have been laid. It was under the auspices of the Women's Civic League and was open to the public.

Mr. Compton explained the use of different materials on different streets and pointed out the reasons for the use of certain kinds of paving. He also explained the cost of the different kinds of paving. In part he said:

There is probably nothing which a visitor notes as quickly in visiting a city as the condition of its streets, and upon their condition depends in a very large measure the impression which he carries away of the city as a municipality and of its citizenship.

To rid this city of cobblestones so that it might take its just rank among the municipalities the legislature of 1906 passed an act authorizing the city of Baltimore to borrow the sum of $5,000,000, which sum was to have been used in financing the scheme of paving.

Cobblestone was first laid in this city in the year 1781, and increased steadily from that time until about the year 1897. From the year 1897 to the year 1911 there was no steady increase in cobble; but at the same time very few improved streets were constructed within the old city limits, most of the improvements between those dates having been in what is known as the Annex section of the city, where the streets were entirely unpaved. Our estimate for the elimination of cobblestone streets and alleys amounts to $10,000,000.

At the present time the standard pavements of this country are well-dressed block stone, or Belgian block, as known here; vitrified block, wood block, asphalt (sheet and block), bitulithic and bituminous concrete, which is a modification of bitulithic.

The commission awarded its first contract in November, 1911, when the streets around the Fifth Regiment Armory were put under contract in order to make the convention hall more accessible from all points. From November, 1911, to January 1, 1913, 43 contracts were awarded for various classes of pavement aggregating 29 miles, distributed over various sections of the city and amounting to $1,358,000. Of this amount put under contract there were completed in 1912 streets paved with various materials and aggregating 17 miles, the financial value of which was about $804,400, or an average of $47,000 a mile—$3,000 under the usual average per mile of paving.

Inspection on the street is done by men trained for the purpose, appointed for merit only. One must show some experience or qualification for handling this character of work before he is appointed, and when appointed is handed a copy of the contract and specifications, with instructions to see that the contractor follows this to the letter. For instance, the asphalt wearing surface must be delivered on the street at a certain temperature, because if too cold it cannot be properly applied, and if too hot it can be seriously injured. The inspector takes the temperature and accepts or rejects the material accordingly.

Our proposed operations for the year 1913 include all sections of the city except extreme Northeast Baltimore. We hope to make the central section more accessible from every other section of the city, and with that in view many of the main thoroughfares will be improved.

### Bismarck Lecture Today.

One of the most important lectures which will be delivered this year at the Johns Hopkins University will take place this evening at 8 P. M. in McCoy Hall. The speaker will be Dr. Erick C. Marcks, a German historian and publicist of note, who is professor of history in Hamburg (Hamburgische Wissenschaftliche Stiftiung). He will speak in German on Bismarck in Parliament. No cards of admission will be required.

## Aristodemo Giorgini

—Photo by Matzene.

He will sing in Lucia di Lammermoor at the Lyric next Friday.

## LECTURES ON CREDITS

**Association Completes Arrangements for Course.**

Announcement was made yesterday by the Credit Men's Association of this city that arrangements for a course of lectures on credits and relative subjects for the benefit of members of the association had been completed. Prominent credit men and local financiers will deliver the lectures, the first of which will be given on the evening of February 7 at the Central Y. M. C. A. The course will consist of 10 lectures, and following the opening lecture will continue on each successive Friday until completed, with the exception of Friday, March 21, that being Good Friday.

It is pointed out that no phase of business activity has recently received the training, attention and systematization as the credit department, and it is the intention of the lecturers to discuss every phase of the subject, not only the theory of credit, but the actual workings of the credit departments as conducted by national banks and mercantile houses; the education of credit men and the upbuilding of business generally. The course is intended not only for the head credit men, but for the assistants, bookkeepers and all connected with the association who are desirous of developing the credit department and their own knowledge and ability along those lines. The committee which arranged the course consisted of W. Howard Matthai, Capt. S. D. Buck, secretary of the association, and S. G. Rossen, president.

The complete list of lectures is as follows:

February 7—The Credit Man and His Profession—Kinds of Credit, Harry P. Boyd; Determining Upon a Credit Risk—Analyzing a Mercantile Agency Report—Analyzing a Property Statement for a Commercial Credit—Analyzing a Property Statement for a Bank Credit, Waldo Newcomer; Safeguarding of Credit—Gathering Credit Information—Collections, S. G. Rossen; Elements of Credit Departmental Administration—Co-operation—Helping the Retailer by Advice Upon Proper Books of Account, C. Walter Garnan; The History and Theory of Credit, Dr. George E. Barnett, of Johns Hopkins University; Terms of Sale and the Parts They Play in Sound Credit, J. Harry Tregoe; Bankruptcy Administration, Sylvan H. Lauchheimer; The Credit Side of Fire Protection, William J. Donnelly; Surety and Its Relation to the Public, John B. Bland, and Characteristics of a Sound Debtor, John T. Stone.

## EUROPE OPTIMISTIC ON CONDITIONS IN AMERICA

**With Billions of Dollars Needed to Develop Our National Resources, Over-the-Sea Optimism Is to Be Encouraged Through Wise Legislative Enactment.**

Special Correspondence of The American.

New York, February 4.—From Europe, and especially from London, have come within the past ten days or two weeks a good many communications, most of them confidential so far as personality is concerned, which show that the high financial powers and the possessors of great capital across the seas are now looking upon the American business and commercial situation with the keenest interest. These men recognize the great impulse which will be caused by the marketing of our magnificent crop of 1912. Some of the communications refer to the statistics that show the money value of our foreign commerce in 1912. Some of the communications refer to the statistics that show the money value of our foreign commerce in 1912 was nearly four and one-half billion dollars, secured only to Great Britain's commerce.

There does prevail in London a suspicion that these American statistics, which were prepared in Washington, are not entirely reliable, yet is is admitted that our foreign commerce is increasing by leaps and bounds. In the magnitude and diversity of our harvests and in the discovery of the secret by which our trade with foreign countries can be greatly increased there are, Europe thinks, good grounds for an optimistic feeling in the United States. Some of the private correspondence which goes from American banking-houses to Europe in the form of weekly circular letters reports that business men from all over the United States are now experiencing a prosperity which is unsurpassed. The letters report that jobbers or wholesalers are finding their business going almost beyond their capacity to handle it.

### We Need Europe's Billions.

What Europe is asking appears to be whether or not all these favorable impulses are to be maintained and increased for a series of years. Is the United States entering upon an era of prosperity greater than any other nation has ever known?

The leading financiers and capitalists of London believe that this question cannot be answered until at least a year or two have passed. They wonder whether the people of the United States realize what the demands for capital in the next four or five years are to be. These demands are to be world encompassing. South America will within the next five years be ready to absorb hundreds of millions of new capital.

Furthermore, however great may be the demands made by retail traders upon the manufacturers of the United States for dry goods and other commodities, nevertheless, these demands cannot be continued unless the United States is enabled to procure great amounts of new capital principally for the imperative needs of the railroads and also for the exploitation of the natural resources of the country. If the railroads of the United States can secure the new capital they need they will at once begin great improvements. Vast terminals will be built. James J. Hill thinks that the question of adequate terminals is the vital question for American railroads. European financiers are inclined to agree with Mr. Hill. To build terminals sufficient for the demands for transportation which will be made in the next five years and to increase the equipment and trackage of the railroads for the same purpose would, in Mr. Hill's opinion, require $5,000,000,000.

Nobody can estimate the amount of new capital which is needed for the development of the natural resources of the United States which are now awaiting immediate development. In the South alone at least a thousand million dollars could be well utilized for the development of her natural resources and for thoroughly preparing that section of the country to meet the demands which will be occasioned by the opening of the Panama Canal.

Europe thinks if our railroads are thoroughly equipped and possess abundant terminal facilities, and if the capital be furnished for the development of some part of our great national resources, then there is no reason why the great business prosperity now under way should not be long continued and greatly increased.

### Europe Watching Us.

However just, or however unreasonably apprehensive the view taken by many financiers of London and of Paris may be, nevertheless it is a view which may tend to prevent the United States from obtaining the capital which is so greatly needed. Europe will not invest in American securities if capitalists are persuaded that American business and banking methods justify the recent criticisms. On the other hand, these men of finance suggest tentatively that conditions may so shape themselves that American capital may find it expedient to make large investments elsewhere than in the United States. In other words, our own capital may be driven out of the country.

The plain meaning behind all these communications is said to be this: The men of great experience in the gathering and the investment of capital of Europe, and especially in London, are waiting to see whether the people of the United States, by legislative enactment and by popular agitation, are going so to act and speak as to prevent the securing of large issues of new capital for the United States, or, on the other hand, so to act and speak as to stimulate the flow of capital to this country.

There is nothing partisan in this European view. It represents nothing but the attitude of mind in which the great financiers and capitalists across the sea now find themselves.

HOLLAND.

## TO EQUIP NEW LINE

**Plan to Spend $10,000,000 to Take Care of Coal Output.**

It was learned yesterday that Henry Walters and his associates in the Atlantic Coast Line are about to spend $10,000,000 to equip the new line recently built at a cost of $15,000,000 from Jenkins to McRoberts, Ky., by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, a subsidiary of the Atlantic Coast Line. This road was built to afford an outlet for the Kentucky fields of the Consolidation Coal Company, and it is said by those interested in the project that no expense will be spared to equip the line with all the facilities necessary to handle the great tonnage which the lavish expenditure of money testifies is confidently expected by the railroad men.

President Jere H. Wheelwright, of the Consolidation Coal Company, returned to Baltimore yesterday from New York, where he has been arranging the new financing for his company. Later in the day he attended a meeting of directors of his company, at which the plan as prepared was approved by the board.

After the meeting President Wheelwright stated that the Consolidation would issue $6,500,000 of 6 per cent. secured 10-year notes, convertible into the stock of the company at 105 at any time within nine years from the time that they are issued. The new securities will be offered to the stockholders of the Consolidation at par. A syndicate, headed by the National City Bank and Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York, has underwritten the issue of notes, and a number of Baltimore houses will participate in the underwriting.

The proceeds from the sale of the securities will be utilized in making extensive improvements in the Elkhorn and other coal fields belonging to the Consolidation. Additional houses will be built in Kentucky, and the property further improved, which will increase the output of the company's mines in the State of Kentucky.

### Falls and Is Run Over.

While climbing into a wagon on Hanover street near Conway yesterday morning, Henry Gehring, 17 years old, 111 Pentz Court, a driver, became entangled in the reins and fell to the street. The horse started off and the wheel of the wagon passed over Gehring's leg, breaking it. He was sent to Mercy Hospital.

## THE PEOPLE'S LETTER BOX

TOPICS DISCUSSED BY READERS OF THIS PAPER.

**Baltimore's New Charter, Says a Taxpayer, Should Provide That None But Property-owners May Vote on Loans—Favors No More Improvements Until the Tax Rate Drops to $1.50.**

Letters designed for publication in this column must be indorsed with the name and address of the writer.
Anonymous communications will not be considered.
When the writer so prefers his name will not be published.
Letters should not exceed 500 words.

To the Editor: There is a probability that Baltimore will have a new charter within the next year or two, and I hope that it will be so framed as to prevent men from voting on the ratification of loans who are not taxpayers on a reasonable amount of real estate. There are many persons who have no real estate who will vote for almost any loan submitted, without considering whether it is advisable or not, or that it will increase our taxes to pay the interest thereon and to provide a sinking fund for its final redemption; but simply hoping they will get something out of it in the way of employment or otherwise.

During the last 10 years there have been so many loans passed aggregating such a vast amount of indebtedness that we now have an assessment and tax rate so great that real estate is scarcely worth owning, especially that common class of small, compactly-built, two-story houses, with large ground rents and but little more ground than enough to set the house on, which have been and are still being built all around the city, until there are several thousand more than there are families to occupy them. The building of such houses should be stopped until there is a greater demand for them, and there ought not be another loan passed nor any improvements made not actually required until the tax rate with the present assessment is reduced to at most $1.50. It is preposterous to have a tax rate including the state amounting to nearly $2.50 on $100.

A TAXPAYER.

Baltimore, February 4.

### The Will to End Evil.

To the Editor: Governor Goldsborough's vice commission, while merely a board of inquiry, has an opportunity of accomplishing a great work. It has been asserted with confidence that the social evil is a necessary evil—on the same principle, perhaps, that the Evil One is a necessary evil—and that it is something to be regulated, not eliminated. On the dark pages of the world's history is written the damages done by what centuries ago were regarded as unavoidable plagues, but which have been banished from the face of the earth by the steady and enlightened warfare successfully waged against them by the sons of Adam. To say that this social evil is unavoidable is, to use the same argument employed by the ignorant and the superstitious who in the Dark Ages fled from or surrendered to certain diseases which swept thousands to death within a few days.

We have arrived at a period in our history when it is not necessary either to fly or surrender. We have learned to fight evils and to conquer them. All that is necessary to add to our knowledge is the will to conquer. If we have that will the fight is practically already won. If we have not the will, then the attempt is absolutely useless. D. B. N.

Baltimore, February 4.

### Her Brother Votes—Why Not She?

To the Editor: The other day a well-meaning gentleman bestowed upon me gratis some sage advice. He said that it was well for women to let their men folks do the voting, and he wound up with the recommendation that I be satisfied to have my brother represent me at the polls and not to bother my head about it; because, he said, it was easier for me to do it that way. It certainly is easier to follow the line of least resistance. That's why the antis have a down-hill ride, with nothing to lose and all to gain, while the suffragists are doing hill-horse duty. It's easier not to learn how to read than it is to master the intricacies of a written language, but sensible people think the effort pays in the end.

But why should my brother vote and not I? Because he stands 6 feet in his stockings and I stand 5 feet 4 similarly equipped, is that any reason why he needs a vote more than I do? Because he's a brunette and I'm a blonde, does that make his claim any stronger than mine? Because he sings bass and I sing soprano, does that prove that he makes a better citizen than I would make? Because he can do certain things better than I can do them, just as I can do certain other things better than he can do them, does that prove that he is a more useful member of society than I? My brother entertains for me about the same brotherly regard that men usually entertain for their sisters, no more and no less. He considers me when that consideration doesn't interfere too much with his own comfort and convenience; but if a testator wanted to show in a substantial way an equal love and affection for both of us, it would be wiser and safer to name me specifically in the will rather than to rely upon the vague expectation that my brother would take care of me.

My brother is self-supporting and so am I. It wasn't sufficient for my mental wellbeing that he alone should learn to read, and it hasn't been sufficient for my physical wellbeing that he should eat and I should fast. In all respects nature and society have treated us as separate and distinct individuals. Don't you think it was queer advice that the well-meaning gentleman bestowed upon me gratis?

ANOTHER WOMAN OF THE WORKING CLASS.

Baltimore, February 4.

### Investment Banking.

To the Editor: In entertaining the members of the board of governors of the Investment Bankers' Association, Baltimore financiers and business men have gone a step forward in promoting the movement which has been started to put investment banking on a higher plane and to have enacted laws in the various states of the Union which make impossible frenzied financing. Wildcat schemes put through by irresponsible persons have resulted in losses of millions of dollars to unsuspecting investors in the United States, and with the investment bankers in Baltimore joining hands with those elsewhere in an effort to rid the banking world of such irresponsible promoters, they are doing much to strengthen the confidence of the people in financial enterprises. This is the one aim of the Investment Bankers' Association and its work should be encouraged. Baltimore financiers have so far played a leading part in the affairs of the new organization, and it is to be hoped that good results will be obtained from the work of the new organization.

INVESTOR.

Baltimore, February 2.

### The Cause of Vice.

To the Editor: I note Birch Morrow's criticism of Dr. Kelly and the vice crusaders, and most heartily agree with him. Whenever a lot of people band together with a hurrah and spectacular methods of securing reforms of various sorts, without going to the bottom of the real cause of the conditions they seek to correct, it appears to me they are not so enthusiastic in their desire to do real good as to advertise themselves and be in the limelight. The methods adopted by these fanatics are much more likely to do harm than good.

In talking against their methods of procedure I do not wish it understood that I am opposed to the suppression of vice and viciousness of all kinds. I would be most pleased to see this effectually accomplished, but I do oppose this hounding of human beings by people who call themselves Christians, and whose pampered and spoiled male offspring may in many casts be the cause of the lamentable condition of these very women they are hounding. I have known cases of this kind.

Again I wish to assert, and without fear of contradiction from any but the blind, not only in vision, but in thought and reasoning power, that the social evil in sight and reachable by these reformers is not one-tenth of that which exists in Baltimore or any large city, and which is much more destructive in its effect than that we see or public prostitution as it invades our homes and destroys the moral tone of our womankind and is hence afflicting directly the heart of the nation.

Let the women of this country vote if they want to, but let them devote themselves to their real duty, of properly raising their children; let the law not favor the malicious brat as it does in Baltimore more than in any city I have ever been in, and let children be taught their real place in the economy of the nation and forced to observe it, and you have taken the first step toward correcting the tendency toward and the development of vice.

There are many details in the course of child development which, of course, cannot be gone into here. The greatest curse to success in these undertakings of real reform are the maudlin sentimentalists.

Another great cause of the downfall of our women is the liberty they are allowed in associating with the male of the species in their early years and in the coeducational system of our public schools, followed later on by inadequate wages for those who are compelled to earn a living, and the evil example set them by their more fortunate sisters in places of public amusement.

Vice may not be entirely eliminated, but undoubtedly it may be much controlled by judicious management. The results of the work of these fanatic crusaders are apt to be more harmful than beneficial, for man is but man, and in his life and actions ruled by a higher power than man-made laws can exert; hence, if we allow no outlet for his vicious inclinations, we but lay ourselves liable to a greater invasion of our homes than already exists. The plea these crusaders make is the destruction of the homes through the invasion of disease as a result of vice. Make laws compelling medical inspection before marriage, make them drastic and enforce them; the state will lose nothing in the prevention of marriage of such. Make your law for seduction severe and enforce it. The Maryland law as quoted to me a few years ago is farcical and simply encouraging to acts of this sort.

C. L. THUDICHUM, M. D.

Denver, Col., February 1.

### Widower Weds Early Sweetheart.

Tired of the solitary life of a widower, George Theis, 65 years old, of Egg Harbor, N. J., came to this city Monday night to wed Mrs. Dora Quent, 229 North Gilmor street, a sweetheart of his youth.

Since the death of his wife Theis has lived the life of a recluse on a large chicken farm. His two grown children had homes of their own and the old man felt that he could not bear the solitude any longer.

Accordingly he renewed acquaintance with Mrs. Dora Quent and began to correspond with her regularly. He had learned previously from mutual friends that Mrs. Quent's husband had died some time before.

Theis proposed to Mrs. Quent by mail. She accepted, and the wedding ceremony was performed Monday night. Mr. and Mrs. Theis will leave this morning for Egg Harbor, where they will make their future home.

## SOLEMN SEASON OF LENT BEGINS

CATHOLICS TO RECEIVE CROSS OF ASHES ON THEIR HEADS.

**Yesterday Was Shrove Tuesday, Which Precedes the Penitential Season—Pancakes Were Served in Many Homes—Services in Catholic and Protestant Churches to Be Elaborate.**

The solemn, penitential season of Lent, during which the faithful deny themselves all of the luxuries and some of the seeming necessities of life in reparation for their misdeeds, begins today in the Catholic and many of the Protestant Churches. In the former the parishioners will go to church, where they will have placed on their forehead ashes in the form of a cross. Masses will be held in all of the Catholic Churches in the morning and ashes will be distributed again tonight. Special services will be held in the Protestant Churches both in the morning and again in the evening.

Yesterday was Shrove Tuesday, the day preceding the penitential season, and many of the older housewives observed the day by making pancakes and doughnuts. This custom is fast becoming obsolete.

At Old St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church yesterday morning special services were held for the clergymen of that faith. Bishop John Gardner Murray presided at the service, which was one of meditation. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon a luncheon was served in the parish hall. Owing to the fact that yesterday was the last day before the opening of the lenten season, a great many religious and social organizations held dinners and banquets. For the ensuing 40 days there will be very little social activity, as the season is more strictly observed every year.

Last Sunday the lenten regulations which all Catholics are bound to observe, under most strict penalties, were read in all of the churches in this city. The regulations were given in detail, and especial emphasis was laid on the various dispensations that relate to the workingmen and their families and those who are physically incapable of fasting or of denying themselves certain foods during the 40 days set aside by the church for fasting.

## DR. WELCH DECLINES

**Too Busy to Serve as Member of Anti-vice Commission.**

Dr. William H. Welch yesterday addressed a letter to Governor Goldsborough declining appointment as a member of the Anti-vice Commission. He expressed regret that he could not serve because of the calls upon his time by other duties which he has undertaken. He could not, he said, do justice to the new work offered him and to the duties which he has already assumed.

James R. Wheeler, president of the Commonwealth Bank, and Duke Bond, a member of the Council, are holding their appointments under consideration.

Dr. Lillian Welsh, Robert Biggs, Simon H. Stein and Walter L. Denny have accepted. Dr. J. W. Magruder, Louis H. Levin and George Dimling will probably accept. Dr. Finney and Miss Herkner are reported to be undecided.

In carrying on its work the commission, after its organization, will study methods adopted in other cities, notably in Chicago, where a crusade against vice has recently been conducted. Dr. Graham Taylor, of Chicago, is now in Baltimore. He was prominently identified with the crusade in his city. He says the Chicago investigation cost $15,000. Walter T. Summer, chairman of the Chicago commission, will speak here on February 11 under the auspices of several societies which have displayed active interest in bettering conditions.

### What It Amounts to.

Simmered down, Colonel Roosevelt's testimony before the Stanley committee amounts to a declaration that he believes his will to be above law.—St. Louis Republic.

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DR. W. T. VOIGT, DENTIST, ANNOUNCES his Removal from 203 N. EUTAW to 223 N. EUTAW ST., formerly with Dr. Wm. Spangler. At night, Res. 2700 EVERGREEN TER. ja10-d&Slm

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