

Whether Common or Not.

The Old Inhabitants.

I thought it hot when July's sun beat down with blazing heat
That fried the pitch from asphalt sheet that covered ev'ry street;
But when I mentioned this to Jones, a gray-haired friend of mine,
He told to me how hot it was the year of '59.
"So hot," said Jones, "in '59, that all th' cricks went dry,
An' fish 'u'd carry water miles 'r else curl up an' die.
Hot, eh? Well rather, neighbor; thermometers wan't no good—
Merc'ry boiled an' busted glass an' scorched holes in th' wood.
You call this hot? Why this is cool," said this old friend of mine,
'T' what it was in that hot spell th' year o' '59."
I sauntered further down the street and met old Elder Bly.
I mentioned heat Jones told about—the elder winked his eye.
"Did Jones say '59 was hot? Well, I'm right here t' state
That his hot spell was cold as ice compared with '68.
That year spring chicks were fried on foot, the hens laid hard boiled eggs
An' metal hoops was melted off of barrels, tubs an' kegs.
Th' locomotives all made steam 'ith no fires in th' box;
We couldn't tell th' time o' day—hands melted off o' clocks.
Jones called it hot in '59? Th' weather then was great—
Yo'd ought'r seen how hot it was th' year o' '68."
These tales I told to Deacon Smith. He laughed till he was red,
And when recovered from his mirth he looked at me and said:
"In '59 an' '68 'twas hot, I'll say to you,
But them two years was passin' cool compared t' '42.
That year we gathered roasin' ears cooked hangin' on th' stalk.
Hot! Sizzlin' oats, if I was Bly or Jones, I wouldn't talk!
Th' railroad irons curled up like wool an' glass jars melted down—
An' skurce a windowpane was left unmelted in th' town.
I've seen some hot spells in my time, but I'll jus' say t' you
Th' hottest spell since I was born was July, '42."
I thought of what Jones, Bly and Smith had said of torrid heat,
And went my way—my long, hot way—adown the city street.
I knew all three were honest men who scorned to tell a lie,
But I was sure they'd stretched the truth of years so long gone by.
If hotter then I feel quite sure all three'd been quickly fried
To crisp, or else been melted down—leastwise they would have died.
But I could only make believe I thought their tales were true
Of '59 and '68 and also '42.
And forty years from now I guess I'll have my share of fun
In telling of the awful heat in nineteen hundred one.

Then and Now.

"I'll not support the ticket this year!"
"What, will you prove traitor to your party

just when it most needs you? I am astonished! Bolt! How can you think of such a thing?"

"But you bolted last year."

"O, that was different. It was the duty of every honest member of the party to bolt then."

Experience.

"I thought you told me you had never kissed a girl before in your life."

"So I did. Do you doubt me?"

"No. But I'll confess I was suspicious when you put your hand under my chin and tilted my head back a trifle."

The Meanest Man.

"Old Packer, the pork millionaire, is the meanest man on record."

"What makes you think so?"

"Well, Smith, who works in the refrigerating room, asked him for a vacation a minute after Jones, who works in the rendering establishment, asked for his vacation. And old Packer said Jones might work in the refrigerating room for a week while Smith worked in the rendering establishment. He declared that this would be such a pleasing change that the men would enjoy it better than a trip out of town."

A Hot Spell.

"Poor Jones succumbed to the heat yesterday."
"That's strange. Yesterday was the coolest day we've had this month."

"Yes, but Jones tried to discuss the latest problem novel with Miss Porkwell of Chicago and the exertion was too much for him."

Life

What is wealth?

The goal of greed; the curse of man
Who toils a slave his earthly span—

A ceaseless strife.

For me a face against the pane;
A smile when I come home again;
A kiss that greets me at the door;
A baby's footsteps o'er the floor—
Ah, that is life!

Brain Leaks.

The good time of yesterday is too often the headache of today.

Destiny is only duty well done. Fate is duty unperformed.

Satan uses numerous agents, but always shirks responsibility.

True love forgives much, but true love never needs forgiveness.

A well trained conscience is a poor moral guide.

Fatal Mistake.

He tried to play King Richard III.,

But he his lines forgot-o.

In his wild frenzy he exclaimed:

"My kingdom for an auto!"

—W. M. M.

A Campaign Story.

A Mississippi candidate for office charged his opponent with being too ambitious and of overreaching himself. He said that his opponent reminded him of Morgan's mule. The animal got sick and the neighbors gathered in to offer aid, but in spite of all they could do the mule died. Morgan, in describing the incident, said:

"Some thought he had colic and some thought he had rheumatism and some thought he had liver trouble, but I knew all the time what was the matter with that mule. He was a mule with a powerful ambition, and he just put his pulling powers against his constitution and busted his system. That's what was the matter with that mule."

The Supreme Court Decision.

In regard to taxation, therefore, it is plain that the court, by declaring the Foraker act constitutional, recognizes the right of congress to impose duties upon imports from Porto Rico. The constitution provides that "all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." .. nile Porto Rico is not a "foreign country," according to the court's decision, and is not a subject colony, it is still not a part of the United States in the sense that it is entitled, if congress decrees otherwise, to free trade with the United States. This decision will give great comfort to the protectionist advocates of the expansion policy, who feared that the tariff wall between the United States and its dependencies would not be allowed to stand by the supreme court. The Foraker act, as was pointed out in the argument before the court by the able constitutional lawyers opposed to the government's contention, is the first one in our history in which an attempt has been made to impose taxes or duties upon goods because they are shipped from one territory to the states and other territories of the United States. "Under this act," said Hon. John G. Carlisle, in his argument, "goods sent from New York or New Mexico to Porto Rico, or from Porto Rico to New York or New Mexico, are required to pay impost duties and internal taxes, while the same sort of goods sent from New York to New Mexico or any other territory, or from another state or territory to New York or New Mexico, are not subject to any such charges. It requires but little argument, if any, to show that this is a tax on commerce, or that, if not, it violates the rule of uniformity."

Mr. Carlisle asserted that if duties could be levied upon imports into Porto Rico from the United States and exports from the island to the United States without violating the rule of uniformity, or violating the constitution in any other respect, then it would follow that congress may by law impose one rate of duty or one rate of internal taxation upon articles going from the states and territories to any one particular territory, or coming from it to the states and other territories, and a wholly different rate upon the same kind of articles coming to or from another state or territory. The constitution not only provides for uniformity of taxation, but, as was pointed out in the argument before the supreme court, declares that "no tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state." "It does not," as Mr. Carlisle himself argued, "provide merely that congress shall not impose such a tax or duty, or that the president shall not do so, but positively and broadly that it shall not be done by anybody at all." The purpose of the prohibition was to prevent discrimination by one state against another, or against one section of the country in favor of another. "Any other construction," said Mr. Carlisle, "would enable congress to break up and ruin the commerce of some of the other states by the imposition of discriminating taxes and duties upon their products when sent beyond their limits for sale." Possibly congress may never be inclined to exercise such discrimination against Porto Rico or the Philippines. It is to the interest of the United States to encourage the development of these dependencies. Yet it is undeniable that a considerable element in the United States desires to impose heavy duties upon the products of these islands, and it seems to be entirely within the discretion of congress, according to the court's decision, by imposing prohibitory duties to "protect" the industries of the United States from the "pauper labor" of our "territories" in the West Indies and the Philippines. Whether congress can be trusted to exercise its discrimination wisely is another question.—Baltimore Sun.

Impossible.

"Is Cumso all right?"

"He is the most considerate man I ever met. Why, he never tries to tell any of the bright things his two-year-old boy gets off."