

Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

The Future of Fusion in Nebraska.

In response to a request for an expression of his views on the political situation in Nebraska, Senator Allen writes an open letter. The senator says:

I have always denied and now deny that there is fusion between the democrats and populists in Nebraska. There has been co-operation for some years between the two parties and probably this will continue for another year, but there has never been fusion.

There is not the slightest probability of a reorganization or disruption of the populist party. It is as well solidified and as completely organized as the democratic or republican party, and, no doubt, it will continue so in the future. If the democratic party should return to Clevelandism, there will be three tickets in the field in 1904, for no populist will accept Mr. Cleveland, or anyone holding his political views, as a candidate for the presidency.

I look for a much larger populist vote in Nebraska next fall than we have had for some years. I think the late election signifies nothing so far as it may be reckoned as a basis for future calculations. The populist vote in the country; it is difficult to get out; the republican vote is in the cities and towns and of easy access to the polls; it was all out this year. The weather on election day was adverse to polling a large opposition vote. Many populists unfortunately are of the opinion that the opposition being the majority, it is not necessary for them to go to the polls; they seem to think a battle can be fought and won by staying away from the field of action. They will receive from this and see the necessity of casting their ballots. Doubtless damage has been done by the persistent attempts of some democrats to disorganize and destroy the populist party and absorb its membership. This has been taken by some populists to mean that there is a possibility of dismantling the organization and turning it over to the democrats. In this, however, they are mistaken. The democratic and populist parties do not agree on many essential points of political faith.

The democrats believe that it is strictly essential to redeem government paper money in some kind of coin to give it force and value, while populists believe as a rule that a government note based upon the taxing power of the nation and strictly limited in quantity is as valuable as a medium of exchange as gold or silver without any specific provision for its redemption in coin. Populists believe in government ownership of railways, telegraphs, telephones, in the establishment of postal savings banks, in the initiative and referendum and in the nationalization of all natural monopolies. Democrats believe in none of these.

And thus it will be observed without going further into details that there is a well defined line of demarcation between the two parties, which will not permit them to be brought together. The teachings of the populist party have done much to enlighten the public on political questions. An enlightenment which the democratic party could not or would not have produced in the same time. These differences must of necessity keep the two parties separate, while locally they may operate along certain agreed lines. The faith of the populist is too clear and strong and too well founded to permit him to be absorbed by any other organization. The populist party will continue to live and grow stronger year by year. Very truly yours,

WILLIAM V. ALLEN.

The Chinese Exclusion Act.

The republican position concerning the Chinese exclusion act is well illustrated by an editorial appearing in the Lincoln, (Nebr.) Journal of November 17. The Journal anticipates that the president is about to recommend the re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion act, and lest it might be out of the republican line, it hastens to commend the president's conclusion on this point. And yet, having anticipated the president's position, the Journal expresses this opinion:

"Still it is doubtful if a 'referendum' was taken under the Australian ballot system, the question of exclusion coming up independently of politics, if the exclusion act would be sustained. The coolie is an exceedingly useful person to have around when laborers are scarce and their terms exorbitant or unreasonable. The domestic service problem is getting to be a pressing one and the coolie offers a sort of solution.

Then this thoroughly representative newspaper says:

"But if the labor problem becomes in the course of time more acute, it promises to become if the extreme theories of the unions are carried out, and it is a square contest between the labor unions and the rest of the population, the act will one day be repealed as a matter of necessity."

This, then, may be said to be the republican position. The growth of organization among the laboring men is shown by the fact that the costume cutters of Chicago began an organization about six months ago and now their organization includes four-fifths of the men in that trade in the city. One of the objects of the organization is to avoid strikes by promoting arbitration.

Income Tax in India.

The income tax in India is levied on all incomes of £33 and upward, and then only one man in 700 comes within its scope.

The Bank of England.

The Bank of England has a capital of a little over \$72,000,000 and a surplus of about \$16,000,000, yet the government receives a salary of only \$10,000 a year. The pay of the twenty-four directors is \$2,500 each per annum.

China's Beer Imports.

China has imported this year more bottles of beer from Germany than any other country in the world. The presence of the German army is held in part responsible for this.

publican position concerning the Chinese exclusion act. The exclusion act should not be re-enacted, according to the republican idea, but political expediency may require its re-enactment. It is also instructive to be told by the republican organs that "if the labor problem becomes in the course of time more difficult, as it promises to become if the extreme theories of the unions are carried out, and it is a square contest between the labor unions and the rest of the population, the act will one day be repealed as a matter of necessity."

Why as a matter of necessity? The necessity would only exist where the trust magnates, weary of the constant controversy and contest with men who merely demand the right to live as a recompense for their toil, found it advisable to crush out the men who made this demand.

These republican newspapers have considerable to say about the extreme theories of unions, but they have little to say about the extreme theories of monopolists. This particular newspaper speaks about the contest between labor unions "and the rest of the population," closing his eyes willingly and cheerfully to the fact that every reasonable demand made by the labor unions is a demand in behalf of and in the interests of the very large number of citizens.

Many things have happened in recent days which furnish evidence that the republican disposition has been in favor of the destruction of the Chinese exclusion act. It need not be doubted today if the powers that be among the republican party dared destroy this wholesome law, the bars would be thrown down completely to any Chinaman who sought admittance to this country. The "extreme theories of the labor unions" are that reasonable hours shall be accorded and fair wages paid to the men who toil. This republican newspaper holds up as a warning and threat to the fact that labor that if these "extreme theories" are carried out, the Chinese exclusion act will one day be repealed "as a matter of necessity." Did any one ever hear of the republican organs threatening the trust unions? Did any one ever hear a republican organ serving notice upon the trust magnates that unless they change their course and abandon the process of bearing down upon the people some law would be enacted requiring them to do justice or some law would be repealed to do injustice?

What is there about the intelligence of the American people, what is there about the intelligence of the American workmen that they cannot see that the republican party is a party of class and that the republican party is the instrument for evil, that the republican party is the persistent antagonist of anything that contributes to the greatest good to the greatest number?

The Gold Standard Captured.

The readers of the Commoner know that in the campaign of 1896 the Palmer and Buckner ticket carried but one precinct in the United States, namely, Dudley township, in Haskell county, Kansas. The vote there stood: Palmer and Buckner, 2; McKinley and Hobart, 2; Bryan and Sewall, 1. A reader of the Commoner sends in a statement signed by the county clerk of that county to the effect that Dudley township went democratic this year by a majority of seven.

The attention of the Chicago Chronicle to the New York World, the Louisville Courier-Journal and other gold standard papers is called to this fact. While they are "pointing with pride" to victories won by the reorganizers, let them "view with alarm" the recapture of this gold standard stronghold, which became so conspicuous five years ago.

The gold standard papers have magnified every victory which the reorganizers have won since 1896, now let them bow in humiliation over the sweeping defeat that has robbed them of the only precinct which their party has ever carried.

Ordinarily the change of a precinct would not be a matter of national significance, but the change of the only precinct that the Palmer and Buckner ticket carried is certainly a serious blow to the men who carried on that unique campaign of fraud and deception. The men who did the most talking for Palmer and Buckner voted the republican ticket, as did all whom they could secretly influence. The reorganizers are being led by those who either voted for the ticket that carried but one precinct, or pretended to support it while they voted the republican ticket. What will the democratic party be if they secure control of the organization? What promise of relief can the party give to the people at large if the policies of the party are controlled by bolters who have shown no repentance since 1896? What hope of victory can we have under the leadership of those who conducted the Palmer and Buckner party to so disastrous a defeat?

Brother Watson's destiny doctrine seems to have a reversible attachment. He is not willing to accept the president's action in the Booker Washington case as a final decree of Providence. Is it possible that destiny must have the initials of the Courier-Journal's editor blown in the bottle in order to be genuine?

Horse Soup and Sausages.

During the siege of Ladysmith 4,000 horses of the cavalry brigade were converted into soup or sausages in a single month.

Some Sleepy Arabs.

A recent traveler in Central Africa gives several instances of the capacity for sleep developed by his Arab servants. He mentions one of these men as being undisturbed by the discharge of firearms within two feet of his head.

Germany's Exclusive Educational Plans.

Germany is beginning to object to the number of foreign students in her universities and technical schools. The latter have protested that something must be done to keep foreigners out.

WOULD ORGANIZE.

BRYAN SEES NEED OF EDUCATION AS TO POLITICAL DUTIES.

Believes That Debating Societies Should Be Organized On Independent Lines In Order to Reach Those Outside the Fold.

The election is over, and while the returns are not sufficiently complete for analysis it is evident that the democratic party has made any considerable gains since 1900, writes W. J. Bryan in the Commoner. In another column the returns, so far as they are in, have been discussed and some of the difficulties encountered have been enumerated. It is plain that there must be a large amount of educational work done if the country is to be saved from the evil results that must necessarily follow the continued support of Republican policies. How can this work be done? The large duties cannot be relied upon, because they are too intimately connected with the men and the corporations enriched by Republican policies. It cannot be done entirely through the Democratic and Populist weeklies, for they do not, as a rule, reach the people who most need enlightenment. A debating society should be organized in each county precinct and in each village. Let it be non-partisan in its membership and educational in its purpose. Meetings should be held once a month, or, if possible, once a week, for the discussion of public questions.

Let the motto of the society be: "Country first, party afterwards."

To avoid any wrangle about the officers it would be well to select the president from the party having the largest vote in the precinct, and the vice president from the leading minority party. If three other officers, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer, are selected, all parties can be given a fair representation in the management of the society and the arrangement of programs. The officers of the society, if they constitute a committee on program, should arrange, besides other features, for a discussion of some live question at each meeting—the leaders to open the debate and the other members of the society to have an opportunity to speak briefly when the leaders are through.

No one should be afraid of having his party injured by a full and fair presentation of all public questions. The person who objects to the discussion of public questions confesses the weakness of his own cause or brings in indictment against the intelligence and patriotism of the people. The hope of the nation lies, first, in the love of public questions, and, next, in a ballot cast according to the dictates of conscience and judgment.

ELECTIONS OF 1901.

While it is impossible at this time to measure and weigh the local influences which may have affected the general result, says W. J. Bryan's Commoner, enough is known to justify the conclusion that the two leading political parties show practically the same strength that they did a year ago. If the Republican policies which have been developing during the last twelve months have aroused any protest among the people, that protest has been off-set by the influence exerted by the assassination of the President. The Republicans everywhere confessed their reliance upon this influence when they devoted so much time to appeals to the personal regard felt for McKinley the man. It is not unnatural that the Republicans should have been spurred to greater activity by the President's death, neither is it strange that it caused some apathy on the other side.

There was another general cause which the Republican position, namely, the ability of the Republicans to get out their vote. The off-year elections always show a falling off in the voting population as compared with Presidential and congressional elections, and the party that is best organized and most successful in getting its voters to the polls has an advantage. Take, for instance, the election in Nebraska this year. The total vote will probably fall fifty thousand below the vote of last year. If there is a loss in the Republican vote of twenty thousand, and a loss in the fusion vote of thirty thousand, the Republican candidate can have ten thousand majority more than his ticket had last year, and yet have twenty thousand votes less than his party polled last year.

SEVERE ON BOLTERS.

Sometimes the gold Democrats who bolted the ticket in 1896 complain because the regular Democrats insist that those who deserted the party five years ago should, on coming back, give some assurance of their purpose to support the ticket hereafter. While the conditions imposed have never been unreasonable or severe, they have aroused violent criticism in some quarters. It may not be out of place, therefore, to quote what the St. Paul Globe says about local bolters. In a recent issue it condemns some St. Paul aldermen who deserted their party in the election of a county commissioner. The following is an extract from the Globe's editorial:

"It is as the Globe predicted it would be: A Democratic county commissioner has been elected by the votes of the Democratic aldermen assisted by one Republican, and Democratic traitors are ignored and spat upon, as they long since should have been. Treason to the party has not been found profitable in practice among St. Paul Democrats. It will be found no more in the future. Hunt and Bantz have a severe reckoning before them; and we apprehend that the mass of St. Paul Democrats will find as little use for them in the future as the Democratic aldermen found for them in the election of County Commissioner Kelly.

"The way of the transgressor is hard, and transgressors these men have been of all the rules and observances in political life which all true party men and good citizens will hold themselves bound by. The Globe will gladly aid their return to the obscurity from which they should never have

The Globe is much more severe in denouncing Democratic aldermen who refuse to support their party in a local fight than the silver Democrats are in condemning papers, which, like the Globe, deserted the Presidential ticket in a national contest.

CHARGES PAST BELIEF.

An almost incredible story comes from Mexico about the behavior of our delegates to the Pan-American Conference. President Roosevelt should lose no time in looking it up in the interest of our national honor. An American who has been watching the proceedings writes from the Mexican capital:

"Ordinarily it would be considered a distinguished honor to be asked to lead in to support the wife of the President. But when this honor was offered to the chairman of the United States delegation he simply replied that he was tired and was going home, leaving the first lady of Mexico speechless with astonishment, and the President unable to find words in which to express his rage."

The same critic adds:

"Again, on the occasion of the reception given at the department of foreign affairs, all the ladies of the United States party were present, but only one was in evening dress, the others being in various street costumes, shirt waists and tailor gowns. This was the most elaborate function Mexico can give. The inevitable comment is already heard among the members of the best Mexican society, who attended the rooms of the foreign department on that occasion that the American ladies either think the Mexicans do not know or do not care, or else they do not know themselves."

"Either horn of the dilemma is awkward."

It is conceivable that the ladies of the American party might mistake the nature of a Mexican function and go in inappropriate costumes, but that the head of the delegation should offer a gross and deliberate insult to the wife of the President of the sister republic is unthinkable. A boor capable of such conduct could never have lived through a season in Washington without being found out. But it would be well to have the facts in connection with all these matters authoritatively stated. Congress should investigate.

BROOKE'S BLUNDER.

Major General John R. Brooke, United States Army, made a speech Saturday evening at a dinner given by a British society to celebrate King Edward's birthday. That was his right. But he forgot that he was an official representative of the government of the United States when he said:

"England has never conquered any country but for that country's good. This, we hope, will be said of America in future ages. The Anglo-Saxon race seems destined to bear Republican institutions throughout the whole world. Lord Kitchener has immense difficulties in his way, but the flag of England will in time proclaim freedom to all lands of South Africa. Otis, Merritt, MacArthur and Chaffee have been doing a similar duty in the Philippines, the same duty to God and country."

It is a ghastly mockery to speak of the attempted destruction of two republics as an extension of Republican institutions. It is an insult to compare Kitchener's work of havoc in South Africa with Chaffee's work of pacification in the Philippines. But even if General Brooke's remarks were not open to criticism on these points, the fact would remain that the South African Republic and the Philippine Free State are friendly powers, in whose war with Great Britain our government is neutral. It is as scandalous an impropriety for an officer of that government to express his gratification over the attempt of their enemies to conquer them as it would be to commend an attempt of Germany to conquer France.—Chicago American.

THE LAW'S EFFECT ON SILVER.

The New York Mail and Express is still harping away on the old and exploded argument that the value of silver bullion in the dollar can be measured by the value of silver bullion that has no opportunity for coinage. The fallacy of the argument lies in the fact that it overlooks the increased value of silver created by an increased demand for it. The free coinage law, by giving silver access to the mint, would create a demand for it, and this fact, recognized by all who think, is entirely disregarded by most of the advocates of the dollar standard. It was thought that the Sherman act of 1890, although it provided for the purchase of silver instead of its free coinage, would create a demand for all the surplus silver, and under the stimulus of this demand silver rose to \$1.20 an ounce. Secretary of Agriculture Rusk, in his annual report, pointed with pride to this increased value which the Sherman law had caused, and declared that agricultural products rose with silver. The Mail and Express, however, does not require facts. Its theory looks better when facts are kept out of sight.—Commoner.

ON BOTH SIDES OF THE QUESTION.

The treasury department has managed to get on both sides of the question as to the status of Philippine territory. It has from the beginning been collecting duties on commodities brought here from the Philippines, as if they came from a foreign country. It is the contention of the government in the Supreme Court that the Philippines have not yet been brought under the customs laws of the United States. But the commissioner of internal revenue has just decided that American beer, whisky and tobacco sent to Manila must pay the internal revenue taxes which they would have to pay if consumed at home. Sending tobacco to the Philippines is somewhat like sending coal to Newcastle, but a good deal of beer has been sent there. The brewers who have shipped it will be at a disadvantage now as compared with the German brewers. The latter will have no heavy internal revenue taxes to pay when they send their beer to the Philippines.

Truth is stranger than fiction because it is so much more rare.

A genius is a man who can make other men believe he knows more than they do.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

CONSOLIDATIONS OF RAILROAD POINT THE WAY.

Every New Line Added to the Hill-Hartman Syndicate Brings the Country Closer to Governmental Control—Trusts Doing One Good Work.

Another step has been taken toward the consolidation of the railroad systems of the United States in the hands of a single group of capitalists. The formation of the "Northern Securities company," with a capital of \$400,000,000, for the purpose of holding the stock of the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroads, clinches the arrangement by which 47,372 miles of Western road, capitalized at about two billion dollars, have been brought under one control.

Practically this creates an entire monopoly west of the Mississippi, for, while a few systems remain nominally outside of the combination, almost all of them are in complete subjection to it. We may say, then, that the work of monopolizing the West is finished.

But when we glance at the list of the men who have formed this combination, and note that it contains the names of the Vanderbilts, the Rockefellers, the Goulds, J. P. Morgan, James J. Hill, E. H. Harriman, Daniel S. Lamont, James Stillman, D. O. Mills, August Belmont, H. E. Huntington, Ogden Armour and others as well known in New York, it becomes plain that the "community of interests" is by no means confined to the West. It would be interesting to trace the power of this great aggregation of wealth through the directorates and stock lists of the country. It seems an extremely moderate statement to say that the capitalists who have united in the Western deal control at least one-half of the railroad mileage of the United States.

And it will be much easier for them to obtain the second half than it has been to get the first. They know how to go to work now, and they have the money to do it. One railroad after another will slide gently into their grasp until any passenger anywhere who objects to traveling on their lines can take a trolley car or walk.

A few years ago this process would have thrilled the nation with rage and terror. We observe it with perfect calmness now. It seems a long time since the Interstate Commerce act was expected to prevent "pooling arrangements" between competing roads.

We have ceased to expect anything from competition now in the railroad business any more than in gas and water. We have learned that concentration in such matters is inevitable, and that the only question is whether the concentration shall be in the public interests or against them.

Thus far the engineers of the railroad combination have done a most useful public work. They will continue to do a useful public work until the last independent road is brought into the general system.

If the government had undertaken to assume control of the railroads of the United States a few years ago, when every road was running on its own hook, it would have found itself facing an appallingly complicated task. As it is, the best business brains in America are doing the work of organization for it. They are smoothing out all the difficulties, consolidating the staffs, harmonizing the schedules and creating one vast, smoothly running machine. When they have finished, all government will have to do will be to assume the debts of the system, issuing national bonds for stock, and giving the general manager a commission from the president of the United States.

Some of these able capitalists are working conscientiously towards this end. The rest are doing the same thing unconsciously.

"NO PERSONAL PROPERTY."

It is the general conception of the unthinking masses that taxation does not interest them. They talk of taxation as does a child of its rattle box. They have as yet been unable to comprehend that the power to tax is the power to extort, and through the method now in vogue the poor, the great masses, are robbed of the fruits of their toil.

Everything produced by human hands from the time human hands first laid hold of it "is taxed," and within the price of that commodity on the market are embodied all the taxes that were levied in its course of production.

"Personal property," if I understand the meaning of this term, relates to those things which the exclusive property of a person. If this definition be correct there is no such thing as "personal property." For how could a thing belong exclusively to a person if the government by taxation has a claim upon it and compels the possessor to pay a part of it in the form of personal property tax each year it is found in his possession?

That you may see the injustice of this tax I illustrate: If you purchase \$10 worth of bread the assessor does not levy the tax upon you, but if instead you purchased a table the assessor will tax you not once, but each year he finds the table in your possession. This tax cannot be collected with any accuracy and breeds liars inasmuch as everyone tries to escape it.

The newspapers recognizing that this tax is detested by the people, should and will receive as hearty a response as Cleveland and Cuyahoga county, Ohio, gave in the recent election to those who stand for tax reform.—G. J. Foyer.

SPOONER ON SHIP BOUNTIES.

Senator Spooner is reported to be as much opposed to the principle of the Hanna-Payne shipping bounty bill as he was last winter. He would like to see something done to restore the merchant marine in the foreign trade, but "not along the lines now contemplated."

Two lines are now contemplated. One of them along with the Hanna-Payne bill was constructed, leads in the direction of speedy "ocean greyhounds" and passenger traffic. The other leads in the direction of freight business "under the flag" without

much regard to passenger business. The Hanna-Payne crowd propose to bounty in proportion to speed and leave freight to take care of itself. The other bountymen propose to bounty in proportion to freight carried.

Both these factions have much to say about the small percentage of overseas freight carried in American bottoms, implying that the chief purpose of the bounty is to increase our overseas freight business. The Hanna-Payne plan, however, would bounty corporations which are now doing a profitable business without bounties, and it would not be much of an inducement to the building of freighters.

One plan is about as bad as the other in that it would take a great many millions of money contributed by American taxpayers and hand them over to individuals and corporations. If it is true that Senator Spooner is opposed to both these evil methods there is reason for satisfaction. He can exert a good deal of influence when he chooses, and it is gratifying to know that he intends to use his influence against these bad measures if such is the case.

May Prove a Boomerang.

New York Evening Post: The latest shift of the "let-the-tariff-alone" faction in the Republican party is to suggest that all questions of revision of duties, with all reciprocity arrangements, be turned over to a commission, which is to report to congress in 1902 or 1903. Even a tariff commission has its dangers for the monopolists. It will have to grant hearings and to bring out facts. The result may be to kindle, instead of to smother, popular agitation, and even to convert the commission itself, as the tariff commission of 1882 was converted. That body was chosen as a band of trustworthy protectionists, yet was compelled by the testimony presented to it to recommend a reduction of the tariff by an average of 20 per cent ad valorem.

Pointer to John Hay.

We hear from Washington that American statesmen are buying themselves with "great world problems," to the exclusion of American problems. If this were true it would be deplorable, for we have plenty of home problems which are vastly more important to us than any "world problems." But it is not true. A glance over the list of some fifteen "world problems" disclosed the fact that most of them are petty and even contemptible as compared with home problems which our statesmen are trying to ignore. It discloses the fact also that the most important of all the so-called world problems are really domestic ones in so far as we are specially concerned in them.—Chicago Chronicle.

Girl Waiters on Cars.

Pretty girls will be employed as waiters on the dining cars used by the Denver and Rio Grande railway. Such is the plan of T. L. Barnes, superintendent of eating houses and dining car service on the Missouri Pacific, who will shortly take charge of the same branch of service on the Denver and Rio Grande. Mr. Barnes was recently at Denver in consultation with Manager Herbert of the Rio Grande.

"Girls are neater, cleaner and quicker than men in dining-room service," said Mr. Barnes. "I shall employ them first in Colorado to see how the public takes it and if it is satisfactory may introduce the plan on the Missouri Pacific."

Should Profit by Experience.

Boston Herald: The experience which France has had in the last twenty years with shipping bounties furnishes strong proof that successful shipping lines cannot be built up by government subsidy alone to a point where they can shift for themselves. Instead of arriving at a condition where they can do away with the bounty of the government, the French vessel owners are always asking for more, and will doubtless now get a higher rate, both for steam and sail vessels, than that paid twenty years ago. Should our own congress adopt a shipping subsidy policy, we will doubtless have the same experience.

Our Duty to New Possessions.

Buffalo Times: If the United States shall be faithful to the constitution and the spirit of our government they will accord to our new possessions the full measure of self-control and the largest liberty of individual action consistent with national jurisdiction. Only in this way can the beneficence of American authority find flower in foreign clime.

Industrial Depression in Germany.

The industrial depression in Germany is reaching serious proportions. Employment agencies are deluged with applicants. From the mining regions come reports of numerous dismissals and reduced work. The same is true in iron and steel work.

Danger in Oil Lamps.

The dangers arising from the careless use and abuse of oil lamps and oil are now made the subject of special instruction in the London schools by order of the local board of education. Among the points emphasized are the folly of placing a lamp on a rickety table or narrow shelf; the attempt to carry a lamp and something else at the same time; the necessity for carrying heavy lamps in both hands, and the inadvisability of carrying lighted lamps at all. An injunction to "never pour oil on a fire" and the reason therefor are also included. It is pointed out that practically every accident with lamps and oil in the household is due to the neglect of one or another of these precautions.

Her Gentle Hint.

"Yes," I proposed to reply by letter. "And what was her reply?" "She simply referred me to a certain chapter and page in 'The Life of Paul Jones.' " "And what did you find?" "It says 'After fruitlessly applying for command of the ship by letter, he went in person to see about it, and then he secured it!'"—Life.

A Short Novel.

Hix—I understand Romderly is going to write a novel under the title "What I Told My Wife." Lix—Why doesn't he call it "What I Didn't Tell My Wife?" Hix—I suppose the publishers didn't want too big a volume.

ONE HUSBAND PER ANNUM.

The Matrimonial Experiences of a Young Spanish Woman.

The Spanish journals relate the perhaps unparalleled matrimonial experiences of a young Spanish woman named Isabel Caporal, who in six years has lost by death six husbands, and now awaits in modest patience her wedding day with a seventh. In 1884 Senorita Isabel, then a young girl of 21, emigrated to New Orleans and soon married a theatrical manager named Freeman, who died in a few months from yellow fever during a starring tour. In order the better to conduct the company the widow, after a few weeks, married one of the actors, a Spaniard named Hany, who was fatally stabbed on their wedding night while trying to mediate in a brawl in the boarding house. Three weeks later another of the actors was killed by a bullet in the altar. He was a Mexican named Lopez, with whom the offended laws of his country had a crow to pick. Arrested, he sought escape by leaping from a train, was killed, and for the third time in twelve months poor Isabel became a widow. Very soon, however, a fourth husband came along. He was an American militia officer named Knight, but the Cuban war consigned him to an untimely grave and Isabel to the arms of a fifth husband in the person of a South Carolina merchant, who was killed among his own timber. About the sixth husband there are not many details, but he met his end untimely, like his predecessors, in a steamship accident. Standing "like Niobe, all tears," says a London Pall Mall Gazette correspondent, Isabel is for the moment a widow for the sixth time. But she is young, possesses a small dowry, and a business man in Charleston, greatly daring, has implored her to name the seventh day, which is fixed for next month.

PEDDLED CARDS AND BIBLES.

Old Kentuckian "Made a Heap of Money" Out of them.

"Not long ago," remarked a traveling man, "I went up picturesque Kentucky river on a little steamboat which runs from Louisville to Frankfort. By the way, there isn't a wilder or more beautiful stream in the whole country than that same Kentucky river. The boat passes through eight or ten government locks during the trip. On the boat I encountered a queer old customer—a long bearded grizzled Kentuckian, who was full of interesting reminiscences. 'Once on a time,' he said, 'I made a heap of money out of this little river—a peddlin'.' 'What did you peddle?' 'Kards,' he answered; 'plain kards an' bibles.' 'That was a queer stock in trade,' was my comment. 'How did you happen to have such a mixed lot as that?' 'I bought it at a auction down 't Loo'sville,' he explained; 'the auctioneer lumped 'em, so I had to take 'em. But I got rid of 'em—yes, sirc—'every one of 'em. People along this river is all wild for playin' kards; I sold them playin' kards fer \$2 a pack. 'The went off rapid, too, 'cause they was a heap of money out of them, 'specially 'em didn't have any bible left on hand, nuther.' 'How much did you get for your bibles?' I asked. 'Laws,' the reminiscence Kentuckian explained, according to the Detroit Free Press, 'them bibles went off rapid, too—I give 'em away with th' kards.'"

A Young Solomon.

A major and surgeon of the army stationed in the Philippines writes us that recently, when the chief nurse of a small base hospital in Southern Luzon was sent away there was a great struggle among the five nurses remaining for the vacant position, which meant a distinct increase in pay. Each one of the five came to the office of the surgeon in charge to show cause why she should be appointed chief nurse, and why none of the others was entitled to that distinction. The young Solomon in charge was "up against it," but gave the following decision: "Each one of you must write on a piece of paper her exact age, and send it sealed to me. The oldest woman will be made chief nurse." There is still a vacancy as chief nurse in a small base hospital in Southern Luzon.—Argonaut.

France Clings to Old Styles.

There are some things which seem States for what we call the market whatever in France or southern Europe. One of these is the range with a hot-water back, another is the refrigerator, and a third is the rocking chair. Americans living abroad often want these articles so badly that they even send home for them, but among the French there is no demand for them whatever, and American manufacturers only waste energy in trying to create a market for them. They will cling to the old-fashioned chairs for another hundred years.

Why He Preferred Wagner.

"Who is your favorite composer?" inquired the visitor. "I s'pose you mean classical?" responded Mr. Cummings. "Certainly," Wagner, was the answer. "Glimpse there is no. Some of these other music writers start in with a tune, but as soon as you get your foot going steady in time to it they break off in a way that pretty near sprains your ankle. But Wagner never fools you. He plays fair. You know from the beginning that you ain't going to find anything, and you might as well go to sleep or read the advertisements in the program."—Washington Star.

Her Gentle Hint.

"Yes," I proposed to reply by letter. "And what was her reply?" "She simply referred me to a certain chapter and page in 'The Life of Paul Jones.' " "And what did you find?" "It says 'After fruitlessly applying for command of the ship by letter, he went in person to see about it, and then he secured it!'"—Life.

A Short Novel.

Hix—I understand Romderly is going to write a novel under the title "What I Told My Wife." Lix—Why doesn't he call it "What I Didn't Tell My Wife?" Hix—I suppose the publishers didn't want too big a volume.