

ing more unpopular and disgraceful. The constant enunciation of an idea and of earnest convictions produces conviction and a change of conduct in the erstwhile careless. The W. C. T. U. is somewhat of a busybody. The members are strenuous-minded women with a conviction that continual resolutions, investigations, speeches and objections will lessen the amount of whisky men drink and eventually prevent its being offered for sale. Since the society was organized, there is no doubt that drinking has steadily lost caste. Whether the efforts of the society have accomplished this result or whether it is the effect of a slowly developing public opinion, of which the W. C. T. U. is a part, nobody knows. We have certainly progressed. A hundred years ago it was not a disgrace to get drunk. It was expected that a gentleman would freely imbibe and when he drank more than he could walk straight with, it was a peccadillo.

In the case of the young man whom whisky inclined to murder, he had been drunk before and had learned the effect of the drug upon him. He knew that as soon as he had swallowed a certain amount that he should want to kill someone. The murder, therefore, was not the fault of the rumseller or of whisky but it was the fault of the youth who drank the whisky. The W. C. T. U. creed blames the rumseller or the whisky.

In the commons newly built and instituted by Harvard college beer is to be sold by the authority of the governors of the university. The institution is intended to bring the students of the university together in sociable recognition of their college fellowship. It is hoped to produce the same fraternal spirit on tap in the beer hall frequented by the university students of Germany. Cambridge is a prohibition town and it is claimed as a great hardship that the Harvard students can not get a drink in Boston later than 11 o'clock p. m. The commons will be organized as a club and the students can get all the beer they want at any time they want it. The attention of the W. C. T. U. is directed to this matter. There is no Harvard precedent for the innovation and the time to break up a habit is before it is formed.

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The Way of an Island

Mrs. Patrick Campbell is supposed to be one of the most beautiful and graceful women in England. She is now playing in this country. Her recent full-length picture printed in Harper's Weekly is not exactly graceful. She is apparently a large, tall woman and wears her hair parted on the side and combed flat down on her forehead in what used to be known, on this side of the water, as the bartender's cut. The hair at the side of the head droops over the ears in the fashion of seventy-five years ago. She is handsomely and, according to English standards, becomingly gowned. The material is heavy, brocaded silk and the front breadth is embroidered in roses with stems a yard long. She stands in front of heavy portieres with her left hand resting on a small table. Her right hand has an iron grip on the front of her dress. The lines of the bodice and drapery of the skirt are "bunched" in the familiar style of English gowns. Notwithstanding the bunchiness and heavy grip of her dress on the front breadth where it does not need to be held up, the English actress is a beautiful woman, with eloquent large eyes, a beautiful, straight nose and a mouth in perfect drawing. It is curious about the lines of an English woman's frock. Her gowns seem to have been cut out by an architect with a ruler and a triangle. The lace, embroidery or jewels attached to the gown are not a part of it. As architects say, the ornamentation is not structural, but seems in all cases to have been added to the gown, because of its costliness, or separate beauty. The unity of a gown and the necessity of preserving a distinct style has not occurred to the English dressmaker or her patrons. The fashion of Queen

Alexandra's coiffure has been followed by the ladies of the court for years. It is long since American or French women have worn a heavy, built up and probably artificial bang like that affected by the queen. It is made of very frizzly hair kept in place by a finely meshed net. It is not a very graceful or becoming style but islanders having once adopted a distinct style of coiffure are not apt to lightly change it. Japanese women for centuries have done their hair in wooden fashion and slept on wooden pillows in order not to disarrange the elaborate coiffure. Then there are women of Borneo and the inhabitants of the other islands of the Pacific. Encyclopedic pictures of the lady inhabitants of these islands indicate that for hundreds of years they have followed a stereotyped fashion of doing the hair. Short and tall, fat and spare, all follow the unchangeable mode. In the case of an actress, who is usually emancipated on the subject of dress, even an Islander might be graceful and adopt styles suited to her own type and complexion. Ellen Terry seems to have broken the island chains. The leopard's spots and the Ethiopian's skin are only occasionally changed.

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The Isthmian Canal

In all the continents isthmuses connect one part with another, yet even in China when the two words Isthmian canal are spoken, the Chinese know the projected canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific and dividing North from South America is referred to. Not the least of the advantages of the Panama site over any other is the fact that the area has been thoroughly surveyed and experimented upon for nearly a quarter of a century. The engineering difficulties are appreciated and mapped. The contractors by consulting the elaborate specifications and maps prepared by the De Lesseps' engineers can approximate within a few thousand dollars the cost of the finished canal. The Nicaraguan site is untried. It has its advantages. The disadvantages and problems are unknown. But we do know that the Nicaragua canal must be more than twice as long, more tortuous, and at each terminus a harbor must be built. The recommendation of the Isthmian Canal Commission since the offer of the French owners to sell right of way, machinery, maps, plans and the record of all experiments to the United States for \$40,000,000 in favor of the Panama route should have a strong influence upon the senate, in spite of the Nicaragua lobby that pushed the Nicaragua bill through congress. Every great enterprise is paid for in the blood of human beings. It is as though an angel stood at the gate and demanded his price in life. Hundreds of men have died in the great trench which extends a third of the way from the gulf to the Pacific in Panama. The dusky men who dug and operated the machinery of digging in the Panama route have paid the price. Their flesh is dust. Climatic conditions have also been studied and conquered in Panama. It is now possible to go on with the work in comparative safety. Cheapness, sanitation, directness, experimental treasure, all are on the side of Panama. On the Nicaragua side is an impalpable something of which the people are very distrustful. At any rate the congressmen refused to listen to the reasons for selecting the Panama route and passed the bill locating the canal in Nicaragua. The wisdom of an upper house is never more apparent than on such occasions as this where the lower house alleges as sufficient reason for ignoring business considerations that the French company had once asked too high a price for the property.

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A Reorganized Department

In case of another war and sudden mobilization of troops it is not likely that there will be so much trouble about the hospital supplies, fodder and food for the volunteers. Secretary Root will soon recommend to congress the abolition of the quartermaster's,

subsistence and the pay departments of the army. Responsibility for army supplies is no longer to be divided among several departments. Heretofore the quartermaster's department has provided furniture for the mess rooms, the ordnance department the mess-kits, but not the ovens, the subsistence department the food, while the cooks enlisted by the adjutant general's department, received their pay from the pay department. The subsistence department did not feed the horses. The same arbitrary division of functions which may have had a reason for being some time but has none now has made confusion and defeated attempts to locate the responsibility for mistakes.

Secretary Root's plan substitutes one department whose functions are confused separate and inharmonious departments whose functions are confusingly mixed and overlap one another. In the new classification one branch will supply clothing and subsistence, a second will have charge of the disbursements, a third of transportation and a fourth of construction. Each division is headed by a brigadier general, and at the head of the whole is a major-general. The simplification of the present system is apparent to those who studied the reports and complaints of the bad hospital conditions at the time of the Spanish-American war.

Last year Secretary Root made the first step in the modernization of the army when staff officers were detailed to their positions instead of holding them permanently in accordance with his recommendation. The Sun says that "The detail system applied to the new supply department will keep its officers in touch with the needs of the line of the army, as they vary from time to time, and can be applied to the new bureau as to the old staff."

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City Council

The citizens of Lincoln are more and more suspicious of a council whose members are afraid to wait for their opinion upon a measure so important as the cession of a part of one of the down town streets to a railroad. At a recent meeting the city council granted leave to the Elkhorn railroad to lay a track on Ninth street. Anticipating objections from the property owners and the citizens whose property they gave away the usual procedure was ignored and the bill was read and re-read and voted for all in one evening. The ruse recalls the gas contract which Mr. D. E. Thompson induced the council to accept in the same way, without allowing time for discussion. The salary of twenty-five dollars a month which a councilman receives is trifling and he has just as much right to piece it out with the price of concessions as the state treasurer has to loan the school money and keep the interest on it. It is unreasonable to expect greater scrupulousness of city councilmen than of state treasurers. But the city taxpayers seem to be hypnotized. There is a picture on the billboards representing four men resting on one man whose head and heels rest on chairs. The subject is supposed to be unconscious and to be held rigid by the will of the operator. The burdens carried by the taxpayers of this town are as burdensome and as unnecessary. The catalepsy of the citizens who supply the tissue on which the confirmed office-holders stand is complete.

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Camilla Urso

Born at Nantes in France on June 13, 1842, and died at the New York Infirmary on January 29, 1902, Camilla Urso. In the sixty years that lie between these dates Camilla Urso became one of the few great violinists of the world. Her father was a flutist in the opera at Nantes. When she was six years old she began the study of the violin and made her first public appearance a year later. Her work showed the unmistakable signs of genius and she was sent to the Paris Conservatoire. When she was ten

years old she had played at the great concerts of the Salle Hertz, the Societe Polytechnique and at the performances of the Association of Musical Arts. She was only ten years old when she received an offer from an American impresario of \$20,000 to play for him for one concert season. The child virtuosa accepted only to find that the man who made the offer was irresponsible. But Mlle. Urso was engaged by the Germania Society and her period of prosperity began. Since that time she has played in all the large cities of the world and in numerous smaller ones as well. She has appeared in Lincoln perhaps a half dozen times. She was always brave, she had the indomitable courage of genius. Her playing possessed ethereal lightness, verve and depth of tone. She was short and somewhat swarthy and I remember when she came out to play on the occasion of her last concert here a Lincoln gamin sitting on the first row of orchestra seats said: "Oh what a funny little Dutch woman." Madame Camilla held her bow in the air poised above her Stradivarius while she looked at the boy whose impudence faded, under the gaze, into an uncomfortable smirk. Madame Urso led a strenuous life. She was a serious genius. She practised as conscientiously as though she had not the aid of genius and her reward was in proportion.

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The Advantages of Competition

The report of the interstate commerce commission addressed to the congress of the United States alleges that five or six shippers of packing house products get large rebates from the railroads that distribute their goods over the country.

Railroads are incorporated for the purpose of making money. There is no historical reason for believing that the men who built and have operated them are philanthropists who consider that by means of railroads the human race is to be introduced to each other, Chinese walls broken down and fraternity firmly established. Neither did they build the railroads to give a large number of men employment and save them from the devil's trap for idlers. The railroads that lace Nebraska have brought settlers to the state and the settlers have plowed, seeded and harvested the state, hauled their grain to the stations and sent it from coast to coast of this country. The relations of the settlers and the railroads are interdependent, they are ineradicably, unchangeably mutual. Although railroads and steamboats are mixing races and removing prejudice, although they give employment to millions of men, they were built because men who had money thought they could add brains, bravery and energy to their capital and make the consolidation earn more money than the government was willing to pay on its bonds. Men build railroads for the same reason that they dig for gold and for no other, but they are much more likely to find gold in the dusty cattle, coal and grain cars than in the virgin ledges of Colorado and California.

There is a difference the world over between the wholesale and the retail price of articles. The poor woman who goes to the coal dealer carrying a bushel basket to be filled with coal pays a larger price for her bushel than her more prosperous neighbor who buys it by the ton. Yet no one visits the poor woman soliciting her custom, while the man who pays half as much but buys a great deal is besieged by dealers offering a special rate. The coal dealer is in business for money. The large advertiser can buy fifty thousand inches in the newspaper cheaper than the man who wants a hundred. But if there were no competition the man who had to have a hundred inches could get them as cheaply as the man who had to have fifty thousand. Just remember this: Everybody is in business for money, for all the money it is possible to make and stay on this side of the penitentiary walls.

The report of the interstate commerce commission regrets the fact that