

UNDER A BAD SYSTEM

BY WHICH THE PRODUCERS ARE ROBBED.

Majority of People Are Not Enjoying Equitable Returns from Their Labor and Genuine Prosperity Is Yet a Long Way Off.

Hold Public Men Responsible.

The power of this Government was intended to be vested in the people. The will of the people was intended to be the supreme law, when expressed. It is believed by the founders of the Government that the people would have sufficient intelligence to divine their interests and enough courage to demand their protection and advancement. In the earlier years of the country, public men sought, by close observation and study, to evolve theories to be made issues, by which the interests of the people would be advanced; and he who succeeded best in bringing forth these practical theories and carrying them to successful consummation was the ideal public servant, and was continued in office, because of his fidelity and loyalty to the interests of the people. All the progress made by this Government was secured during the prevalence of that system.

It is a remarkable fact that the interests of the majority of the people no longer evoke or bring forth plans for their elevation and welfare. This country has less attention paid to the masses of the people than any in the world. It has become a reproach upon any man to be a champion of the interests of the masses. He is called an anarchist, a socialist, communist or monarchist.

The people still have the power, but they do not or cannot use it. Two-thirds of them are mere party slaves, who belong to a party and blindly follow its leaders. Partisanship has become more practical and business-like, as to the party, and less so as to the people. The first desideratum of a party as has been practiced by the two old parties, is to get a campaign fund. In order to do this it must make pledges and enter into obligations which must be carried out in case of success. In this way an administration is sold in advance. It is pledged to interests adverse to the people in order to get a campaign fund to pay speakers and newspapers to mislead and deceive them.

A majority of the people have not enjoyed any modicum of prosperity for five years. There is little prospect of their enjoying much more for the next five years. The agriculturists produce large crops and the mines yield immense products, but those who produce this wealth secure only a bare subsistence. Why is this? It is a recognized fact that if a man wants to become independent, he will seek some other field for his energy and industry. This is not the place. He who produces does not get the product of his labor. When it strikes the market the first man who strikes it gets one-fifth as much profit as the man who produced it; and it goes on down the line to the last hands with each one securing five times as much profit, relatively, as the man who produced it. These inequalities are caused by business sense and management, which all these other people display, through organization and all other assistants, which the producer secures. But even this account of this reason is unsatisfactory. There is something more. Systems are organized to assure this result. These systems embrace and embody all the factors in the problem, with their ratio or proportion of benefit, which have become so fixed that it is almost impossible to change them, certainly never to be changed while so little effort and so little organization are combined for their overthrow.

If "the laborer is worthy of his hire," certain it is that the producer is worthy of the best and largest proportion of the benefit realized in the use of his product; but such is not the case, and it seems a very long way ahead in the future before it will be vouchsafed to him.

But if public men were held to a stricter accountability for their management of the public interest, it would be a great stride toward a return of favorable conditions for the producers and laborers, but that is what it seems impossible to impress or to secure any tangible and earnest effort to secure. Failure of one causes failure of the other.—New Road.

The Gold Standard in India.

The herculean task of establishing the gold standard in India has not yet been accomplished and the difficulties of its accomplishment have caused Lord George Hamilton to appoint a special committee to devise ways and means to procure gold to place India on a gold basis. The appointment of the committee has aroused a most important discussion in England. Financiers of all parties complain of the limited inquiry entrusted to the committee. They contend that the inquiry should be broad enough to take into consideration the propriety of any attempt whatever to reach the gold standard, and also the expediency of again opening the mints of India to the free coinage of silver. Sir Robert Giffen, the leader of the gold standard party of the world, immediately after the appointment of the committee published a letter in the London Times on the 25th of May last, in opposition to the plan proposed by Lord Hamilton. Among other things he said that the following questions were a defect in the reference to the committee:

1. Whether a gold standard is desirable for India, a subject not sufficiently considered by Lord Hamilton's committee, and which the Indian Government appears to think indispensably essential, and the whole of the gold standard party of the world, immediately after the appointment of the committee published a letter in the London Times on the 25th of May last, in opposition to the plan proposed by Lord Hamilton. Among other things he said that the following questions were a defect in the reference to the committee:

or a gold standard and gold money is really practicable in the special circumstances of India, a point on which there could not be the greatest doubts.

The London Economist and the London Statist, in elaborate editorials, concurred in the views expressed by Mr. Giffen, and protested in the strongest possible terms against the effort at the present time to attempt to put India on a gold basis. Space will not permit the reproduction of these elaborate arguments. It is sufficient to say that it is the opinion of all gold standard economists that gold cannot be obtained to put India on a gold basis without great detriment to the finances of the mother country and irreparable injury and disaster to the business of India. If these financial authorities had examined the questions with as much anxiety and care twenty-five years ago the United States and Europe would not be suffering the intolerable evils of the gold standard.

The war between bimetalism and the gold standard is the war between prosperity and decay. Modern civilization is not ripe for decay. The realization of the horrors of the gold standard for India by the leading monetarists of Great Britain is light in the East, where darkness appeared impenetrable. The position of the gold monetarists that the single gold standard in all countries and in every clime is an unalloyed blessing is abandoned in the case of India. The admission that it will cause India must encourage bimetalists throughout the world and confound the advocates of the infallibility of the gold monopoly.

Jefferson on "The Banking Mania."

On Oct. 15, 1815, just after our second war with England, that ripe old scholar, philosopher and statesman, Thomas Jefferson, wrote to Gallatin as follows: "We are undone, my dear sir, if this banking mania be not suppressed. The war, had it proceeded, would have upset our government; and a new one, whenever tried, will do it. And so it must be while our money, the nerve of war, is much or little, real or imaginary, as our bitterest enemies choose to make it. Put down the banks, and if this country could not be carried through the longest war against her most powerful enemy without ever knowing the want of a dollar, without depending upon the traitorous classes of her citizens, without bearing hard on the resources of the people, loading the public with an indefinite burden of debt, I know nothing of my countrymen. Not by any novel project, but by ordinary and well experienced means; by the total prohibition of all private paper at all times, by reasonable taxes in war, aided by the necessary emission of public paper of circulation."

What! Jefferson teaching populism? Yes; and Lincoln taught, and as far as he was able to put in practice, this identical doctrine so clearly and forcibly promulgated by Jefferson. Lincoln at first issued \$60,000,000 of full legal tender demand notes. These notes would pay every debt, public and private, that gold and silver money would pay, and for that reason they remained on par with gold and silver money so long as any of them were allowed to remain in circulation. But the bankers, who had been accustomed to issuing their own paper to supply the ever existing deficiency of gold and silver money, seeing that if the Government issued its own paper money their occupation would be gone, went to Washington in force and "held up" old Abe, compelling "except" to be placed on the greenbacks in order to depreciate them, compelled the issue of bonds, and that they be allowed to issue their corporation paper, euphemistically called "national" bank money. Lincoln and Chase were forced to compromise with the robbers of the North. Thus was Wall street bought off; the union was permitted to exist on condition that Wall street be allowed to perpetually rob labor of its reward, and to draw to its traitorous coffers all the wealth of the land.

Now another war is on. Wall street wants the nation's paper money suppressed, and bonds issued as a "basis" for the increase of their bank paper (their "play-like" money), and taxes raised high enough to enable that den of "traitorous classes," as Jefferson calls them, to consume the balance of the widow's houses. Populists oppose this, saying: We need no bonds or increase in taxes, but an increase instead of the nation's full legal tender paper money. For this some thoughtless people call them "cranks," "visionaries" and "anarchists." Oh! you little T. B. lawyers, doctors, "professionals," bankers' stool-pigeons and other smart Alecks who can use these phrases so glibly, go read the teachings of Jefferson and Lincoln and Franklin, read the economic history of nations, and see how you have been chuckling over your own ignorance and stupidity.—Chicago Express.

A Defaulted Contract.

In the fall of 1896 the money syndicate secured a contract. They got the contract by an infamous juggle. That contract was to restore the industrial and commercial prosperity of this nation. The people accepted their promise and commissioned them to do it, and they gleefully undertook the task. The great American democracy has all the while stood ready to join in the chorus of triumph whenever the hypocritical oligarchy shall carry out its pledges. This day we patiently await the fulfillment.

Gentlemen of the goldite conspiracy, carry out your contract. Upon the gates of peace, come on with your prosperity, and you shall have our cheers and a long base of power. But if you do not the day of reckoning is at hand.—John Clark Ridpath, in Arena.

Worse than Misrepresentation. There ought to be an injunction got ten against the goldocrats designating their infamous schemes of wholesale confiscation of the property of the people as "reform." They believe in reform as the devil believes in holy water.—Bradford Silver Star.

LAWYER CORN WAS BAY.

Westerner Admitted He Had to Take Fees from Both Sides.

Among the early-day settlers of Smith County was Attorney Dolpa Corn, who has been dead for a score of years. Corn was a splendid lawyer, but almost a failure in the practice. He knew no more the value of money than a child. He loved his family, and so long as they were happy and contented he was beyond the reach of care. He was bubbling over with humor and simply could not be serious for a moment. He was willing to lose a case at any time rather than forego the pleasure of amusing his friends with a witticism.

Mr. Corn once ran for County Attorney and held joint debates with his opponent. At one of their meetings this opponent hinted broadly at one of Mr. Corn's weaknesses as follows: "If any man here to-night can say I ever took fees on both sides of a case, like someone I could name, let him now stand up and say so. If anyone can say I ever swindled a client, or that I have ever been guilty of a dishonest action, let him now say so."

Then came Mr. Corn's turn, and he responded as follows: "It is perhaps true that I have taken fees on both sides of a case, and it is a source of great regret that some other lawyer does not move into the county, so I won't have to attend to both sides. Gentlemen, it may also be true that you know something of that would not sound well if told. If such is the case, I want to say that you will do me a kindness to keep quiet about it until after the election is over."

This view of the situation so struck the humor of the voters that Mr. Corn carried the township by a practically unanimous vote. "On one occasion," says Judge Pickler, "two men came into Corn's office and had him make out a chattel mortgage, and then the old question arose as to who should pay for it. One said: 'You get the mortgage and should pay for what you get.' The other said: 'You was to give the mortgage. How could you deliver it before it was executed?' Finally one said: 'Let's settle it according to custom. I will abide by it if you will, and both agreeing, they left it to Corn to say what the custom was.' Dolph scratched his head, but finally ruefully said: 'Well, I don't exactly like that. So far as I am concerned I don't like customers to abide by custom, for the custom is that whenever two fellows want a chattel mortgage drawn they come in here, and when the work is done they usually get into a quarrel as to who should pay and go off without anyone paying for it.'—Kansas City Journal.

He Rode with His King.

A few days ago, says one of the South German papers, a soldier was returning to the barracks of Ludwigsburg (Wurtemberg) from an excursion to the suburbs. It was near the time for evening drill, and he was in fear of being late. Suddenly a small vehicle, driven by a man in civilian's clothes, appeared.

"May I not take the vacant seat at your side, sir?" asked the soldier. "I am late for drill."

"I'll be glad of your company," came the reply.

The trooper took the seat. A few minutes later, looking at his watch, he grew pale.

"Pardon me," he went on, "but might I ask you to drive faster? I have great fear of my captain, who is a strict disciplinarian. If I am a minute late he will put me in the guardhouse."

"To what barracks do you belong?"

"The K— barracks."

"Very well; we shall arrive in time."

The driver whipped up his team and in a short time drew up before the gate of the barracks.

"Thank you, sir," said the soldier, in descending.

While the son of Mars was still bowing his acknowledgments the officer on duty at the armory had ordered the guard to present arms. The driver of the vehicle was the King of Wurtemberg.—Kansas City Journal.

Sparrows Kill a Polecat.

"You have often heard of the ferocity of birds, no doubt," said William Anderson, a hardy old woodsman, who lives on the lower Ohio, "but I doubt if you ever heard of birds attacking and killing an animal that one would imagine could whip three or four fierce cats. While hunting down in the late part of the month of Green River several years ago I saw a large and fierce skunk beat an ignominious retreat after trying in vain to best several English sparrows and later, when the skunk had screwed his courage up to the sticking point again, I saw those same insignificant-looking little birds tear the animal to shreds. When my attention was first attracted the sparrows were flying from one side of the thicket to the other, twittering like mad. When I went to learn the cause the skunk, badly frightened, was dodging from one side to the other of a log, trying to escape the savage attacks of the feathered tribe. The birds didn't mind me, but kept dashing their little bills into the skunk's well-punctured hide. When the skunk started across an open space to the cover of nearby driftwood his tormentors pounced upon him and riddled the poor cat's hide."—Louisville Post.

Willow Culture in Europe.

Europeans cultivate willow alongside of wheat. France leads, and Germany and Holland stand high in willow culture. In Germany there are forty thousand persons engaged in making willow baskets, and fifty thousand acres of land are used in growing the willow for them. The culture of the willow is the simplest thing in the way of cropping. A twig stuck into the moist ground is all that is required. Nature does the rest. For the basket work Salix amy-

gdama is the queen of willows, although Salix purpurea and viminalis are also extensively used. In France the willow grower does not hesitate to plant good wheat lands in willow. In regions where lumber is scarce baskets replace cases, boxes and trunks. In the region of La Tremblade and Arcaehon there are large plantations of willows and factories for the manufacture of rough baskets in which to ship their famous oysters. It is in the Low Countries the willow is used most. It serves for baskets of all kinds, fences, cattle racks, wagon tops, trunks, boxes, and even the signals along the river are painted willow wickerwork. From its wood they make their indispensable sabots, or wooden shoes. It serves still another purpose; when planted alongside their many dikes, it holds them in place and it constantly catches the sediment, increasing the depth and fertility of the soil. The beneficial effects of willows along the banks of streams and rivers cannot be overestimated. The fertile soils washed down from the farm lands, instead of flowing into the sea, are caught by the willows along the shore. In that way streams are narrowed and consequently deepened. Away up in the mountains in France, where, owing to deforestation, the streams rush with much destructiveness down the steep mountain sides, they wind willow twigs in the shape of a hammock and throw it across the stream. These twigs soon sprout, take hold of the soil and force the stream to move in a zigzag way.



M. Leon Daudet's study of his father's life and works has begun to appear in the Revue de Paris.

"Captains Courageous" is rated as one of the most successful of Kipling's works, from the publisher's standpoint. It is now in its thirtieth thousand.

Brentano's will soon publish the first English translations of two of the most notable works in French literature—Stendahl's "Le Rouge et le Noir" (Red and Black), and Anatole France's "Les Rouges" (The Red Lily).

In honor of the 70th birthday of Count Leo Tolstoy, which falls on Aug. 28 (O. S.), the town authorities of Mts. cow intend establishing an elementary school which is to bear his name. Count Tolstoy will celebrate at the same time the fiftieth anniversary of his literary activity.

Literature understands that Dr. Conan Doyle is busily engaged on a dramatic version of "Sherlock Holmes," which is destined for production at the Lyceum Theater, with Sir Henry Irving in the part of the great detective. The play will not adhere rigidly to the lines familiar to readers of the stories.

The most magnificent work of its kind ever published is the long-awaited "Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ," by James Tissot, the great French artist which has appeared in Paris and London. It contains over 500 illustrations—many of them in colors—made by M. Tissot during a long sojourn in the holy land. The English edition costs about \$35, and the French, which is even more magnificent, costs over \$300.

Mr. Gladstone has invented and excellent thing for the library—half screen, half book-case. It is described as holding "the maximum of books in the minimum of space." It is made of light wood enameled white, has shelves in front for holding 400 books, and the back is covered with tapestry like an ordinary screen. It is easily movable, and is exceedingly useful in limited quarters.

A traveler in Japan speaks of the poor pay of Japanese authors. The rate paid to native novelists occupying the highest rank lies between the maximum of 1 yen (45 cents) and the minimum of 40 or 50 sen per page, containing 400 characters. As it takes 100 sen to make 1 yen the reader need not be told that the pay is poor, and so are the authors. The foregoing prices, bear in mind, are paid to the authors of the highest class only. What those not in the front rank receive it would be hard to determine without the aid of a powerful magnifying glass. At the average rate they are paid, they would have to write 100 pages, or 40,000 characters, to get a monthly income of 50 yen, which is something less than \$25. Even on this, the writer says, it would be "hardly possible to live in comfort."

Water in Jerusalem.

The scheme to bring pure water into Jerusalem has been abandoned. "As all visitors know," says the Jewish Chronicle, "the inhabitants of that city, of every creed and nationality, and particularly the poorer residents, suffer untold hardships in consequence of the scarcity of drinking water. At the present time they depend principally upon the supply collected in cisterns from the rains which fall during the rainy season—from December to March. Some of the water flows, in the first place, through the streets of Jerusalem, before reaching the tanks, which are above the houses. Thence it trickles down into underground cisterns, where it stagnates and breeds all sorts of insects and impurities. And this is what the majority of the people have to drink! Even if filtered and boiled it would scarcely be safe to imbibe such stuff. And by the end of June even this supply is often exhausted."

A Large Egg.

Beth Leonard, of Shutesbury, Mass., reports a specimen of hen fruit 9 1/2 inches the larger way and 5 1/2 the smaller, that he found recently in his henhouse.

SMOCK MARRIAGES IN MAINE.

An Amusing Custom Which Was in Vogue a Century Ago.

A Bangor lawyer attending court in the ancient town of Wiscasset went rummaging recently in the colonial court records of the place, and in the course of his reading ran across the official registration of a "smock marriage." Not knowing what sort of marriage that was, he looked further, and got considerable light upon a custom that prevailed in England a century or two ago, and also to some extent in the American colonies.

Smock marriages were weddings where the bride appeared dressed in a white sheet or chemise. The reason of such a garb was the belief that if a man married a woman who was in debt he could be held liable for her indebtedness if he received her with any of her property; and, also, that if a woman married a man who was in debt his creditors could not take her property to satisfy their claims if he received nothing from her. In England, says an antiquarian, there was at least one case where the bride was clothed in pure naturalibus while the ceremony was being performed in the great church at Birmingham. The minister at first refused to perform the ceremony, but finding nothing in the rubric that would excuse him from exercising his functions he married the pair.

To carry out the law fully, as the people understand it, the ceremony should always have been performed as it was in the Birmingham church. But, modesty forbidding, various expedients were used to accomplish the desired purpose and yet avoid the undesirable features. Sometimes the bride stood in a closet and put her hand through a hole in the door; sometimes she stood behind a cloth screen and put her hand out on one side; again, she would about her a white sheet furnished for the purpose by the bridegroom, and sometimes she stood in her chemise, or smock. Eventually, in Essex County at least, all immodesty was avoided by the bridegroom's furnishing to the bride all the clothes she wore, retaining title to the same in himself. This he did in the presence of witnesses, that he might prove the fact in case he was sued for any debts she might have contracted. A marriage of this kind occurred at Bradford in 1733, and the following is a true copy of the record of the same:

"BRADFORD, Dec. ye 24, 1733.—This may certify whosoever it may concern that James Bailey of Bradford who was married to the widow Mary Bacon Nov. 22 last past by me ye subscriber then declared that he took the said person without anything of estate, and that Lydia the wife of Elizabeth Burbank & Mary the wife of Thomas Stuckney & Margaret the wife of Caleb Burbank all of Bradford were witnesses that the clothes she then had on were of his providing & bestowing upon her. WILLIAM BALGH, Minister of ye Gospel."

It is noted by the same writer that in all cases of smock marriages that have come to his knowledge, the brides have been widows.

It is mentioned that during the reign of George III, there were many smock marriages in Maine, then a part of the province of Massachusetts Bay—chiefly in Lincoln and York counties, or in the territory which is now so known. There is nothing to show that the practice outlived the revolution. In Maine, up to 1852, a husband was liable for debts of his wife contracted before marriage, and no such subterfuge as the smock marriage could relieve him.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

An Original Order.

An order came to a wholesale hardware house one day last week. That it was presumably an order, for it was written under a business heading and had all the general appearances.

The employee who opened the letter studied it and said it beat anything he had seen up to date.

He sent it to a member of the firm, who read it and threw up both hands. Since then he has been showing it to his friends. It was written by a rural dealer, and is as follows:

"Gentlemen—Please send me at once two long-handled shovels, one dozen sixteen-inch hinges and two kegs of tennypenny nails. Yours truly,

"JOHN ROBINSON.

"P. S.—My son tells me we have plenty of above, so you need not send. J. R."—Chicago Tribune.

When You Write to the Queen.

The paper on which letters to Queen Victoria are written must not be folded. No communication which bears evidence of having been creased will ever fall into her Majesty's own hands. The proper method is to write on thick, glossy white paper and to dispatch the missive in an envelope which fits it. Any folded communication never reaches the Queen, for the simple reason that she never looks at it. All such letters are opened by the Mistress of the Robes, and as a rule their contents never get beyond her, or, if the letter is of importance, it is returned to the writer with the directions how to forward it.—Exchange.

A Living Curiosity.

No-wa-ah Jack Pota, an old Indian, who resides with his four squaws on Snake Creek, in the Creek Nation, is one of the greatest living curiosities in this country. He is said to be 100 years old, but, judging from the different events which he claims happened within a lifetime, he must be even older. The most remarkable feature about No-wa-ah is that he has already lost two sets of teeth and now has grown a third set complete. His hair is jet black, with no signs of turning gray; his step is firm and bearing erect; he has buried twenty-two wives and is now living with four. He was originally a Delaware, but was captured by the Apaches when young and held for a number of

years; he was adopted by the Muscogees when a middle-aged man and has been regarded as the oldest man in the tribe for the past thirty years. No-wa-ah is treated with the greatest reverence by the members of the tribe, who regard him as a superior being, and the crafty old fellow doesn't hesitate to take advantage of their superstitions by accepting all their favors they feel disposed to bestow upon him.—Cushing (Col.) Herald.



Röntgen rays have been found to act on vegetation like very weak light in experiments by Signor G. Tolmet.

Surveying by photography is gaining ground. Over 50,000 square miles have been photographically plotted and surveyed by the surveyor general of Canada.

Prof. Dolbear says that what is called stupidity is simply the indication that a certain brain area is not properly nourished or is without communication with the nerve fiber.

Dr. Von Weisbach, inventor of the incandescent gas burner now very much in vogue, has recently taken out patents on an electric lamp working on a similar plan. He is an Austrian chemist.

Among recent inventions specially interesting to those who sail the sea is a device for launching boats from the davits of a ship without loss of time, and in such a manner that the boat is certain to reach the water on an even keel. With this device, which has been tested at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, one man can easily raise, or lower, a boat weighing four tons.

W. Saville Kent, the naturalist, who has made snapshot photographs of the curious little creature called the frilled lizard in the act of running on two legs, suggests that it is only necessary to magnify the animal to a gigantic size, in order to see how the immense "dinosaurs," whose remains are among the wonders of geological museums, looked when they lived on the earth. The frilled lizard when running on wet sand makes three-toed impressions resembling in shape the tracks of some of the monsters of Mesozoic time.

The coldest inhabited country appears to be the province of Verchokansk, in Oriental Siberia, says the National Geographic. The mean altitude of the terrain is about 107 metres (about 350 feet) above the sea. A Russian servant passed one entire year in this inhospitable region, and kept a daily record of the temperature, which he has recently published, and from which it appears that the daily mean of the entire year is 19.3 degrees C., or 2.74 degrees F., below zero! The daily mean for January, 1894, was 53 degrees C., or 63.4 degrees F., below zero.

The toad does not take dead or motionless food. Only living and moving insects, centipedes, etc., are devoured, while worms or other larvae disturbed by their hopping are safe so long as they remain curled up; but as soon as they move they are captured. The toad's tongue, its only organ for seizing food, is soft, extensible, attached in front but free behind, and is covered with a glutinous substance that adheres firmly to the food seized. So rapid is the motion of this weapon that a careful watch is necessary in order to see the animal feed.

Prof. John Trowbridge has been making some most interesting investigations in high tension electricity, using only a very high voltage storage battery and a system of condensers. The apparatus gave a four-foot spark. Nothing could insulate it; not even a vacuum tube. It proved satisfactorily the futility of endeavoring to insulate a lightning-rod. The great spark represented over a million of volts' tension. For a lightning-flash a mile long this ratio would give something like a thousand million of volts. The experiments are of special interest, as the absence of an induction coil enables the voltage to be more accurately estimated.

Hotty-Toity.

Selden in his "Table Talk" writes: "In Queen Elizabeth's time gravity and state were kept up. In King James' time things were pretty well. But in King Charles' time there has been nothing but Frenchmore and the cushion dance, omnium gatherum, tolly-polly, bolle-comettole."

This phrase in modern French is haut comme tolt.

The late Dr. Brewer, in his "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," says:

"The most probable derivation I know is this: What we call 'hotty-toity,' hotly being connected with holt (to leap up, our 'high,' 'height,' and hotly being 'tother holt,' i. e., first one side holt, then the other side."—Notes and Queries.

Ostriches Hooded at Flomking Time.

When the ostrich is to be divested of its plumage a long hood is placed over its head, and it is then confined in a railed inclosure about three feet square. The birds rarely show fight.

Aluminium Helmets.

Helmets made of aluminium, to be covered with waterproof cloth of various colors, according to the branch of the service wearing it, are about to be adopted in the French army.

Curious Profession in China.

In China the detection of false coins is a skillful, prosperous profession, known as "shroffing," and is taught in special schools.

Power is powerless unless you are conscious of your ability.