

THIS AND THAT.

SOME THINGS WORTH THINKING ABOUT.

The Nations of the World—Our Sphere—Next, Consular Service Reform—The Sabbath and Woman Made for Man.

The best part of literary criticism is suggestion. Why, then, do our critics restrict themselves to comments upon books actually made or planned? Why not enhance the value of their columns by suggesting once in a while a book which should be made?

For example, a work in a single volume to be entitled "The Nations of the World," giving in the most convenient form a general view of political, social and industrial conditions at the beginning of the twentieth century, would deserve success and get it. The face of the world has changed; present tendencies toward further changes are all important and intensely interesting. But if you try to inform yourself on these subjects you will be obliged to consult ponderous volumes (out of date) and a multitude of articles on special topics scattered through periodicals and official publications difficult of access.

A score of associate editors working under a competent chief could collect the necessary material in a few months. The result, under wise editorial guidance, which should insist upon a popular form of statement and the exclusion of all unnecessary details, would be such a book as no one could afford to overlook, the races and nations of mankind being shown in the new perspective in their actual relations.

If a jest or pun as a substitute for arguments may ever be forgiven or be worth thinking about, surely it is when an effort is made to bring a lighter vein of good nature into the so-called discussion of international politics and our natural sphere as a nation. "Twix Arctic and Antarctic frozen seas, Sea room, land room enough in this our West? This, this our 'natural sphere,' where we flourish best? Within our limits—surely on our case? Half-measures, half a little word 'This clear Our 'sphere,' so called were but a hemisphere!"

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt was appointed a Civil Service Commissioner by President Harrison in 1889, as a recognition of the relentless warfare he had waged on political jobbery and corruption. Retained as a republican member of the commission by President Cleveland, Mr. Roosevelt continued his fight against the abuse of the spoils system. Largely through his exertions the limits of the classified service (that is to say, those positions which are subject to competitive examination unless specifically exempted by order of the President) were extended by the inclusion of about 14,000 places.

It is said that when he accepted the position he was convinced that the spoilsman was as bad as the bribe giver, and Mr. W. M. Clemens, in his life of Mr. Roosevelt, says that "during his six years of office as president of the commission—four years under Harrison and two years under Cleveland—he displayed a skill amounting often to real genius in the way he handled obstreperous legislators and accomplished his ends in spite of all opposition. As a Civil Service Commissioner Mr. Roosevelt stood for several years in the public eye substantially for the whole commission."

He never lost an opportunity to press his suggestions in relation to improvements in the classified service, and when he failed to procure correction of a wrong and punishment of a wrongdoer his practice was to "turn all the facts over to the press that the public might draw its own conclusions," with the natural result that the commission acquired the confidence and respect of the country. "The crowning result of Mr. Roosevelt's commissionership," says Mr. Clemens, "was the establishment of a new classified service under the civil service rules by President Cleveland, who on May 6, 1896, signed an order the effect of which was to place under the civil service rules 29,399 positions hitherto unclassified, bringing the total of classified positions to 85,135 and virtually compelling that part of the work of civil service reform contemplated by the act of 1883."

Admirable, invaluable as this work certainly was, one indirect consequence of it is now seen to be deplorable. As Mr. H. A. Garfield, formerly president of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, has pointed out, "the civil service rules blocking side door entrance to other departments, and the consular service being thus substantially the only resort of broken down politicians, 'admittance free,' the pressure is inconceivably great upon the President and the State Department. The efforts of spoilsmen were concentrated upon that branch of our foreign service, the importance of which, never fully recognized, is greatly increased by the recent and present growth of our foreign commerce. Thus so far as the consular branch is concerned, a bad matter was made worse."

It is not true, as some of the most ardent reformers are in the habit of asserting, that our consular service is in all respects utterly inferior to that of the great European States. A careful examination will show the presence of radical defects even in the much admired English system which have never developed in our own. But it is true, in the words of Mr. George F. Parker, formerly United States Consul at Birmingham, that our "methods of appointment and removal are so essentially vicious as to be beyond defence. They send abroad

during every four year period more bad, useless and inefficient men than ought to find admission into the whole foreign service in half a century of wise and prudent selection." The same observer has also this to say:—"The recommendations of party Senators, Representatives or managers have no direct reference to fitness; perhaps not more than one in seven turns out fairly well, so that nobody concerned can be credited with even the most ordinary business prudence. This kind of appointment is a lottery, with half a dozen blanks to each prize."

During the Roosevelt administration we may expect to see reform of the consular service, putting an end to a scandal which has been flagrant for half a century, closing the door also against the spoilsman. One need not be a prophet to foresee that neither the President nor his friends in the Cabinet and in Congress will let a few hundred foreign posts bear the iniquities of the many thousands of domestic posts which were placed on the classified lists through the efforts of the famous Civil Service Commission.

Why do people who are opposed to strict enforcement of the Sunday closing regulations—our fellow citizens, for instance—keep on saying, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?" As though that proved anything. I think their cause reasonable, but their argument unconvincing. Should we men succeed in making headway against the so-called feminine "usurpations" by constantly referring to the well known scriptural fact that woman was made for man, not man for woman?

"The second time I went to Buffalo this summer (and I only wish I might see that wonder of the world, the Pan-American Illumination, again) and again our train was delayed by a washout. A general conversation sprang up among the passengers in the smoking car, and I overheard the following bit of dialogue, the participants being two middle aged traveling salesmen—

"The merchants whose credit is poor," said one of these philosophers, "have to be careful about buying. They are not urged so strongly by us, nor offered inducements which overcome their discretion. Now, the men whose credit is good have hard work to resist the temptation to overbuy. Goods are quoted to them at the lowest figures and they are allowed the longest time for payment."

"Too bad," was the other's comment upon the state of things that his companion described. "If the merchants whose credit is good would only be as careful as those whose credit is bad have to be, then we should see something like stability. You've put your finger on the trouble, this is the most fruitful cause of business failures."

It is, indeed. Look at this situation a little more closely and see the operation of a beneficent law. Soon after a business man's capital has become seriously impaired and he is in danger of bankruptcy if he does not adopt a safer and more conservative policy, this holding off on the part of salesmen and the mistrust of his business associates actually help him to adopt and practise the necessary caution. It is like an automatic regulator. He is prompted and helped in the way that leads to safety and future prosperity.

On the other hand, as soon as a business man has prospered to such a degree that there is danger of his becoming a capitalist on a grand scale he is assailed by temptations to make large expenditures and increases his risks, the tendency of which is to put him back into the ranks of struggle. Here again there is an automatic arrangement for preventing extremes, but this time the extreme to be prevented is that of excessive wealth.

The ideal of human society is precisely that equilibrium which is the result of the free play of such forces as our smoking car philosophers deplored. The law of equilibrium operates universally. Great wealth corrupts with luxury; inherited wealth deprives life of zest; degeneration and spathy then make for poverty once more. The law of equilibrium does not deprive men of the stimulus of competition or the inspiring prospect of gain, yet it constantly tends to equalize the distribution of riches.

I might show, among other things, how this law reconciles the social deal with the teachings of the legitimate school of political economists; how it will surely be found to apply to trusts, though these imposing organizations appear at first sight to have placed themselves beyond the reach of its leveling influence. But my wish is to bring forward my topics in these papers, and then let them go their ways into the world—suggestively, cheerfully and helpfully, if possible—rather than to exhaust them at the outset.

Willing but Weary.
The procession came to a halt. "Now, sir," said the leader of the bands of regulators to the worthless coffer whom they had tarred and feathered and were riding out of town on a rail, "you can git! If ever you see yer here again well hang you!" "Gentlemen," plaintively replied the man on the rail, "I'm willing to go, but it's only about a hundred yards from here to the township line. Will your mind carry'n me the rest of the way?"

To prevent cold feet at night, draw off the stockings, just before undressing, and rub the ankles and feet with the hand as hard as can be done for five or ten minutes. This will diffuse a pleasurable glow, and those who do so, will never have to complain of cold feet in bed.

The world's tobacco crop of 850,000,000 lbs. is grown on two and a quarter million acres.

CHILDREN.

The Characteristics of the Laboring and the Non-Laboring Classes.

CHILDREN of the laboring classes—that is, of parents who are engaged in manual labor—are not so strong, either mentally or physically, as the children of the professional, mercantile and clerical classes which are not engaged in manual labor. This may be due to a measure to their food, their habits and their manner of living.

We have found out, too, that girls are generally superior to boys in their studies, although there is a greater degree of adaptability in boys than in girls. In other words, girls learn more quickly and show higher percentages in the studies, but the boys get more out of them.

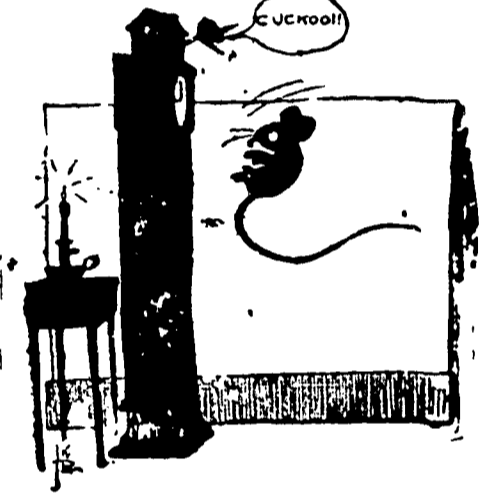
Children of the non-laboring classes show greater ability in their studies than those of the laboring classes. Children whose parents are of different nationalities show less mental ability than the children of parents of the same race, which demonstrates that a mixture of races is not favorable to mental development.

Children who have long heads rather than broad heads have less mental ability, where the head is very long the child is usually dull.

Bright boys are generally taller and heavier than dull boys. White children not only have a greater standing height than colored children, but their sitting height is still greater. Relatively to their height white children have longer bodies than colored children, yet colored children have greater weight than white children.

White boys of American parents of the non-laboring class show the highest degree of nervousness. The highest percentage of defects in eyesight occur in white boys of non-laboring parents and the lowest percentage in colored children and bright colored girls.

Girls in private schools, who are generally of wealthy parents, are much more sensitive to pain, heat, etc., than girls in the public schools, which proves that refinements and luxuries tend to increase sensitiveness, but there seems to be no necessary relation between intellectual development and pain sensitiveness. While girls are more sensitive than men, they can endure more pain.



Hickory, dickory dock!
The mouse ran up the clock.
But 'he cuckoo came out,
And the mouse gave a shout,
And they put him to bed with the shock.

Fate of the Apostles.

- Matthew is supposed to have suffered martyrdom, or was slain in a city of Ethiopia, A. D. 60.
- Mark was dragged through the streets of Alexandria, Egypt, till he expired.
- Luke was hanged to an olive tree, in Greece.
- John was put in a boiling cauldron at Rome, but escaped, and died a natural death at Ephesus in Asia.
- James, the Great, was beheaded at Jerusalem in the year 44.
- James, the Less, was thrown from a pinnacle and beaten to death.
- Philip was beheaded in the year 52.
- Bartholomew was skinned alive.
- Andrew was crucified, and pounded while dying.
- Thomas was run through with a lance.
- Simon was crucified in the year 71.
- Matthias was stoned to death at Jerusalem.
- Barnabas was stoned to death about the year 73.
- Paul was beheaded at Rome, by order of Nero.
- Judas hanged himself on a tree. The rope or limb broke, and he burst asunder.
- Stephen, after an admirable defense, was dragged out of the city and stoned to death.
- St. Peter, after nine months imprisonment, was brought out, scourged, then put to death on the cross; and at his own request with his head downward.
- St. Jude, who was commonly called Thaddeus, was crucified A. D. 72.

Luncheon for the School-child.

School children's luncheons must be plain and suitable in quantity. The albuminous foods, building the muscle and tissues, must be in good condition; then the diet may contain a certain amount of starch, as whole wheat bread; a certain amount of fat, as good butter; but it need not contain sugar. Avoid pies, cakes and jams, and substitute, in their place, finely chopped meat between two slices of brown bread; now and then a hard-boiled yolk of egg pressed through a sieve and put between two slices of bread; send a little cup of custard, a small jar of rice pudding, or sound, fresh fruit. It is far better to fill the lunch-basket with wholesome food than to give money for the child to visit the nearest confectioner's, where he will make his luncheon upon sweets. A little thought should be expended upon school luncheons.

OLIVE'S SCISSORS GRINDER.

"Is he really so handsome?" asked Ethel Gordon, incredulously.

"The handsomest man you ever saw" cried Olive Westbury.

She was sitting on the backdoor step, shelling peas, while Lily, the beauty of the family, leaned out of the window in a dressing gown, with no accessories in the way of collar. Lily had been at a party the night before, and had risen cross and tired.

"Exactly like a corsair," said Lily, suppressing a yawn. "Tall and dark, with such glorious eyes, and he seemed surprised that I recognized him through his disguise."

"What costume did he assume?" said Ethel Gordon, who, not having received an invitation to the fancy dress ball at Mrs. Wenlock's, was naturally inquisitive on the subject.

"A pirate," said Lily, "with scarlet sash and cap. And he declared he would disguise himself so completely, next time, that I could not possibly identify him, and he wagered a box of gloves on the subject."

"I suppose he is very rich?" said Ethel.

"Oh, immensely," nodded Lily. Olive, looking up at her sister, wished that Providence had thought fit to make her a beauty, too.

"Who is that coming around the corner of the house? One of those everlasting tramps again," cried Lily, with asperity. "O, it's only a scissors grinder."

"And very fortunate, too," said Mrs. Westbury, a pale, faded, harassed looking woman. "All my scissors are so bad I can't cut with them. There's the embroidery scissors, and—"

"How much you ask a pair?" demanded Lily, sailing out in her slipshod slippers, her untidy wrapper torn down one side.

The scissors grinder, a swart foreigner, sat his wheel on the grass, and held six fingers in pantomimic gesture, his teeth gleaming whitely through his bushy beard.

"Too much," said Lily.

"He can't understand you, Lily," said Ethel, laughing.

Miss Westbury stamped her tiny foot, held up six pairs of dilapidated scissors and a shilling. The man smiled again, and assented to the bargain with numerous nods.

"Isn't he funny?" said Ethel.

"Horrid fellow!" said Lily. "And to think he belongs to the same humanity as Mr. Ellis."

"I've a good mind to offer him some milk to drink," said Olive. "He looks so dusty and tired."

"You'll do nothing of the kind," said Lily, imperiously. "I won't have my sister attending a scissors grinder. Is that coffee ready, mamma?"

"Coffee!" repeated the mother, with a conscious stricken air. "I declare, Lily, I forgot all about it. But I'll run directly and make it."

"Forgot! You are always forgetting. I never saw any one like you in my life. No, I won't have it now. If you couldn't prepare it when I wanted it I won't have it at all. I think you might have seen to it, Olive."

"I'm very sorry," began Olive, apologetically, "but for all that, I think you ought not to speak so crossly to mamma."

"Hold your tongue!" said Lily, stamping her foot. "Am I to be tutored by you? I shall speak as I please. Don't me, how that grinder's buzzing makes my head ache."

When Olive came in a few minutes later with the six scissors in a high state of brilliancy, her sister was lying on the sofa with her eyes resolutely closed.

"O, dear!" thought Olive, "now she will have one of her sulking fits."

She took advantage of the circumstance to pour out a glass of milk which she gave the swarthy Italian when she carried out the money he had so hardy earned.

He bowed low, drank it eagerly, and astonished Olive by raising her hand to his lips as he said, "Buon giorno, signorina!" and departed.

"Well, what luck?" asked Gerald Wenlock, as he sat smoking at his window, and hailed the approach of his friend Ellis.

"I've won my wager!"

"Never!"

"I assure you I have," said Ellis, sitting down where the cool breeze could fan his heated brow.

"Did they suspect?"

"Not in the least."

"And how does the lovely Lily appear in the seclusion of home?"

"Like a slovenly wrage. I would not have believed it were it not the testimony of my own eyes. But little Olive is a jewel of the first water."

"So you have transferred your allegiance from the one sister to the other? But it is rather hard for the fair Lily to lose both love and wager," laughed Wenlock.

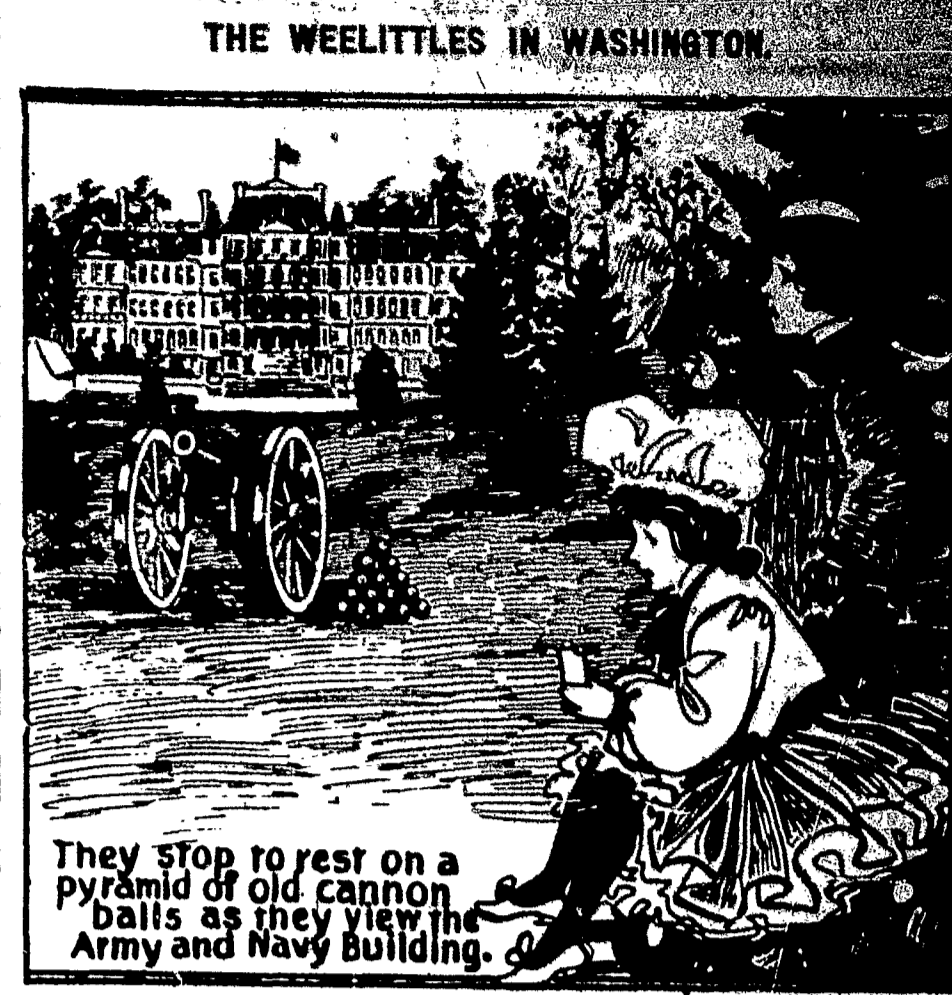
"Can't help it, my dear fellow," said Ellis, gravely shaking his head. "It is a lucky escape for me. I have reason to be grateful to the scissors grinding fraternity forever."

And beautiful Lily Westbury could never tell why Edwin Ellis preferred brown-eyed little Olive to herself.—London Evening News.

A New Opening for the Blind.

As Japan comes more closely in touch with the rest of the world many of its customs are being adopted. In Japan the art of massage is widely practised, and almost exclusively by the blind. It is a very lucrative profession, and the most skillful operators gain large sums every year. The reason for its being a profession particularly adapted to the blind is readily understandable. Every one knows that when one sense falls its absence is supplemented by the increasing acuteness of others. So with people deprived of sight the sense of touch becomes highly cultivated.

THE WEELITTLES IN WASHINGTON.



They stop to rest on a pyramid of old cannon balls as they view the Army and Navy Building.

THE WEELITTLES IN WASHINGTON.



After an afternoon spent in the Treasury Building the Weelittles go for a walk down the Boulevard.

THE WEELITTLES IN WASHINGTON.



From a terrace the Weelittles view Washington Monument.

THE WEELITTLES IN WASHINGTON.



The Weelittles visit the Capitol at Washington.

THE WEELITTLES IN WASHINGTON.

FIND THE GIRL.