

pleasant to ride on. Whether it was ever like our asphalt when first laid I cannot say, but it is plain the Londoners do not wish any more of it. They use wooden blocks shaped like bricks, which have been treated with some preservative which I think contains creosote or tar or both. The bricks of wood are laid on edge on a bed of concrete about five or six inches thick. It looks very simple. The wooden bricks which I have handled are of spruce or similar wood which is easily whittled, but I am told that the blocks used on the streets where there is heavy traffic are of hard wood like mahogany, a wood which comes from Australia. The wooden pavement on the streets certainly seem very even and satisfactory.

#### Miss Canfield's Thesis.

Emile Augier—Playwright—Moralist—Poet, A Study, is the title of the graduating thesis of Miss Dorothea Frances Canfield who was graduated from Columbia university this spring. There is nothing more admirable in the brochure than the few pages at the beginning which are devoted to a comparative view of the creators and development of the drama in France and England, wherein it is shown that although dramatic art bloomed first in England in Beaumont and Fletcher, in Marlowe, Jonson and in Shakspeare; in France, since Corneille, "it has occupied a greater place in the interests and affections of the people, than it ever has among English speaking nations." Since the French care enough for the drama to fill the theatres and because they have a cultivated taste which prevents even the gallery from laughing or applauding or weeping in the wrong place, it follows that the playwrights work with a free hand and are rewarded for attaining distinction, by a national patronage. Another consequence of the culture and appreciation of the drama in France is that France, since Dumas emancipated the drama from the classical and Romantic structural formulas, has supplied England, Russia and the United States with plays done into English or Russian or American according to the limitations of the several audiences. As the richest fruits grow where there is most sun and where man outwits or tempers the climate by artificial means to their peculiarities and as these products of a favoring clime are exported to all parts of the world, so the French are indigenously sympathetic to dramatic influences and the born gift has been cultivated to an artificial perfection. That the race is suffering from overcultivation of the dramatic tendency their theatrical court room and parliamentary scenes testify.

M. Emile Augier, by making the portrayal of character of first importance, and by evolving the plot from the action and reaction of the very well composed and balanced characters of the drama, has had a healthful influence upon the French, teaching them by means of that which they love and respect most highly, that to be is essential, and to seem serves only a decorative purpose and that important consequences, do not follow from seeming. To teach this lesson impressively has unforeseen effects upon the character of the French people whose greatest national fault is a lack of sincerity and of repose, when, as in this Dreyfus climax truth telling and calmness are of importance to the Republic.

In presenting, life undistorted, in making his characters real human beings, in placing their fate in their

own hands and in making the action and the denouement a logical consequence of the characters and of their association, Miss Canfield rates M. Augier the master of Sardou and of Dumas fils. Her thesis is interesting to the unlearned. It does not presuppose an acquaintance with her subject so familiar that neither frequent quotations nor explanations of French feeling are necessary. The little book is complete in itself and arouses an interest in M. Augier as playwright and poet that will not longer be satisfied with excerpts and quotations from his work. Miss Canfield's critique is clever, original and it is fascinating for the entirely unconscious evidence on every page of the author's earnestness, directness, sincere love of learning, and the informing influence of a high purpose, together with youthful distaste for evil.

#### Delayed Retribution.

Captain Oberlin H. Carter who was sentenced over a year ago to dishonorable dismissal from the army still waits to hear his sentence pronounced. As every body knows Capt. Carter got the money on a million and a half dollars of forged warrants for work that was never done by workmen who did not exist, in Savannah harbor. He has very powerful friends who have interceded with the president, and the attorney general gives no sign of an early examination of the papers relating to the case. Meanwhile Captain Carter enjoys club life in New York. He rises at eleven, as a gentleman of leisure should. He wears fine linen and fine wool, fitted to his handsome form by the best tailors and altogether his habits and appearance are exasperating to the last degree considering that he has stolen a million and a half dollars from the United States government. The reasons for the delay of the punishment he has so richly earned not being apparent to the people who travail for their living, and the luxury with which he surrounds himself being so continually in evidence, the President has the choice of compelling the carrying out of the sentence or facing a part of the community that is sure it has been robbed, and this part includes all those people who are not using their influence for Captain Carter's pardon. The suspension of the sentence has become a reproach. It is too much like French justice to be popular in this country.

#### The North-western Railroad Company.

The Club Women, a monthly magazine printed at Boston and the organ of the Massachusetts federation of women's clubs, urges the visitors who will go to the Milwaukee biennial next year, not to go by way of this road which a few months ago dismissed all of its female employes, not because they were dishonest, unfaithful, or incapable but because they were women. The management of the road explained that the civil service rules would be strictly enforced and that it was foreseen that if only merit were taken into consideration that in the course of time it would be some woman's turn, according to the rules of length of service, faithfulness, and ability, to step up higher. Here the management stopped, as though the argument had reached a point where words were unnecessary to demonstrate the conclusion. Still any one who believes in the intellectual parity of women can imagine a woman who had become familiar with all the departments of a division, becoming division superintendent and being promoted from that office to the one of president, so long as her mind

and knowledge should hold out. There are several women within the writer's knowledge capable of fulfilling the duties which fall, say to a division superintendent, (given the years of training which generally precedes the attainment of that position). Sex has very little to do with the question of ability. A woman can not do an engineer's or a fireman's work very conveniently and the positions reached from these beginnings, sex would debar a woman from competing for. Other positions whose beginnings, the capable administration of which depends upon a faculty for making quick and sound decisions and on the possession of common sense which the Creator has distributed among men and women regardless of the limitations which the president of the North-western railroad company considers so important and primordial. Most of the men and perhaps most of the women who chance to read this article will be likely to disagree with the writer on the question of a woman's intellectual eligibility to the position of president of a railroad. And in the present century where women is denied the right to vote on her own property except in a few western states, I am not so sure that the Northwestern management is to be blamed for accepting the general estimate of the law which grants the suffrage to everybody except Indians, the insane, women, and idiots. Not until centuries have dissipated the prejudice which for over two thousand years has prevented woman from being estimated as an individual will women be freed from an oppression more galling, in many respects than slavery. It is perhaps well enough for the thousands of women who will assemble in Milwaukee next year to snub the Northwestern road, but in doing so they might patronize a road which has never employed women, never thought the exclusion of enough consequence to offer a public explanation. Men are not to be blamed for falling in with the current opinions and the gods who grind out justice grind so exceeding slow that the recognition of the woman's right to as good a living as her capacity can earn is still not within a hundred years of expression and adoption.

We have come a shorter way than we think, as we look back. Except in a few spots woman's influence is indirect and depends upon her tact and beauty. Her property is assessed and she is governed by whatever laws men choose to pass and the consent of half of the adult taxpayers is never asked. The president of the Northwestern road probably does not claim to be an advanced thinker. He has accepted the conditions of his time and endeavored to get his railroad system into harmony with them. A boycott like that proposed by Miss Winslow of The Club Woman might be an indication that the worm was beginning to reflect and to turn, but we that suffer injustice ought to be careful not to commit a grave one ourselves

#### Democratic Perplexity.

To a man who hopes to be the presidential nominee of democrats and populists in 1900 the uncertainty in regard to the fusion platform must be very trying. The republicans have a definite policy which is the basis of national activities now. The Filipines have come to them by the convention of war, and unless we decide upon a quixotic and impracticable rejection of historical precedent and of international usage our foreign policy must remain as it is. The anti-imperialists which is a name they have adopted themselves and means nothing in particular, because neither the

administration nor the republican party have decided on an empire, can be counted in every town and their sum is doubtless large and imposing. But supporters of the administration are as the sands of the sea and their sum is the people of the United States. Since trade has resumed its energy and every man who cares for it has a good job, conditions have adjusted themselves to a single standard and it is questionable, even to those who believe in free silver, if agitation of the money question would not do more harm than good. This being so the silver republicans whose convictions drew them away from the party in the last campaign will vote for the republican candidate next year both because they realize the effect of agitation upon anything so sensitive as money and because they will not vote to change a foreign policy in the midst of war.

Between the eastern and the western democrats there is a difference of opinion both as to the platform and as to the man who shall embody it. There are evidences of a secret understanding between prominent and life-long democrats, the purpose of which is to defeat Mr. Bryan in the convention, and although their success is more than doubtful their conference is an indication that the party will not be enthusiastically united.

#### Radical Temperance Reform.

When the W. C. T. U. realizes that those who disagree with them on the most effective and permanent method of lessening the sale of spirits, are not rum fiends, its own power will be strengthened by the addition of more conservative but no less earnest opponents of drunkenness.

Children in the public schools are taught the evil effects of liquor and tobacco in exaggerated terms. When they emerge into the world and see men whom they know to be high-minded and accomplished, drinking liquor and smoking tobacco, both of which, they have been taught are deadly poisons, a confusion of mind and a questioning of authorities is sure to occur. If the men live, whom with horror-stricken eyes they have watched swallow a whole glass of beer, if they continue to be upright, sober and sane, inevitably the child will apply what he was taught in school to his observations; and if his own original experiments fail of confirmation the reaction is apt to drive him to drink and smoke. The truth is, that the excessive use of tobacco and whiskey reduces a man's usefulness and destroys his health and his temper. Nobody, except those who are connected with an inebriate by family or legal ties wants him around and his family escape him when possible. To employes, friends, associates he is a bugbear to be shaken off whenever his company seems inevitable. The muscular tissue of his body, which the school physiologies teach is reduced to a spongy pulp corresponds with the spongy pulpiness to which the fibre of all his relations with human beings has been converted. The language of the school physiologies is not exact and exaggerates the immediate effects of and occasional indulgence in poisons. No words can paint the devastation, physical, spiritual and social of their intemperate use. If it were not for the reaction that comes when the child finds out that liquor and tobacco are not in stantaneously fatal, no harm would be done in awakening a fear of whiskey which has killed more men than war, fire, water or reptiles. But the discovery that all a beloved teacher's words are not true frequently discredits all her teachings. It follows that absolutely candid instruction about the