THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of March, 1904, was as follows:

1	30,970	17	30,570
2	30,810	18	30,210
3	30,820	19	29,870
4	30,980	20	29,800
5	31,120	21	30,190
6	27,610	22	30,180
7	30,880	23	29,820
8	31,180	24	29,890
9	30,760	25	30,290
10	30,720	26	30,800
11	30,650	27	29,800
12	30,820	28	29,710
13	26,950	29	30,210
14	29,900	30	30,090
15	30,450	31	29,920
16	30,350		

Total.....930,210
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Net average sales..... 29,673

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 1st day of April, A. D., 1904.
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE,
Notary Public.

Under present conditions Corea can be depended upon to laugh whenever Japan is tickled.

Every cloud has a silver lining. The storm-driven wayfarer can seek consolation in bock beer.

The Cuban congress is amusing itself with a deadlock of its own. Anything to be thoroughly up-to-date.

Bourke Cockran demonstrates that his voice is all right, even if he has not succeeded in getting his opinions on straight.

Lent ends today in Russia. Having fasted the required forty days, General Kouropatkin may now proceed to get his fill of Japanese.

Whenever congress is ready to suspend publication of the Congressional Record the people will try to bow gracefully to the inevitable.

European scandal mongers will experience a sad, almost irretrievable, bereavement in the death of former Queen Isabella of Spain.

Nearly every city in the country has a Civic Improvement league under one name or another. Here is where competition is a good thing.

Ill-health may be a blessing in disguise for Joseph Chamberlain, for he may be compelled to take no part in a fight where he has no hope for success.

If Mr. Harriman and Mr. Hill have a really genuine falling out the public may get to learn the inside facts of the great merger scheme which met a premature death.

Princess Hatzfeldt may have registered as "Mrs. Roberts" at London, not because she likes to travel "incog," but because she can no longer pay $1,000 for a dress.

If Viceroy Alexieff succeeds in keeping the Russian soldiers from liquor during the present campaign he will have demonstrated a power which will be cause for envy by General Miles.

The aeronautical congress in connection with the St. Louis exposition will not be held until October. It would hardly be safe to pull off a hot air fest until after the midsummer heat subsided.

If Judge Parker ever had any idea that Colonel Bryan might finally rally to his support the avowal of friendship for him by Mr. Cleveland should put that idea out of his head. Bryan and Cleveland will not ride in the same band wagon.

It is to be hoped that Norton F. Plant will have better luck in Europe, where he goes after the Cape May and Emperor's cup, that Sir Thomas Lipton has had in trying for the America's cup. Charlie Barr will be sailing in strange waters.

Evidence in the Grand Rapids boodle cases implicated two more Michigan legislators said to have received, one of them $60, and the other $350. The scandal here is that there should be such a wide difference in the price of lawmakers.

Immigration Commissioner Sargent joins the popular cry about "the undesirable class of immigrants from southern Europe," but he fails to point out how he would apply the strainer to keep out the indigestible and let in the desirable European.

In the attack by the Germans upon American art the Americans cannot be denied the right to quote the opinion of Emperor William as to one school of Teutonic art, while the crown prince's opinion as to the other school will give them some satisfaction.

EXIT MR. SUMMERS.

Williamson S. Summers has been summarily relieved from duty as United States attorney for the district of Nebraska. The popular impression that Summers was removed by the president because of offensive activity in procuring the indictment of Senator Dietrich is unfounded. Summers has not been removed, but has served fifteen months beyond his full term of four years. He would have been removed in disgrace two years ago had the Nebraska senators been able to agree upon a successor.

Williamson S. Summers should never have been appointed United States district attorney in the first instance. He was one of a score of disreputables foisted upon the federal service during the Thurston regime. He had established an unenviable reputation as a chronic deadbeat in Beatrice and Lincoln before he was commissioned United States attorney, and had been notoriously affiliated with the gang of state officers impeached by the legislature in 1893, even before he became the intimate companion and counsellor of the state treasury embezzler, Joseph S. Bartley.

As prosecuting attorney Summers had a sympathetic ear for crooks and skillfully played into the hands of combines that were organized to plunder and rob the government while pretending to carry out instructions of the Department of Justice in the enforcement of public land laws and the prosecution of speculators implicated in land purchase frauds. He made the grand jury inquisitions into these violations of law a mere farce. In his zeal to prevent the indictment of the Thurston county land lease ring, that had fleeced the Winnebago Indians, he used the machinery of the court to persecute the men who had exposed the fraud.

His performances immediately prior to and after the indictment of Senator Dietrich were a mere masquerade gotten up adroitly for diverting attention from himself and cleverly designed to extend his term indefinitely.

A most consummate hypocrite, he has posed as the fearless public prosecutor and advocate of civic virtue while he was linked with embezzlers and cheek by jowl with rogues. By systematic deception and imposture he has habitually played upon popular sympathy and personal credulity. Those who have learned to know him most intimately, however, have been amazed that a man of his stamp could so long retain any degree of popular respect in a community where his devious and serpentine ways have become fairly known.

The Department of Justice is to be congratulated that it has at last gotten rid of an officer who was lacking in every element of morality and integrity.

COST OF HARBOR IMPROVEMENT.

It is stated that there are now before the committee on rivers and harbors of the house of representatives approved projects for river and harbor improvements calling for the enormous appropriation of $500,000,000. The force of army engineers is large enough to superintend the expenditure of only about $20,000,000 a year on river and harbor work and the committee has placed that limit on appropriations for a single year. At that rate it would take the engineers about twenty-five years to carry out projects that have already been formally approved, not taking into consideration any new work whatever. In addition to the $500,000,000 worth of projects the committee has this year been called on to authorize new enterprises involving a very large expenditure.

The chairman of the rivers and harbors committee is Representative Burton of Ohio. He is said to be of the opinion that the time has about arrived when the government must insist on local authorities sharing the expense of certain projects for improving channels and streams. He says the proposition of dredging waterways at public expense has assumed such gigantic proportions that a pause must be made to consider a change in the old system. Mr. Burton thinks if it is to be continued the government must call on the state, county or city authorities, or upon persons or corporations whose property is to be benefited by water improvements, to bear a part of the burden of expense.

While this is not an unreasonable idea, it is most improbable that the change from the old system suggested will meet with general approval. Improvement of rivers and harbors by the national government is one of its particular functions and it is safe to say that the people of no state in which such improvement is called for would endorse the Burton proposition. The general government will for a long time to come be looked to to provide the money for river and harbor improvements and the best that can be hoped for is that the committees of congress whose duty it is to make provision for this work will exercise all possible care to avoid extravagance and waste.

CANADA'S GROWING POPULATION.

The population of Canada is being rapidly increased by immigration, which the government has for some time been encouraging by the offer of liberal inducements. Last month 4,000 immigrants entered the Dominion by way of the port of Halifax alone, an equal or greater number undoubtedly entering at other ports. This is of course very small in comparison with the immigration to the United States, yet if maintained it promises most important results in Canadian development, for the majority of these newcomers are homeseekers, who will go to the northwest provinces and settle in the great wheat region, where they can secure land at a very moderate cost.

It is stated that in gaining new citizens Canada is now leading the world—not in quantity, but in quality. During the past year there were 32,682 homestead entries, which included 5,021,280 acres; the land grant railroads and the Hudson Bay company sold to settlers 4,229,011 acres more, while in 1896 the homestead entries were, all told, less than 2,000. Nearly 50,000 of the 128,000 immigrants who entered the Dominion last year were well-to-do American farmers, who went to seek their fortunes anew in the wheat region of the Canadian northwest, over 41,000, or nearly one-third of the total, were of a similar class from the British isles, while the 37,000 from continental Europe were homeseekers and settlers far above the average of the immigrants who came to this country.

It is highly probable that the Dominion will hereafter attract an increasing number of immigrants from year to year, very largely of the class of people who have entered that country within the past year or two. There are opportunities in Canada for the industrious and thrifty and the government is making every effort to induce such to come to the country. It seems a safe prediction that within the next twenty years the population of the Dominion will be nearly if not quite double what it is at present. Our northern neighbor is prospering and progressing and is every year becoming a better customer of the United States, in spite of the fact that her tariff makes a considerable discrimination in favor of British manufactures. How much longer she will continue to be so good a customer is an interesting question.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP SENTIMENT.

The most significant feature of the municipal election in Chicago last week was the overwhelming majorities given to the propositions bearing on municipal ownership submitted on what was known as the "little ballot." The Mueller law authorizing the city to acquire the street railway properties was ratified by a vote of more than four to one, and the declaration in favor of the immediate action under the law approved by a vote of nearly three to one.

The Chicago papers have been busy trying to explain how this demonstration in favor of municipal ownership was brought about, and to read into the vote on the several propositions different interpretations that would modify the force of the demand thus voiced for fear it may serve to strengthen the socialistic propaganda. What has happened in Chicago, however, is probably no different, except possibly in degree from what would happen in almost any other large city in which the same questions were submitted to popular vote under the same conditions.

The only explanation of the increasing sentiment for municipal ownership of public utility concerns in our various cities is as an upheaval against corrupt interference by the public service corporations with the management of municipal affairs. It is an evidence of the growing conviction that in no other way can these corporations be put out of politics than by a point blank refusal of the city to grant further franchise privileges.

The traction situation in Chicago has long offered a most flagrant example of pernicious intrusion of corporation corruptionists into all branches of local government. The street railways there have not only failed to give the character of service which the people have a right to expect, but their representatives have ridden rough shod over every attempt at reasonable regulation. They have not only manipulated city councils, and controlled legislatures by questionable means, but have been caught fixing juries and tampering with the courts. It is no wonder that the revolt is pronounced and that the people look to municipal ownership as the only available solution of a pressing problem.

While street railway abuses in Chicago have been intolerable, their counterparts are to be found in almost every American city in which rapacious franchised corporations are constantly overstepping the bounds of decency. It is to be hoped the object lesson presented by Chicago will not be entirely lost on the public utility corporations in other cities, which in the knowledge of having a good thing should take heed not to invite popular revolt unnecessarily.

A BRITISH FAILURE.

That the British government has thus far utterly failed to carry out the promises made regarding the development of the Transvaal is a matter of common knowledge and there seems to be no prospect of improvement in the colonies wrested from the Boers. Immediately following the termination of the war there was an influx of people to the Transvaal country and a good deal of speculative activity, but the inevitable reaction has taken place and in this portion of South Africa there is reported to be great depression and increasing distress. The great boom which was to follow British occupation has not materialized and retrenchment is the order of the day. So far as the Dutch population is concerned, it is said to be behaving in the most exemplary way. The conquered people are simply minding their own business, building up their ruined homes and cultivating their lands as well as their crippled circumstances will admit.

The colonial government proposes to import coolie labor to do work in the mines and this is not likely to prove so beneficial to the country as its advocates profess to believe. The ordinance adopted by the Transvaal legislative council is a measure providing for the introduction of voluntary slavery into the colony, one of its conditions being that the transfer of an imported contract laborer shall be made from employer to another without the laborer's consent. This, however, the British colonial secretary refused to approve and certainly Parliament would not have acquiesced in the labor importation program with this condition retained.

Unquestionably British rule in the Transvaal has up to this time been a most lamentable failure and nothing of a really practical nature is being done to remedy the unfortunate conditions which prevail. Nearly half of the $15,000,000 appropriated for distribution as compensation to the Boers for their losses in war has been wasted in expenses, the officials using the money freely for their personal enjoyment. Perhaps a better state of affairs will come in the not distant future, but just now Great Britain's new South African colonies are in a condition properly described as deplorable.

INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANTS.

The bill in the United States senate making provision for furnishing immigrants with information that will aid them in determining where they shall locate is a judicious measure and should it become law it is not to be doubted that much good would result from it. A very large majority of the people who come here from abroad are of course totally ignorant of the country and have no definite idea as to where they will settle or what opportunities they will find for earning a livelihood. The question of the distribution of these people is a most important one. At present a very large proportion of them go to the large cities, where they naturally expect to find the chances of employment best. The consequence is that thousands are annually added to the congested urban populations and the number of the indigent is steadily increased.

Were the immigrants on their arrival put in possession of such information as the bill reported by the senate committee on immigration contemplates, showing where there are opportunities to obtain work throughout the country and other facts of interest to newcomers, undoubtedly very many who under present circumstances settle in the cities would go elsewhere and thus a most desirable distribution of immigrants would be had. There ought to be no opposition to the senate bill and its early passage should be assured.

The municipal election at Chicago last Tuesday developed a unique and novel electioneering medium. Peter Reinberg was elected alderman to represent the Twenty-sixth ward in the Chicago city council by a plurality of nearly 2,300 votes. Reinberg's campaign was fought and won by a bombardment of flowers. From the beginning to the close of the struggle which resulted in such a pronounced personal triumph at the polls Peter kept up a shower of bouquets—roses, carnations and bunches of pinks—which were lavishly distributed among the voters of the ward. Last Sunday Peter sent Easter flowers to the twenty-nine churches within the ward and twenty-nine congregations were pleased with his attentions and pleased with his intentions to represent them in the municipal legislature. As a lover of flowers and believer in a campaign beautiful he was evidently not only a nice man, but the man of the hour—at least he so impressed the taste and culture of his constituents, who, regardless of previous party affiliations, cast their votes for him.

Chicago truant officers have made a report to the effect that gambling of various kinds prevails among school children to an alarming extent—promoted by slot machines, dice, etc., furnished in nearby drug stores, candy shops and fruit stores—and they charge much truancy up to the temptation of this sort of dissipation. We should think that a vigorous application of the old birch rod remedy would be the proper antidote.

Predictions are being made already that the republican national convention will not extend over more than two days. That is not what Chicago bargained for. A two-day meeting is hardly worth fighting for, to say nothing of putting up the guaranty fund to defray all the convention expenses. If there is any way of prolonging the session we may be sure Chicago will be resourceful.

The rumor that Willie Hearst is ready to sell his following in the St. Louis convention to Judge Parker for the promise of a seat in the cabinet of President Parker is manifestly a campaign roorbach. In the first place the promise could not be cashed and in the next place Willie would be paying too much for the whistle even if such a deal were consummated.

The conclusions reached by the German Meteorological society of Berlin, that forests exercise no perceptible influence upon climate, should not deter Americans, and especially Nebraskans, from properly celebrating Arbor day by tree planting. Whether trees draw moisture from the skies or not, they are a beauty and a joy forever.

The time of the democratic leaders in congress will be occupied from now until adjournment in making campaign literature. The republican majority is so large that obstruction will seldom be effective, so they must be content with posing as prophets of evil, a role in which they have never shown marked success.

Events leading up to an outbreak in the Balkans are progressing rapidly. Turkey and Bulgaria have signed a convention to permit no revolutions. When this news reaches the "loyal" Albanians there will be a revolution at one end of the country or the other.

Officially estimated population of the United States proper is 79,900,389, or 3,905,814 more than the 1900 census figures. The 1910 census will surely show upward of 85,000,000 people living in the United States, exclusive of insular possessions.

Nebraska is to have forty-eight delegates in the populist national convention under the call summoning a meeting at Springfield, Ill., July 4, to nominate a presidential ticket—a dozen more than the state's representation in republican and democratic conventions combined. With this advantage in their favor Nebraska populists will not be living up to their reputation if they do not incubate a favorite son boom for the vice presidency, if not for the presidential place on their ticket.

Some Uses for Bad Roads.

Baltimore American.

At last a use has been found for bad roads. The terrific highways of Corea are proving more effective than an army corps in protecting the Russians from the Japanese. Bad roads have defended many a community or state against attacks of progress and prosperity.

Blots on Civilization's Shield.

Philadelphia Record.

Almost contemporaneously with the slaughter of 600 Thibetans by the English at Guru 541 Achinese were massacred by the Dutch soldiers in Sumatra. Thus does civilization vaunt itself at the opening of the twentieth century. The methods of argument by which the Christian nations undertake to convince the heathen whose lands they covet are as old as the invention of gunpowder.

A Safe Prediction.

Chicago Tribune.

The Japanese occupy Corea. But that does not signify that the Japanese will continue in possession of it after the treaty of peace is signed. If the Russians can shatter the mikado's forces in Manchuria they may be able to compel his men to retrace the steps of their wonderful march. But one thing is sure—that the Japanese retreat through Corea would be a far bloodier affair for both sides than was the Japanese advance.

Thus Runs the Tale.

Pittsburg Despatch.

Many years ago Charles Sumner sent to the czar some acorns from an oak which overhangs Washington's tomb. A stately tree grew from one planted near the imperial palace. Now Secretary Hitchcock will plant in the White House grounds a sapling from this oak in St. Petersburg. Isn't this a breach of neutrality, or does it show that free acorns can germinate in autocratic soil?

Test of Oil as Fuel.

Philadelphia Press.

The steamship Nebraskan, which made the run from San Diego, Cal., to New York by the use of oil as fuel, whereas it made the trip to San Diego by the use of coal, furnishes an illustration of what may be accomplished by the change. According to the captain of the vessel about $20,000 was saved by the use of oil. A part of this was gained by an increase of 457 tons in cargo space. There was a saving of nine firemen in the crew. The trip was made in shorter time with oil than with coal. If oil remains plentiful at existing prices its use may become general by steamships.

Abuse of Privilege.

Detroit Free Press.

The recent action of the house in expunging from the Congressional Record an attack made upon one of its members by another of the body under the extension of leave to print, calls attention to the gross misuse to which that privilege is frequently put and the necessity of restricting the practice. Originally intended to expedite matters and give members an opportunity to insert in the record, where they could be read later and digested, statistics and other matters appertaining to the topic under discussion, the rule has been distorted and the privilege abused by unscrupulous persons until it has reached a point that occasionally becomes unbearable.

Prose Poem on Spring.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Now flow the fountains of the hills, and over the venerable rocks the torrents pour, bearing down the surplus of the snow, which yet in such a season sinks largely below to feed the earth of the summer that is to come. The buds are starting on the earliest trees—the buds that for a month have shown the pulse of life—and the streams of sap are busy in other than maples, which now on the hills are furnishing those life currents which make the maple sirup and sugar; and yet go on to fill the great trees themselves, and so give of themselves, of their very lives, something to nourish and please the ungrateful race of man. It is a season of infinite charm and glory that is opening—let us taste of its confluent pleasures, and delight in its promise, and be good.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

The early bud catches the blistering frost.

Amiable and gentle April is altogether too gay for its reputation.

Diamonds, according to a London dispatch, are increasing in price. This is a good time for newspaper men to unload.

General Kouropatkin is said to have a gorgeous uniform in his suit case. The Japs are disposed to give him a new base to fit it on.

Cigars and tobacco valued at $200,000 were cremated at West Tampa last week. Another instance of the unchangeable decrees of fate.

Advance agents of Medicine Hat and Calgarry are needlessly impressive in demonstrating that winter's backbone could stand a few more blows.

Let history be made right at any cost. John L. Sullivan declares that it was his whipping of an Englishman that gave America its first boost as a world power.

Kansas cannot fairly claim a monopoly of human wonders. A Fall River, Mass., policeman, after fourteen years of service, resigned because he regards it wrong to work on Sundays.

The festive pass does not say much, but it gets there just the same. "How could I vote for that measure with my pockets full of passes," exclaimed a candid Chicago alderman as he registered a loud "No" on the anti-pass ordinance.

A Philadelphia belle who was caught in the street and hugged by a negro said after her escape she supposed at first that one of her friends was trying to surprise her. Is that the way the friends of Philadelphia belles usually surprise them in the streets?

An eastern banker, who had business dealings with the dethroned cotton king, testified that he loaned Sully $700,000 the first time he saw him. The wonder is that "the talent" should waste time and energy in cracking safes and things while bankers are so dead easy.

The other day in Brooklyn, after the pastor had delivered the customary pathetic eulogy and turned the services to the undertaker, the latter posted himself at the head of the coffin and in tear-compelling tones called out, "Now the friends will please step forward and say 'good-afternoon' to the corpse."

If Admiral Togo succeeds in bottling up Port Arthur he will have earned the right to dine on strawberries three times a day. No greater reward could heroism crave for.

The attempt of a Kansas City man, during a fight, to bite a piece off the cheek of a Kansas City woman cost him several sound teeth and $10 and trimmings in court. Some people cannot appreciate a hard proposition until they are shown.

SERMONS BOILED DOWN.

Regret cannot uproot wrong.

Labor is the salt of our lives.

Doubts make a poor refuge from duty.

It takes more than a fence to make a garden.

A shallow man usually has his soul in his skin.

Present character is a prophecy of future condition.

Man's noblest right is that of giving up his rights.

Rest is religion's opportunity for reinvigoration.

There is no clear thinking apart from clean living.

Respectability may be quite different from righteousness.

He who loses no love for others loses all life for himself.

Nothing blinds the soul quicker than winking at sin.

Platitudes against sin are as harmful as applause for sin.

In the divine scales a dime often weighs more than a dollar.

The worst blasphemy is that of profession without practice.

God cannot blot out our past, but he can prevent its blight on the future.—Chicago Tribune.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Baltimore American: A minister in New York opposed to the remarriage of divorced persons has changed his list of questions to parties applying to be married, so that now a woman cannot evade the main point by saying her husband is dead, with the mental reservation that he is dead to her. This minister will insist on dead husbands being decently buried before their widows seek the altar again, and will allow prospective brides with former spouses only an underground route to happiness.

Philadelphia Press: An Easter offering of $90,000, the amount collected at Grace Protestant Episcopal church in Brooklyn, does not look much like hard times. The rector has asked for $60,000 to apply on the endowment fund of the church, and he was delighted to receive $30,000 more than he expected. This church is located in a part of Brooklyn where residences are giving place to business houses, and the plan is to raise a sufficient endowment to keep the church going when the rich members have removed to some other part of the city. As $128,000 has already been raised the plan will evidently succeed.

Chicago Chronicle: At Jersey City a young man recently committed suicide because a Protestant minister refused to perform the marriage ceremony which would have united him with a divorced woman. The alternative was civil marriage, to which the young man would not consent. He was a devout Christian, who regarded marriage as a sacred institution, a spiritual union which could not be undertaken upon a civil contract. The attitude of his church not only forbade him from entering upon the married state with the woman he loved, but the refusal of the minister to perform the rites carried with it an implied rebuke which his highly sensitive nature could not withstand, and he found escape from an intolerable position by taking his own life. This, it may be repeated, was an extreme case, but it serves as well as an ordinary instance to illustrate the influence of the church upon the divorce evil, which, unfortunately, is not always exerted. It is a common charge from infidels and scoffers that the power of the church is waning. If there is an apparent lack of ecclesiastical power, especially in relation to moral rather than religious questions, is it not possible that the impression is due to a failure on the part of the church to exercise its powers in this respect?

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

"If your wife treats you so shamefully," said Henpeck's friend, "why don't you get a divorce from her?"

"I did want to," replied Henpeck, "but she said 'no,' and of course that settled it."—Philadelphia Press.

"But why did the bride's mother weep?"

"Oh, when it was too late, she discovered that she had overlooked a chance to get an English son-in-law with a little better title at approximately the same price."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Miss Vane—Some one told me today that I was the handsomest girl in our street.

Miss Speltz—O! that's not incurable.

Miss Vane—What do you mean?

Miss Speltz—Your habit of talking to yourself.—Philadelphia Catholic Standard.

"Of course, the more children a couple have the larger their doctor bill becomes."

"Not at all. The more children they have the less likely the parents are to become alarmed at every little thing."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"She is very nice," observed the first guest at the Florida hotel, "bue very ostentatious."

"I hadn't noticed it," said the second guest.

"Well, she is," continued the first guest. "I notice that she is registered at the office as 'Mrs. Gottrocks and cook.'"—Cincinnati Star.

Mr. Roxley—Ridiculous, sir! Before you think of marrying my daughter you should be making at least $5,000 a year.

Mr. Nervey—Well, if you can make a position for me in your office at that salary I'll take it.—Philadelphia Press.

SOLOMON AND THE ANT.

Sir Edwin Arnold.

Say Ar-Raheen! call him "Compassionate,"
For He is pitiful to small and great.
'Tis written that the serving angels stand
Beside God's throne, ten myriads on each hand,
Waiting, with wings outstretched and watchful eyes,
To do their Master's heavenly embassies.
Quicker than thought His high commands they read,
Swifter than light to execute them speed;
Bearing the word of power from star to star,
Some hither and some thither, near and far.
And unto these naught is too high or low,
Too mean or mighty, if He wills it so;
Neither is any creature, great or small,
Beyond His pity, which embraceth all,
Because His eye beholdeth all which are,
Sees without search and counteth without care.
Nor lies the babe nearer the nursing place
Than Allah's smallest child to Allah's grace;
Nor any ocean rolls so vast that He
Forgets one wave of all that restless sea.
Thus it is written and moreover told
How Gabriel, watching by the gates of Gold,
Heard from the Voice Ineffable this word
Of two-fold mandate uttered by the Lord:
"Go earthward! pass where Solomon hath made
His pleasure house, and sitteth there arrayed,
Goodly and splendid—whom I crowned the king.
For at this hour my servant doth a thing
Unfitting; out of Nisibis there came
A thousand steeds with nostrils all aflame
And limbs of swiftness, prizes of the fight:
Lo! these are led, for Solomon's delight,
Before the palace, where he gazeth now,
Filling his heart with the pride at that brave show;
So taken with the snorting and the tramp
Of his war horses, that Our silver lamp
Of eve is swung in vain. Our warning Sun
Will sink before his sunset prayer's begun;
So shall the people say, 'The king, our Lord,
Loves more the long-maned trophies of his sword
Than the remembrance of his God!' Go in!
Save thou my faithful servant from such sin.
"Also, upon the slope of Arafat,
Beneath a lote tree which is fallen flat,
Toileth a yellow ant who carrieth home
Food for her nest, but so far hath she come
Her worn feet fail, and she will perish, caught
In the falling rain; but thou, make the way naught,
And help her to her people in the cleft
Of the black rock."
Silently Gabriel left
The Presence, and prevented the king's sin,
And help the little ant at entering in,
O Thou whose love is wide and great,
We praise Thee, "The Compassionate."