

Evening Post, referring to that letter, says: "Republicans of high and low degree were mum on the subject today. They had no retort nor defense to such a quietly administered rebuke. Some of them had in mind the terms used by Mr. Roosevelt in his letter of acceptance when he used such phrases as 'misrepresentation is the one weapon of our opponents,' and again, 'The demand of our opponents shows either ignorance of the facts or insincerity,' and others of the same tenor. This attitude of the president and some of the other prominent party leaders has grated on the sensibilities of some decent republicans since Judge Parker has refused to descend to the same level and 'as publicly war' the campaign managers that the republicans must not be met on the low ground they have chosen to stand on. It shows just what sort of a high-class man Judge Parker is,' was the sum of the comment heard today, wherever his letter was discussed."

THE increasing number of deaths due to railroad accidents is attracting very general public attention. The Kansas City Star says: "No railroad corporation has ever abandoned a plan of operation which leads to homicide upon a mere request to be good. Fatal wrecks will not cease upon a plea like this: 'Please, Mr. Corporation, won't you let my wife and me ride on your railroad without mashing us to a pulp?' But they will stop for a declaration like this: 'Mr. Corporation, you will put your railroad in such a condition that my wife and I can ride on it without being killed or by the eternal we will take it away from you.' And this course ought to be adopted if railroad companies do not bring to a speedy end the present horrible slaughter of men, women and children. If a railway company will not provide strong and adequate rolling stock, if it will not employ a sufficient force of capable employes and adopt every possible precaution against accidents its franchise ought to be forfeited and it should be forbidden to do business in the state. There is neither public sense nor public morality in dilly-dallying with railroads when human life is jeopardized. It is idle to say that the demand for swift transportation is at fault. Rapid travel can be made as safe as slow travel. The trouble does not lie with the desire of the public to 'get there quick,' but with the greed of railroad directors to 'get rich quick.' No relief will come until the people by law make that greed subordinate to the right of security and the preservation of life."

THE "tip" has been officially recognized. The Washington correspondent for the New York Evening Post says: "Wide comment has been occasioned by Secretary Morton's 'tipping order,' although in point of fact it had been prepared before he entered office and was then ready for issuance. He looked it over and thought the sums were as low as any officer traveling on government business could well get along with. It is not true that this is the first government recognition of the tip. For years the comptroller's office in the treasury has passed 25 cents as a porter's tip, in connection with each sleeping car voucher. A few other tips, somewhat fixed in popular practice, have been allowed. The theory of the department in recognizing the tip is that when officers go on government business with their expenses paid it is not right for Uncle Sam to decline to reimburse them for expenses which are practically unavoidable. It is notable that the tip allowance abroad is just double the amount granted for this country. Secretary Morton thinks this represents about the difference in the expense of the official traveler. He recalls the story of an American who, as his ship was about to sail away from a European port, announced to the crowd of loafers on the dock that if there were any man in Europe to whom he had not given a franc he wished such person to step forward and get that amount."

KING GEORGE of Saxony died October 15. Concerning this man, a writer in the New York Sun says: "George of Saxony was an old man when he came to the throne, being 70 years old when he succeeded his brother, King Albert, on June 20, 1902. A short time after his accession he nearly succumbed to pneumonia and never fully recovered. George was born at Pillnitz, on Aug. 8, 1832. His wife was a Portuguese princess, the Infanta Marie Anne, by whom he had five children, the eldest being Frederick August, who succeeds him on the throne. He is 39 years old. Saxony's late ruler, perhaps above all things else a soldier, was prominent in European military circles as the commander for thirty years of the Twelfth Army

Corps, which was Saxony's division of the German imperial army. His name was especially revered by the rank and file as the result of his order that the common soldier should be treated with greater respect and leniency. He had no hesitation in criticising the German military system and spent a good part of his time in attempting to bring about reforms in the service. As a soldier himself he many times showed conspicuous bravery. During the Austrian and French campaigns he served with gallantry and often put himself in positions of the greatest danger."

KING GEORGE took his place in the Saxon upper house and for forty years was a leader therein. The Sun writer adds: "He was a life-long student of history, deeply interested in music and thoroughly devoted to art and painting. He was a noted pianist. Throughout his whole life hunting was his favorite outdoor recreation. Old and feeble as he was during his later years, he would have himself carried to the preserve and shoot game as it was driven out past him. The health of King George rapidly declined when the scandal of Princess Louise's elopement with Andre Giron, the Belgian tutor of her five boys, became known throughout the world. The crown princess, who was the Archduchess Louise Antoinette of Austria, escaped with Giron from Salzburg in December, 1902. They fled to the Riviera. By the friendly advice of Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, King George effected her divorce from the crown prince. Giron and the princess separated within a short time, he returning to his old haunts, she retiring to a sanitarium at Lindau, where she gave birth to a daughter, who was named 'Anne Monique Pie.' The princess went to London, but was allowed to return to her native place. She received a new title on July 13, 1903, and is now known as Countess de Montignose. At the time of the scandal King George received much sympathy, although in some quarters he was accused of treating his daughter-in-law with undue harshness, in view of the fact that the crown prince had not been altogether a faultless husband. The king, however, was always regarded as a genial man, who would rather be kind than not."

THE present owner of the Jefferson Davis plantation in Mississippi, according to a writer in the Augusta Chronicle, is Isaiah F. Montgomery, a negro. Referring to this owner, the Chronicle says: "He was a bright youth, and Joseph Davis, the brother of Jefferson Davis, owned him. Mr. Davis, attracted by the boy's sprightliness and good qualities, had him educated, and he was a famous pet on the plantation. He was always respectful, grateful, and obedient as a bondsman. He was faithful to the persons and interests of the Davis family, during the war and after it. He was permitted to purchase the old plantation, and nobody objected. He has the esteem of all Mississippians, and is now worth about \$300,000. He is a type of many good old-time negroes, and all white people who know him wish him well. After the war, we are told, he tried to educate one of his sons, and even sent him to Europe to study medicine and become a doctor, but the project failed. The free son was not the equal to his once slave father. Isaiah Montgomery is respected in Mississippi, and deserves to be. He is a rare character, and the coming generation of his race might learn valuable lessons from his virtues, his patience, and good sense."

MILTON'S statue is to be unveiled November 2. Referring to this arrangement, a writer in the Westminster Gazette says that many people will be surprised to learn that the body of the great poet was once on view at a charge of three pence a head within a few yards of the site chosen for this monument to his memory. The Gazette writer explains: "It was in 1790, after a little carousal, that two overseers and a carpenter entered the church of St. Giles, Cripplegate, where Milton lay buried, and, having discovered the leaden coffin which contained his body, cut open its top with a mallet and chisel. 'When they disturbed the shroud,' Neve says, when telling the story of the ghoully deed, 'the ribs fell. Mr. Fountain confessed that he pulled hard at the teeth, which resisted until some one hit them with a stone.' Fountain secured all the fine teeth in the upper jaw, and generously gave one to one of his accomplices. Altogether the scoundrels stole a rib bone, ten teeth, and several handfuls of hair; and to crown the diabolical business, the female gravedigger afterwards exhibited the body to any one willing to pay threepence for the spectacle."

FLOWERS are now rented in New York for all sorts of occasions, according to a writer in the Boston Transcript. This writer says: "One bouquet may be made to do duty for several brides in the course of a day, and a funeral wreath may express various phases of grief at a number of funerals. A New York correspondent describes the manner in which the floral beauties are used over and over again: 'One wonders how such a perishable article as flowers can be rented, especially in a city where they are in such demand and at almost exorbitant figures, but the process is very simple. The lessor prepares his first bouquet from the freshest buds obtainable, and by buds is meant the small rose that is several days from bursting. Carefully, with the utmost care, each bud is gone over and the outer petals opened out, to give the exact appearance of a blown flower. When the bouquet has done service and been returned by the renter these outside petals are removed and all the flowers placed in the ice box to await the next order. Time and again these buds do duty, until their usefulness has gone for such purposes. The stems are wound with fine wire, and, with the addition of a few pieces of smilax, the Greek flower peddlers go forth to sell them for a few pennies per blossom.'

SOME interesting facts concerning the size of and the traffic through the Suez canal are presented by the Newark (N. J.) Advertiser. It is said: "The Suez canal is 92 miles long, and cost \$102,750,000; 3,450 ships, of 8,039,106 tons net, passed through the Suez canal in 1903, yielding \$14,770,081 in dues. Nearly 95 per cent of the vessels were enabled to steam at night through the canal owing to the general use of the electric light. As to the nationality of the vessels, the English were 2,394, German 294, French 184, Dutch 188, Austro-Hungarian 78, Italian 63, Norwegian 38, Turkish 33, Spanish 17, Russian 35, Portuguese 2, Egyptian 1, Japanese 6, Guatemalan 1, United States warships and yachts 16."

THE thrift of Russell Sage has been put to shame, according to a San Francisco correspondent. This correspondent refers to the divorce proceedings of Mrs. Emille Fritz against John R. Fritz, saying that this is the second time that this case has been in the divorce courts. The story is told in this way: "Four months ago the unhappy wife asked the courts for a decree, but the differences of the pair were patched up and they left the courtroom arm in arm. But their happiness was short lived. Fritz persisted in his closeness in money matters, so his wife alleges, and as he would not provide for her in a proper manner she decided to be free from him once and for all. Mrs. Fritz asserted that her husband forbade her to invite relatives to the house to meals. In order that she might not steal a march on him when he was away from home, Mrs. Fritz claims her husband placed a mark on the ham, the sugar barrel and other articles of foodstuffs in the family larder, so that he could determine, on his return whether Mrs. Fritz had been feeding her relatives. Fritz was placed on the stand to tell of his money-making schemes. Reluctantly he showed to the court notes from different people which showed rates of interest varying from 2 to 7 per cent per month. He said that during their married life he had taken his wife to the theatre once or twice, but could not remember when. Several times in the last six or eight years he has expended car fare on his wife taking her to the park. Fritz is contesting the suit. He figures that it would be cheaper to keep his wife than to be forced to pay her alimony."

Mr. Elihu Root is talking for the national republican ticket, but he wouldn't offer himself as a vicarious sacrifice by accepting the republican nomination for governor of New York. Mr. Root does not purpose losing his reputation for farsightedness.

### Impeachment at the Polls

The charter of Los Angeles, Cal., provides that a city official may, under certain conditions be impeached and discharged from office. One of the members of the city council having been accused of crookedness, his constituents put the machinery of the charter into operation and at an election and by a vote of more than two to one impeached and recalled the offending official. It is a valuable precedent. Every city ought to have power to discharge officials when they betray their trust and where the term is long enough the same rule ought to apply to state and federal officials.