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FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1913.

A reformer is never out of a job.

The Parks promise to be green for St. Patrick's Day.

Will Mexico obey an exhortation to be peaceful as promptly as an ultimatum?

There is never a need of exhorting a woman to buy her Easter bonnet early.

Just about now it's bonnets rather than ballots in the mind of the suffragist.

The price of meats has jumped considerably. And this under a Democratic administration!

Having so successfully dominated a national convention Mr. Bryan should find managing the administration merely a pastime.

Porfirio Diaz will not go back to Mexico. This is a patriotic resolution, considering the country has enough trouble on its hands as it is.

Messages have been taken from Key West at Cairo, Egypt. The wireless is literally accomplishing the prophecy about a burning breath's girdling the globe.

Two admirals met in the streets of Rome and engaged in a lively scrimmage until separated. Their conduct was most unprofessional in starting a land fight.

If the President's indorsement of a senatorial candidate would mean the election of some other man it seems strange that all of them should be so anxious to obtain it.

About the only restraint which the New York police apparently put upon themselves was not to buy dukes for their daughters. But they could have afforded even that luxury.

It is to be hoped that the boldness, the frankness, and the indiscreet language of the vice reformers will not result in creating a worse conditions of the public mind than already exists.

The London suffragettes plead that before they started on their present course of violence they got nothing by being ladylike. This sounds like a mean shifting of responsibility to the men.

Turkey is pawning its crown jewels for $2,000,000. One of our money kings would scorn to borrow such a bagatelle, but Turkey needs the money more than it apparently will the jewels for some time to come.

Now the movement has been started in England again to reform the House of Lords. They should let the suffragettes try their hand at it. The reform could be accomplished so quickly that the peers would never know what hurt them.

The public does not seem to have noticed nor appreciated the unobtrusive and mildly modest way in which Pauline Wayne retired from official into private life. Yet the manner of her going might serve as a model to many a reluctant human.

The new Secretary of War, after issuing an order for the employes of the department to be vaccinated, was the first to bare his arm. The combination of example with precept is, after centuries of human experiment, the most successful working one yet discovered.

The course of the great English boat race on the Thames was closely guarded to protect the race from suffragette interference. It would have been a better plan to have provided free facilities for ducking, considering the convenience of the plan, and then allowed the suffragettes to come along.

Four college students in North Carolina are to be tried for manslaughter for the death of a fellow-student while he was being hazed. It is a pity that such a dispicable cause must have its martyrs, too, but if these young men are convicted and punished, their unfortunate victim will have paid with his life for the safety of many in the future.

A housewives' league in New York has sent a letter to the Chicago packers demanding to know the reason for the price of meat being advanced. The "I-want-to-know" spirit is abroad in the land, and when it seizes upon womankind it might as well be answered first as last. Delays are literally dangerous. So is the prospect of the answer's not being satisfactory.

A number of states are now seriously considering the question of policewomen for the large cities. The woman question, so long limited to suffrage, has by that agitation developed to a surprising degree in the thought and remedial legislation of the day. Some of the measures proposed may prove impracticable, but it is evidence of a needed awakening that measures are being considered.

A man in Arkansas has been convicted of the murder of three of his children, whom he bound to an oil-soaked bed and then locked in a burning house. He has been sentenced to be hanged, a far more merciful death than that to which he doomed the helpless innocents, but the sentimentally inclined, who see only barbarity in capital punishment, may rally to his assistance as a worthy object of their sympathy.

A START IN ELECTRIFICATION.

Announcement by the management of the Pennsylvania Railroad of plans for electrifying its passenger train service for a distance of twenty miles out of Philadelphia, on the extension that serves a compact suburban territory, is generally regarded as being but preliminary to a very much more extensive scheme of electrification. The electrification of train service for Philadelphia, it may be taken for granted, is but anticipatory to the extension of such beneficent treatment to Baltimore.

In fact, there have for long been rumors afloat concerning preparations on the part of the Pennsylvania management for a very extensive electrification of Eastern lines. According to general belief, the big electric plant to be constructed on the Susquehanna in the vicinity of Conowingo, is an enterprise of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the power that will be derived from this plant, it is expected, will be used for the electrification of that part of the Pennsylvania system extending between Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Intimations have from time to time been given out to the effect that the Pennsylvania system is working out extensive electrifying plans. Even if these plans should pertain only to the passing of trains into and through cities, the significance of the change would be immense. It would mean for Baltimore relief from from a smoke delivery that is a grievous evil at present. The change from steam to electricity by the big railroad systems will involve a very great cost, and the change must be looked for as a gradual transition, and not as a sudden transmutation.

THE TRAVEL TREND

Since the United States began work on the big ditch which is to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans there has been a continuously increasing trend of tourists to the Canal Zone and to the Caribbean region generally. That patriotic slogan set up by the boomers a year or so ago—See America First—is apparently developing practically into a travel movement having for its purpose to see both Americas. There is a winter season swing of travel annually from the freezing zone of the United States and from Canada to the subtropic regions of Southern Florida. In recent years this winter tourist movement has included Cuba, Porto Rico, Hayti and especially the Canal Zone. Soon the tourist will be able to move through the canal and to push tours of exploration and discovery up and down the Pacific Coast of the two Americas.

The rush in the direction of the American tropics during the past two or three months has been very large. So large that it gives rise to the query as to whether the tide of travel may not be changing. Americans who have had money and leisure for travel have in the past made it a sort of inevitable duty to visit the land of their ancestors. Every country in Europe profits every summer time from this going-back-to-the-old-home instinct of Americans. In recent years, however, many Americans have been looking for summer vacation relaxation up in the Canadian wilds. America—the two Americas—offer a tremendous scenic variety. And, in the matter of climate, the assortment includes every brand under the sun. And good hotels are now scattered all the way from Hudson Bay to the Panama Zone.

AN OKLAHOMA GERRYMANDER.

As the result of the population growth as indicated by the 1910 census some of the newer Western States are entitled to an increased representation in the House of Representatives, and this increase has necessitated a realignment of congressional districts. Oklahoma, which in 1900 was accredited with a population of 398,331, shows up since the last census with a population of 1,657,155. This state, which eight years ago was a territory with one delegate to Congress, now is entitled to five full-fledged representatives.

The legislature of Oklahoma, which is Democratic, has been engaged during the past two months in laying out the five congressional districts, and, according to a recent statement in the Kansas City Journal, the senatorial branch of the Assembly has so doctored the apportionment bill that "there is not a single district which has not been made an impregnable Democratic stronghold." This result, it is said, has been accomplished by a redistricting that warps and distorts the boundaries of districts, dividing territories which are geographically a unit, throwing Republican sections into overwhelming Democratic precincts and by such juggling tricks robbing the Republicans of the minority representation to which they are entitled.

There were two Republicans in the Congress which just expired and two also in the new Congress from Oklahoma. The tricky gerrymander aims to make every district in the state Democratic, but juggling politics rarely wins in the long run. Political sentiment in Oklahoma is much in condition of flux just now. It may easily happen that the Democratic gerrymander will work on the boomering principle.

EXTRA SESSION PROGRAM.

When Congress meets in extraordinary session the work of tariff revision will be entered upon, and the country will abide the result with much interest and some perturbation. The Republicans will follow the policy of hands off, only registering by their vote and voice protest in particular instances. The disposition of the minority party will be to make the Democrats entirely responsible for tariff action and to refrain from filibustering. While the party of the opposition will thereby be eliminated as a disturbing factor, the Democratic leaders will not, as a matter of fact, find harmony perched upon the schedules as they shall appear from the committee room. Glossed over by the sheen of general exultation over their success, the discord in the Democratic ranks nevertheless exists, for potential discord is as disturbing as open strife. The policy outlined by William Jennings Bryan four years ago, of taking the tariff from articles imported from abroad that enter into monopolistic manufactures is too picturesque and impractical to be considered for a moment by such moderate protectionists as Mr. Underwood and his faction. So that the views of the Commoner will count for little in the calculations of the tariff drafters, unless he should directly or indirectly seek to project his personality into the work of the Ways and Means Committee.

The matter of prime interest is the attitude that will be assumed by Mr. Wilson. Will he bare his head to the balmy breezes of free trade? By no manner of means. Will he uncover his fevered brow to the zephyrs of tariff for revenue only? Where would be the need with the ever-ready resource of an income tax law, whereby the revenues of the government may be swelled ad libitum without regard for the tariff returns? Will he call upon the winds of moderate protectionism to sweeten his reflections? These are the questions that arise. They point to the probable policy of the new President. Suppose he shall take the stand of hands off, that which Mr. Bryan, by reason of the proprieties and the necessities of his Cabinet position, will doubtless assume, what then?

Mr. Taft made a moderate compromise upon the tariff, and his assertion that the Payne-Aldrich bill was the best measure obtainable, while sincere and commendable, did not relieve him from hounding. The pack was at his heels baying for radicalism in the name of progressivism, and the country returned a majority of Democrats to the lower house, precedent to handing over the country to that party. Not simply an effect of the Payne-Aldrich bill, but that measure gave focus to the fury. So that let Mr. Wilson be as sincere as he may in his attitude of hands off, if this shall be his attitude, and responsibility will be fixed upon him for every item in the measure that shall prove distasteful to any portion of the Democratic constituency. Should the President undertake to bring about agreement between the radicals and the conservatives and should he threaten to withhold his signature to any bill that does not meet his views, he will but be re-enacting the drama of the Cleveland regime. If the Democrats are sincerely bent upon keeping together, they can do so. But this can be only through handing over the subject to the President by common consent and agreeing that anything he says is right and will go with them. Mr. Wilson does not profess to be a tariff expert any more than Mr. Roosevelt, who acknowledged his distaste for the subject. How, then, can superlative wisdom dwell in his private counsels?

So that the tariff, as the one item of the special session program, is fraught with almost insuperable difficulties. The country, however, wishes the Democrats well and is willing to enter into the experience of the administration of the business of the country, even though upon the edge of apprehension, when it views the past heresies and the unstable opinions that have influenced the leadership of the party on the subject of the tariff. As for other subjects for the consideration of the special session, Mr. Wilson seems content to deal with them as they arise, and the lack of liklihood of currency legislation shows appreciation of the need of careful handling of the subject.

CABINET ON CALL.

Henceforth the button-pressing method will be used for the assembling of the Cabinet. Instead of the regular meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays, the Cabinet will hereafter be assembled only when there is something to talk about. So announces Mr. Wilson, and this fresh innovation has caused the formalists to gasp for breath. The ancient usage of the President to enter the Cabinet room on the regular days, at the appointed hour, and with all dignity to assume his place at the head of the table with his counsellors grouped in profound decorum about him, has been shattered and Jeffersonian simplicity wins another laurel.

When the Cabinet had no business to transact it killed time for a respectable period and then marched solemnly out, as though the cares of state were backbreaking, and the public only occasionally got glimpses of the genuine good fellowship that marked these semiclub assemblies.

From this time henceforth throughout the present administration the public will know when the Cabinet gets together that something is going on, and interest will be tiptoe. But as all things will be open to public knowledge, curiosity will have little to feed upon. The touch of the button calling the respective members to the Cabinet board will be something to look forward to with expectation that routine kills. Pros and cons are divided as to the change.

FRESH LIMIT FOR LORDS.

True bicameral government in England is the ideal of the Liberals. The program marked out by Postmaster General Samuels and Premier Asquith himself indicates that the party in power will seek to reform the Lords, making the upper house a true judicial body. As a matter of fact the ideal of the American Congress is the one sought by the reformers in England. The traditional aristocratic hedging of the Lords long held them from successful attack. The English people are innately Tory, and they were loathe to support the program that ended in curtailing the veto of the upper house.

The further shearing of the powers of the peerage and the reduction of the upper house to a body answering to the United States Senate is the direction of constitutional change. The proposal that is likely to find adoption by the government is that for the creation of an elective upper house of one hundred and fifty members, to be styled either Senator or Lords of Parliament.

The liberals have never forgiven the Lords for their rejection of the budget three or four years ago, and the tide of reform of the upper house that then set strongly in has been growing in volume ever since. There seems to be no political obstruction in the way of democratizing and limiting the tenure of the members of the upper house. A true, impartial, judicially minded revising authority is what is sought by the reformers. This ideal for the upper house would greatly exalt it in true political dignity and make it a serviceable adjunct to the government, rather than, as now, an incubus.

JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS

President Wilson has not been generous in his treatment of Marylanders thus far, but he has to a degree disarmed criticism by his appointment of Mr. John Skelton Williams as assistant secretary of the Treasury. No more fitting designation for this responsibility could have been fixed upon than that which the President has made. The reputation of Mr. Williams as a banker does not either begin or end with the routine of banking matters.

He is a profound student of the currency and has a grasp of the facts of finance in countries abroad as well as the United States. The man whom the country will thus secure is in the broadest sense an economist. He regards the handling of the country's currency from the point of view of the widest economic service. He is disposed to treat the social effect as secondary and consequent upon the kind of economic principles that govern the handling of the subject. So that he is not one to be swayed by merely social appeals as much as he appreciates the interaction of economic causes and social consequences.

The South will be particularly complimented by the selection of this typical Southerner for the high federal distinction. And thus the President secures the double advantage of the services of a man of particular gifts and the satisfying of a section that has every right to look to him for full recognition. Baltimoreans are immensely pleased to have Mr. Williams in a position of such wide importance.

NOTES AND NOTIONS

BY JOSH WINK.

THE WARNING.

"When you're fighting and you're wrangling,
And you're trying heads to ram
There in Mexico, you fellows,"
Says our patient Uncle Sam,
"Keep your troubles to your own side,
For our border line is barred.
Fuss and muss, but keep your targets
In your own back yard.

"You may plead your guns are naughty,
And your bullets won't behave,
But the situation, sonnies,
It is growing very grave,
So just turn the muzzles your way,
And be on a careful guard
That the bullets do their flying
In your own back yard.

"You may think your shooting parties
Are a function quite immense;
But please see none of the damage
Is hurled over our fence;
For a hand we may be taking
And believe 'tis no canard
If this preaking-up-home business
Gets thrown into our back yard."

NOT HARMONIZING.

She—They say that the new hats will be moderate in size.
He—Then I bet the bills won't match em.

THE SURE END.

"What is that rascally friend of yours doing now?"
"Time."

A SERIOUS FEAR.

"Are you afraid of the yellow peril?"
"Sure, if it's a lemon."

SIGNS OF IT.

"I would prefer to marry a steel man."
"Why do you like that business?"
"Not so much for the business, but I should think a steel man would be apt to be well-tempered."

THE LITERAL TRUTH.

"How is it I find you here? You told me you were not going to take this train."
"Neither was I. I was going to let this train take me."

THEIR CODE.

"Flirts have no sense of honor."
"Oh, yes they have. I know a number of girls who would not think of accepting more than one fellow at the same time."

TAKING MUGS.

"I suppose police photographers differ from others about the kind of weather they prefer for taking pictures."
"Why shouldn't they?"
"Don't muggy days suit them best?"

A DISCOVERY.

"I've found out one thing."
"What's that?"
"It is because the ocean is always blue that you hear so much of the sad sea waves."

SILENCING CONSCIENCE.

"I don't see how that druggist could charge you cash for the soothing syrup."
"Why not?"
"Because he knows he's taking hush money."

A HINT.

"Will you be engaged this evening, Miss Maude?"
"That depends on whether anybody asks me."

JOSH WINK.

NOT FULL ENOUGH.

Representative Burnett, of Alabama, the only man who has ever succeeded in breaking down the ancient custom of "calendar Wednesday" in the House, is the shortest man in that body. Once, during the fight to oust former Speaker Cannon, Mr. Burnett arose and shouted, Mr. Speaker!"

Uncle Joe looked at the man for a second and then said:

"It is customary for gentlemen to rise when addressing the chair."

"I am standing my full height," roared Burnett.

But the House laughed so loud that another representative was recognized before "the gentleman from Alabama" could compose himself.—Washington Star.

NOT ON THE POLICE LIST.

It was in one of those thriving Texas cities where railroads abound that a tired and weary traveler accosted a policeman and asked the way to the Y. M. C. A.

The copper was puzzled. He took off his hat and scratched his head. Finally he burst out: "Stranger you've got me. I know where the Frisco is, and the M., K. & T., but that Y. M. C. A. is a new one on me."—Kansas City Star.

TOLD TO AN ENGLISHMAN.

An English clergyman turned to a Scotsman and asked him:

"What would you be were you not a Scot?"

The Scotsman said: "Why, an Englishman, of course."

Then the clergyman turned to the gentleman from Ireland and asked him:

"And what would you be were you not an Irishman?"

The man thought for a moment and said:

"I'd be ashamed of mesilf!"—Manchester Guardian.

LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY

An Aristocratic Scotch House of Romantic History—Claims Earldom at 79.

[Special to The American.]

Of all the great houses of the old Scotch aristocracy there is none that has been more fertile in romance than the Lindsays, and more particularly that branch of the family of which the Earl of Lindsay is the chief. It is a peerage that has experienced the most extraordinary vicissitudes, and had been the subject of no end of litigation, which has contributed in no small degree to impoverish it. Another chapter is about to be added to its annals that is thoroughly in keeping with its past history. For the preliminary steps have been taken for a lawsuit in London, which will serve to revive memories of the Tichborne cause celebre.

The claimant to the earldom and to the minor dignities, which include the Baronies of Parbreath, of Kilbinnie, of Kingsburn, of Drumry and of Lindsay, as well as the Viscounty of Garnock, has, like the claimant in the Tichborne case, emerged from the wilds of Australia, and has been able to furnish sufficient proof to satisfy at any rate the eminent firm of London lawyers who have espoused his cause, that he is the second brother of that John Bethune Lindsay, tenth Earl of Lindsay, who died without issue in 1894, and whose honors, in default of other heirs, went to a third cousin, the present and eleventh Earl.

The claimant gives his name as Henry James Hamilton Bethune Lindsay, and insists that he is the second son of the ninth earl. Now, in the pages of Burke and other standard peerages and works of reference it is stated that the tenth earl had a brother of this name, who was born on the 8th of June, 1834, and that he died at Marseilles in July, 1862. The claimant's apparent age corresponds with the date just mentioned, although he possesses remarkable physical and mental vigor for a man of 79.

His story is to the effect that he did not die at Marseilles, as alleged, but that, having been disappointed in a love affair, and sick at heart at the manner in which he had been treated by his family in the matter, he had sailed from Marseilles in July, 1862, under an assumed name, for Australia, and had buried his identity at a place called Cannawigra, where he became manager of a large sheep run. He moved about from one part of the country to another, living, amongst other places, at Gippsland, and wound up at Melbourne, where some 10 or 15 years ago he married.

He adds that his family became aware whilst he was in Australia of his continued existence, and that they even sent out a lawyer of the name of Hayes, with whom he was in personal communication and in correspondence. What the nature of this correspondence was he does not divulge, but it is in the hands of his lawyers, and has gone far to convince them of the validity of his pretensions and of the fact that he is not an impostor.

Something of the same kind occurred on the death without issue of George, sixth Earl of Lindsay and fifteenth Baron Lindsay of the Byres in 1808. For the earldom and all the honors then passed to a very distant kinsman of the name of David Lindsay, who turned out to be a corporal in the army, so ignorant that he could hardly read or write, and whose father, John, had been a ship's carpenter. He, too, died unmarried, and then the earldom went to Gen. Sir Patrick Lindsay, who had a number of Indian victories to his record. He, likewise, left no issue, and then the Earldom of Lindsay went to Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune, who owed the additional name of Bethune to the marriage of one of his forbears, Patrick Lindsay, to Catherine Bethune, the heiress of the Bethunes of Bandon.

This Sir Henry Lindsay Bethune's career was as remarkable as those of his immediate predecessors in the earldom. For long before they had been any prospect of his inheriting the family honors he had entered the service of the British Army in India, was lent by the British government to the Shah of Persia, in order to organize the Persian Army, and became one of the most universally respected and popular figures in the Persian Empire. Ultimately Great Britain appointed him as the minister plenipotentiary to the Court of Teheran, and so great were the services which he rendered that in addition to the Persian titles with which he had been invested by the Shah, he was granted a baronetcy as well as the Order of the Bath.

The Earldom of Lindsay came to him much later, and not without a considerable amount of litigation. He had three sons, one who succeeded him as tenth earl, and who died without issue; the second one, who is alleged to have died at Marseilles in 1862, but who, the firm of London lawyers claim, now appears upon the scene; while the third, Martin, died at home, as a boy of 14. When the tenth earl died several years elapsed before the present earl could establish his rights to the honors to the satisfaction of the committee of privileges of the House of Lords. The present earl, as mentioned above, is only a distant cousin of the tenth earl.

The present earl has two sons, namely, Reginald Viscount Carnock and the Hon. Archibald Lindsay Bethune. Lord Carnock, who is a soldier and formerly commanded the Eighth Hussar Regiment, is as rich as his father is poor, being married to the daughter and heiress of one of the greatest mineowners in Yorkshire. He has no children, and the second heir is his brother, the Hon. Archibald, who, in 1900, married Ethel, daughter of William Austin Tucker, one of the leading bankers of Boston. The marriage took place in Emmanuel Church, of that city, and after the honeymoon Mr. Tucker set up his son-in-law in the insurance business at Boston.

The union did not turn out happily. It was dissolved on the petition of Mrs. Bethune Lindsay by the Massachusetts courts, and the Hon. Archibald returned to Scotland, leaving his son with the mother, to be brought up in this country. Inasmuch as the divorce has never been recognized by the English or Scotch courts, it is not recorded in the pages of Burke, and of other standard peerages, which publications, on the strength of legal precedent, take the ground that the Hon. Archibald, being a British subject, whose legal domicile is in Great Britain, is amenable for divorce only to the English or Scotch courts, which alone have power to dissolve his marriage.

The lady's case, therefore, is like that of Mrs. James Burke Roche, in New York, whose American divorce from her Irish husband, the Hon. James Burke Roche, brother and next heir to Lord Fermoy, is likewise declined recognition by the English courts. Unless these ultimately grant relief, Mrs. Burke Roche will become, nolens volens, a peeress of Ireland, as Lady Fermoy, on the death of her brother-in-law, while in the same way William Tucker's daughter will, despite her Boston divorce, become Countess of Lindsay, and a peeress of Scotland, in the event of the Hon. Archibald Bethune Lindsay surviving his elder brother, Lord Carnock. This is supposing that the claimant is defeated; while, if he succeeds, as I have pointed out, her son will, in due course, become the Earl of Lindsay.

She has taken advantage of her Massachusetts divorce to contract another marriage in Boston, with Ezra C. Fitch, Jr., with whom she lives, on Lawrence road, Chestnut Hill. Were she to visit England or Scotland with her American husband, his Scotch predecessor might subject her to no end of annoyances and trouble, on the plea that she had not been free to marry again.

The Lindsays belong to the same clan as that of which the Earl of Crawford is the chieftain. It was the Lord of Lindsay whose fatal gift of a gray horse to James III. of Scotland, on the eve of the battle of Sauchieburn, was the cause of that monarch being killed. The sixth Lord Lindsay's name will be familiar to all the readers of Sir Walter Scott's novel, The Abbot, as one of the principal foes of Mary Queen of Scots, and for his share both in her deposition and in the murder of Rizzio in Holyrood Palace. Another Lord Lindsay distinguished himself, like the English Earl of Lindsay with whom he must not be confounded, by his loyalty to Charles I., whom he attempted to rescue from the hands of Oliver Cromwell, while yet another Lord Lindsay founded the famous Highland Regiment, known as the Black Watch.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

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Proof of Self Control.

Self-control is what we show when a woman in a crowded street car pokes us in the eye with her umbrella.—Florida Times-Union.

Sounds Suspicious.

Here is Sec Bryan already intimating that his tenure of office may be brief. Is he forestalling something?—Boston Globe.

MEN AND WOMEN

Prof. Homer Eaton Keyes has been appointed business executive of Dartmouth College.

District Court Judge Daniel A. Dugan, of New York, may be appointed governor of Porto Rico.

Lieut. H. T. Bull has been detailed by the government to command the cadet corps at Cornell University.

Sergt. John M. Walsh, U. S. A., is engaged in a 7,000-mile walk across this country and back to test army shoes.

Municipal Judge Sabath, of Chicago, is advocating the establishment of a "sunrise court" in that city. He believes that his plan will save money for both the citizen and the commonwealth.

In obedience to the request of Mrs. Fredericka K. Sachleben, 60 years old, of Brooklyn, who died recently, her body will be cremated and the ashes kept until the death of her husband. She requested that his body be cremated and the ashes of both be thrown together to the winds.

With a record of 31 years' service on board 14 steamships, during which no serious accident happened, Carl H. Schnell, purser of the Kaiser Wilhelm II., of the North German Lloyd Line, completed with the arrival in New York the other day of that steamship his three hundredth round trip across the Atlantic.

John Keenan, the special delivery parcel post carrier in Hackensack, N. J., found a stray dog on the main street of that town and placed a parcel post stamp on the dog's collar. When the pound master tried to capture the animal Keenan pointed to the stamp and said that the dog was mail matter. The dog did not go to the pound.

Picking Has Been Good.

It seems hard for the lawyers to let young Thaw alone as long as he has a few dollars left.—Omaha Bee.

No Vacuum Noticed.

Anyone noted the vacuum? Uncle oJe Cannon is now a mere private citizen.—Milwaukee News.

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE

Marie Dressler calls her show the All-Star Gambol.

Several theaters in St. Louis are trying to abolish the dead head system.

Baby Mine is still being played with success in various parts of the country.

The London critics are calling Frank Craven a great comedian in Bought and Paid For.

A new sketch by Lee Arthur called Burglary a la Mode is to be seen in vaudeville.

W. A. Brady may make a revival of Arizona this spring. One of the Shenandoah is also talked of.

Robert Mackay, Mrs. Charles G. Craig and Nan Campbell have been engaged for the company of Blanche Ring in When Claudia Smiles.

A matter of news which is somewhat of a sensation in musical circles is the fact that Dalmores, the great opera singer, has bought himself an ice plant.

The Love Leash, by Edmund Breese and Anna Steese Richardson, is to be produced in Washington this month. Grace Filkins will be featured in the production, and among others in the production will be John Flood, Ann Meredith, Frederick Truesdale, Lee Kohlmar and Jennie Eustace.

Lillian Russell tells that one day desiring a copy of the philosophical musings of her old favorite, Marcus Aurelius, she inquired for the volume of an immaculately gotten-up bookseller's clerk, who inquired: "Is it a classical work? Who wrote it?" "The King of Rome," replied Miss Russell without batting an eyelid. The clerk, after a vain search, informed his fair customer that he had never heard of such a work, that it must have been written by a foreigner and that they kept the works of American authors almost exclusively. "You see," he concluded, "we don't have much call for books by royal authors because they are generally so dull and uninteresting."

A SCOTCH TERRIER.

[From the Spectator.]

Little lad, little lad, and who's for an airing,
Who's for the river and who's for a run;
Four little pads to go fitfully faring,
Looking for trouble and calling it fun?
Down in the sedges the water rats revel,
Up in the woods there are bunnies at play,
With a weather eye open for a Little Black Devil;
But the Little Black Devil won't come today.

Today at the farm the ducks may slumber,
Today may the tabbies an anthem raise;
Rat and rabbit beyond all number
Today untroubled may go their ways.
Today is an end of the shepherd's labor,
No more will the sheep be hunted astray;
And the Irish terrier, foe and neighbor,
Says, "What's old Hamish about today?"

Ay, what, indeed? In the nether spaces
Will the soul of a Little Black Dog despair?
Will the Quiet Folk scare him with shadow faces?
And how will he tackle the Strange Beasts there?
Tail held on high, I'll warrant, and bristling,
Marching stoutly if sore afraid,
Padding it steadily, softly whistling—
That's how the Little Black Devil was made.

Then well-a-day for a "cantic callant,"
A heart of gold and a soul of glee—
Sportsman, gentleman, squire and gallant—
Teacher, maybe, of you and me.
Spread the turf on him light and level,
Grave him a headstone clear and true—
"Here lies Hamish, the Little Black Devil,
And half of the heart of his mistress, too.

C. HILTON BROWN.

PUBLIC OPINION

Comment of Leading Newspapers on a Variety of Topics—Democrats and the Tariff.

[Ohio State Journal.]

The Democratic leaders in Congress are suffering some dread of the coming extra session. The matter which will engage its attention, as advised by the President, will be the modification of the tariff. The trouble will lie in the contentions between various sections for duties favorable to their respective interests. Now a Democrat is a low tariff man, except for his own locality. There he is a protective tariff man. He wants a revenue tariff all over the country except the particular spot where he dwells.

The difficulty in composing this situation which the leaders will confront will be the log-rolling habit, which is simply a system of bargain and sale—you give me a 50 per cent. duty on iron and I will vote for your 50 per cent. duty on cotton goods. The bargain is accepted, and the number of bargains covers all the industries of the country. So it is a grab for all that one can get.

The leaders are, therefore, alarmed at the prospective paralysis of Democratic policies and promises. It is going to be a very interesting sesion and will try the patience of Chairman Underwood and his ways and means committee, as well as of the President himself. Already "self-protection" groups are being formed to prevent the enactment of a sincere Democratic tariff.

The Real Nobility.

[Philadelphia Ledger.]

When we are uncertain about anything we go to Emerson or the Supreme Court—Emerson preferably, and this is his opinion: "The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of the land." The poet Emerson said:

"In ancient times the sacred Plow employ'd
The Kings and awful Fathers of mankind."

and he also declared the farmer "held the scale of empire, ruled the storm of mighty war." One of the few sentiments of Prince Albert that are remembered was: "The country gentleman with his wife and children—the country clergyman, the tenant and the laborer, yet form a great and united family in which we gladly recognize the foundation of the social state." Until well after the middle of the last century the farmer held his primacy, but in this country after the Civil War there were vast changes and Quick Wealth shoved the farmer into the background.

Now the pendulum is swinging back, and today the country gentleman, with his family and well-cultivated acres, is becoming more and more the ideal. With crops that will soon sweep over an annual total of ten billions of dollars this comfortable American farmer can look any plutocrat in the eye and smile. Even the plutocrats are spending vast fortunes to imitate him, but mere imitation or prodigality only serves to emphasize the merits of the genuine article.

Dissolving the Pacifics.

[Buffalo Express.]

A strong effort is being made by railroad officials to readjust the Wickersham plan for the dissolution of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific combination so as to meet the approval of the California State Railroad Commission before the expiration of the underwriting syndicate on Saturday next. The chances are, however, that nothing will be accomplished. In that event, it is said, there will be a fight in the courts against the commission's ruling.

As the California commission puts the matter, the case appears to be very much like the dissolution of one monopoly to re-establish another. It is better for the new Attorney General to make perfectly sure of the situation before giving any opinion on it. It is said that the railroad interests have been trying to get him to approve the Wickersham plan.

There is no such pressing need for this combination to be dissolved that the Department of Justice cannot take sufficient time to study the matter from all sides. A dissolution that destroyed one combination only to set up another would not be of much value.

What Novel Readers Like.

[Boston Globe.]

That old question whether the poor prefer to read stories about themselves rather than about the rich has been revived in England and discussed by serial writers. Some believe that most readers, whether poor or rich, prefer novels dealing with a class different from their own, and some maintain that the majority of readers are more interested in their own class. Nobody knows. But something undoubtedly depends upon the novelist himself. Dickens had no difficulty in interesting everybody in the poor. Thackeray made the well-to-do and the rich interesting. So does Howells. So does Mrs. Wharton. And innumerable others.

On the other hand, Jack London, Kauffman, James Oppenheim and possibly two or three others have sketched wonderful pictures of lowly and obscure lives. The "great American novel," which may have been written, but is still awaiting publication, will deal neither with the rich nor with the poor exclusively, nor with the middle class, but with all sorts and conditions of men. It will be a novel of democracy—neither aristocratic nor proletarian.

Science and the Criminal.

[Chicago Journal.]

When science has nothing else to do, it amuses itself by making things hard for the criminal. Science devised the Bertillon measurements. Any man once "tagged" by this system can be identified, no matter how he disguises himself. Next came the finger-print system, which compels up-to-date burglars to wear gloves, lest their "lines and whorls" betray them. Then science invented a test to determine whether blood stains were caused by human or animal blood.

Now, some "onaisy" creature who can't bear to see an expert penman make a dishonest living, has taken to photographing suspected checks with ultra-violet rays—the invisible light at the violet end of the spectrum. If the check has been raised or altered these invisible rays will show it. All a cashier need do is never to cash a check till it has been photographed in this manner, and his bank will be safe.

This is getting to become a hard world for the little criminal. As for the big one—well, arrests in Wall Street are not very numerous yet, and no one has reported an extensive emigration of trust magnates. Perhaps the scientific detective had better raised his eyes to higher game.

Progress in Militancy.

[Toledo Blade.]

From a spot where one's eyes are safe from hat pins and one's hat safe from umbrellas, it is almost difficult not to sympathize with and applaud the militant suffragist of England. Indeed, it is difficult not to envy her. She has such singular advantages for stirring up excitement; she is so little subject to harsh reprisal!

This fun of the militants has been going on so long that it is doubtful if it would be relinquished if the government should have a change of heart and grant votes to women. By this time many of the more active and more ingenious contrivers of mischief must have lost sight of the original aim of their agitation. Possibly they have lost desire for votes. Surely, breaking up the political meeting of a political opponent is more pleasurable than exercising the duty of citizenship. Setting fire to park pavilions and railroad stations brings thrills where marking a ballot would bring on a spell of boredom.

Offices Conserving Power.

Alas! the conserving power of public office! Within less than a week of entering the Cabinet Mr. Bryan is said to be welling to talk with the Morgan interests on the Chinese loan and to have bought a tall silk hat.—New York World.

Isn't Even Talking.

William J. Bryan smiles and smiles but says very little for publication.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

MUCH IN LITTLE

Cleveland is to have a new magazine for bankers.

Ireland's population remained almost stationary in 1912.

An antlered rabbit was recently shot near San Benito, Tex.

German manufacturers of velvet have combined in a huge syndicate.

St. Louis street cars in 1912 killed 41 persons. There were 56 killings in 1911.

Tonawanda, N. Y., hasn't had a murder in 20 years, and no shooting or stabbing affrays in a year.

Chicago Spiritualists have opened a bureau to supply ministers of their cult to places desiring them