

CURRENT TOPICS

AN ASSOCIATED Press dispatch from Washington describes an historic custom in this way: "The grassy slopes of the White House lawns were thronged with romping children Monday, the grounds having been thrown open from early morning for Easter egg rolling, a custom which has been handed down from generation to generation for scores of years. Under instructions from President and Mrs. Taft, children from all parts of the city were permitted to run pell mell over every part of the spacious park in the rear of the executive mansion. The choir of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church visited the White House early in the day, were admitted to the east room and sang there for an hour. The members of the choir appeared in full church vestments."

THE NAPLES, Italy, correspondent for the New York World tells this story of the death, on April 11, of Novelist Crawford: "F. Marion Crawford died seated in a big armchair, gazing out of a window. Before him spread the beautiful Bay of Naples, into which a blood red sun was sinking. It was one of those rarely beautiful Italian sunsets and the novelist drank in its superb coloring with all the appreciation of his artistic nature. His mind was perfectly clear. He was oppressed by no death racking pains. One of the family was reading in a low voice 'Plato's Dialogue on the Immortality of the Soul.' In an interval they heard the novelist murmur: 'I die with Jesus Christ.' For some time after that he sat quietly in his chair. Then as the sun was just about to sink out of sight his family heard him sigh and say: 'I enter peacefully into eternity.' The sun disappeared. Marion Crawford was dead. The family was much affected by the solemnity of the scene. All were present except the novelist's eldest son. Sorrento shared in the family grief. All shops were closed and business is practically suspended. Everywhere are there manifestations of deep feeling. Eulogistic articles appear in all the leading Italian papers."

ALGERNON Charles Swinburne, the English poet, died recently. The Denver News refers to him "as a master workman," and says: "To Algernon Charles Swinburne belongs the palm for absolute mastery of word music. Sometimes, indeed, this mastery betrayed him into mere riot of sound, as a lesser but similar gift betrayed Poe. But at least it made him a conscientious workman, and a workman who left a deep impress on the poetry of his nation. Swinburne began the revolt against the tyranny of the 'iambic pentameter,' which Milton and Pope had fastened on English verse."

'Oh son of the rose-red morning, oh god twin-born with the day,
Oh wind with the young sun waking, and winged for the same wide way'—

You may have read too far—and you do—to know just what he is talking about, but the musical lilt of the lines will carry you along. It is this triple measure, this 3-8 time, to use the musical phrase, that is commonly deemed most characteristic of Swinburne. As a sample of his soberer music, we will quote from our favorite of all he has written 'By the North Sea':

'Slowly, sadly, full of peace and wonder,
Grows his heart who journeys here alone.
Earth and all the thoughts of earth sink under,
Deep as deep in water sinks a stone;
Hardly knows he whence the rollers' thunder,
Hardly whence the long, low wind is blown.'

And the man who could write that was sidetracked that the crown of poet laureate might be placed on the brow of Alfred Austin."

THE EIGHTIETH anniversary of the birth of General William Booth of the Salvation Army was celebrated at New York April 12. The following cable message from General Booth was read to the large audience: "London, April 12.—To the American people: O, America, how vast is your opportunity for making a last mark for good on the entire human race. Endowed with measureless material resources,

enjoying the unbounded confidence of your own people, favored with the concentrated light of earth and heaven, possessed of an influence covering like a shadow, all the world besides, what a power you must be destined to become. What will you do with this mighty, magic force? If you are permitted to realize your ambition to lead the world, whither will you lead it? To utter abandonment of faith in the eternal and the neglect of every duty flowing out of it, to senseless worship of mammon, to useless frivolities? No, I am sure you won't, and I blush at the very mention of such things and denounce them with all my soul. Where else can you lead this poor, blind, stumbling world of ours, but to the mighty, just, holy God and obedience to His commands; to the practice of righteousness, purity, honor, kindness and simplicity, to self-sacrificing service of mankind. America, I invite you to the actual realization of the Christian principles you profess and to practical imitation of Jesus Christ, who came out of His heaven to seek and to save. Come along, then, let us gird up our loins and go out of our heaven and put our arms around perishing multitudes and bring them to Christ, purity, peace and paradise. I invite you to make our common Christianity an ungainsayable reality and thus wipe out the reproach fast gathering over us that it is nothing more than an exploded tradition, a fashionable association or a lifeless ceremony. Then, when the wondering world asks: 'In what country can I find the things described by the letter of the Bible and set forth in the life of Jesus? The answer shall be America.'

MR. CLARK of Florida, is having trouble with his constituents. An Associated Press dispatch under date of Tallahassee, April 15, follows: "Congressman Frank Clark addressed the Florida house of representatives tonight in answer to a resolution proposing the censuring of Mr. Clark for his recent criticism of William J. Bryan and other democrats in the course of a speech on the tariff in the national house of representatives. Denying the right of the Florida legislature to censure his conduct in congress Mr. Clark said he had expressed himself freely in congress, standing for the rights of Florida in the matter of tariff revision and was responsible for his conduct to the voters of his district alone. In conclusion, he said that if Bryan is nominated again, 'I'll do as southern democrats did in 1872 when they held their noses and voted for Horace Greeley.' When Mr. Clark finished he was greeted with shouts of 'Hurrah for Bryan,' some of the representatives standing in their chairs and shouting for the Nebraskan. Later both houses of the legislature, by unanimous vote, invited Mr. Bryan to address their joint session at an early day."

COMPLYING WITH a request made by the house the senate returned the tariff bill so that the house might amend it to place upon the free list the products of, as well as, crude and refined petroleum. The bill was properly amended by the house and given again to the senate. Senator Bailey then offered an amendment to the tariff bill providing for an income tax. He proposed to place a tax of 3 per cent on incomes of more than \$5,000 annually. He said this would provide a revenue of from \$60,000,000 to \$80,000,000 per year. Speaking of Mr. Bailey's amendment the Associated Press says: "It provides for a straight tax of three per cent on all incomes above \$5,000 a year. It exempts all incomes from federal, state, county and municipal securities, salaries of all state officers and incomes of corporations below \$5,000. The former law on this subject provided for a tax of two per cent on incomes of \$4,000 and upwards. Mr. Bailey does not attempt to avoid the constitutional questions and in effect challenges them. He estimates that if his amendment becomes a law it will raise about \$100,000,000 annually. Mr. Bailey said he had introduced the amendment so far in advance of its consideration because he wished every senator to have a full opportunity to consider it and to suggest any additional amendment

deemed proper. He added that the tariff bill reported to the senate was in the main the same as that of 1894. His income tax amendment, he said, was the same as the law which had formerly been enacted with minor exceptions. He had in this amendment raised the exemption from incomes of \$4,000 to incomes of \$5,000 and had raised the rate of tax from two to three per cent, which, he said, would result in greater revenue than would the two per cent tax on \$4,000 incomes. Mr. Bailey said he did not introduce his amendment because he desired to tax prosperity, but because he preferred 'to tax the incomes of prosperous people rather than to place it upon the backs and upon the appetites of people who at best are doing none too well.'"

PRESIDENT TAFT sent to congress, April 15, a special message as follows: "To the Senate and House of Representatives: I transmit herewith a communication from the secretary of war, inclosing one from the chief of the bureau of insular affairs, in which is transmitted a proposed tariff revision law for the Philippine Islands. This measure revises the present Philippine tariff, simplifies it and makes it conform as nearly as possible to the regulations of the customs laws of the United States, especially with respect to packing and packages. The present Philippine regulations have been cumbersome and difficult for American merchants and exporters to comply with. Its purpose is to meet the new conditions that will arise under the section of the pending United States tariff bill, which provides, with certain limitations, for free trade between the United States and the Islands. It is drawn with a view to preserving to the Islands as much customs revenue as possible and to protect in a reasonable measure those industries which now exist in the islands. The bill now transmitted has been drawn by a board of tariff experts, of which the insular collector of customs, Colonel George R. Colton, was the president. The board had a great many open meetings in Manila and conferred fully with representatives of all business interests in the Philippine Islands. It is of great importance to the welfare of the Islands that the bill should be passed at the same time with the pending Payne bill, with special reference to the provisions of which it was prepared. I respectfully recommend that this bill be enacted at the present session of congress as one incidental to and required by the passage of the Payne bill."

REFERRING TO this measure, the Associated Press says: "Generally speaking, the bill submitted by the president makes a slight increase in the rates of duty now provided in the Philippine tariff, but its framers say its tendency is to insure as far as practicable the benefit of the Philippine market for American manufacturers and products. The measure makes some additions to the free list. There will be an increase in internal revenue duties by which it is hoped to make up the loss which the Philippine Islands will sustain by the operations of the free trade provisions in the pending Payne bill. The internal revenue laws for the Philippines are enacted by the Philippine assembly."

WILBUR F. WAKEMAN, secretary of the Protective Tariff League, ventures a tariff prediction. Speaking to a representative of the New York Herald, Mr. Wakeman says: "I met a friend at the National Press club in Washington the other day and I offered to wager him one to five that there would be no tariff bill at this special session of congress; that finally the two houses would get into such a jangle that they would appoint sub-committees to work on the bill all summer and report the same for passage on the first Monday in December next; that in the meantime a joint resolution or concurrent resolution would be passed by congress, recommending to the administration that foreign tariff trade agreements be abolished. As you know, these foreign trade agreements, now extended to every nation of the continent and to Japan, can not be abrogated without six months'