

Vardaman, nominated by the Mississippi democratic primary to succeed Percy. The senator said he would not ask for an investigation of his election, but challenged his prospective successor to make such a demand.

A dispatch to the New York World says: Charles J. Bonaparte, President Roosevelt's attorney-general, and other prominent men have petitioned congress to forbid the use of the phrase "So help me God" in the administration of oaths in the federal courts. Senator Burton presented the memorial to the senate and introduced a bill to put it into effect.

The bill provides that the form of oath hereafter taken in the courts or elsewhere under the laws of the United States shall be "In the presence of Almighty God, I do solemnly promise" or declare, etc. The bill proposes to make it unlawful to add to any oath the words "So help me God" or any imprecatory

words whatsoever. It stipulates that the manner of administering oaths shall be "by requiring the person making the same to hold up his hand in token of his recognition of the solemnity of the act, except in those cases where it shall appear that some other mode is more in accordance with the religious faith of the swearer."

The bill fails to state whether the right or left hand shall be raised.

In addition to Mr. Bonaparte, the memorialists are Dr. Ira Remson, president of Johns Hopkins university and chairman of the pure food board of review; Dr. Charles F. Thwing of Cleveland, president of Western Reserve university; Thomas J. Morris, judge of the federal court for the district of Maryland since 1879; Col. William F. Stone, collector of customs at Baltimore and sergeant-at-arms of the republican national committee; J. Barry Mahool, former mayor of Baltimore; Edgar Allan Poe, just elected attorney-general of Maryland, and George

Whitelock, a Baltimore lawyer, chairman of the United States commission on uniform state laws.

An Associated Press dispatch says: Sydenham E. Ancona, eighty-seven years old, one of the few living members of the special session of congress of 1861, which met July 4 to declare a state of war against the confederacy, was paid an unusual honor in the house. Amidst cheers from both sides, the house took a recess of ten minutes to permit a reception for Mr. Ancona in front of the speaker's desk. Every representative in the house filed past the white-haired veteran and shook his hand. Mr. Ancona was introduced to the house by John H. Rothermel, now the occupant of the seat formerly held by Mr. Ancona as a representative of the Thirteenth Pennsylvania district.

By a vote of 300 to 1 the house of representatives passed the Sulzer resolution for the abrogation of the treaty with Russia made in 1832. This move was taken because of discriminations against American Jews.

Attorney General Wickersham, in his report as to the year's work in the department of justice, approved the dissolution plans of the Tobacco trust and pointed out the numerous prosecutions of the department. He also recommended that an executive bureau be created to supervise corporations chartered under a federal corporation act.

The national anti-saloon league convention demanded the dismissal of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson from President Taft's cabinet because he participated in the brewers' congress at Chicago.

**BAYING AT THE MOON**

The most mournful sound, and the most irritating to the nerves, in the whole category of noises, is that howling of a pack of hounds in the stillness of the night, when there is no discoverable reason for their canine wails. It is then that sleep slips away in the dark and patience rushes after in hot pursuit. It is then that tongue can scarce utter—so poor is language in a crisis—what the heart would fain express.

Somewhat familiar is the effect upon our nerves produced by the incessant barking of petty politicians and provincial papers at William J. Bryan. What is the occasion for it? Is it the fact that Mr. Bryan has had the courage to propose policies, and defend them, that have not met the approval of these parties? It might be well to remember that the best thought of today is rapidly moving in the direction of principles, for the declaration of which Mr. Bryan was once hooted and ridiculed. Is it that he has led his party to defeat so often? If so, it was in the fight against monopolistic interests and predatory wealth. And a survey of the past, since Mr. Bryan became a national figure, suggests the question whether the common people would not have found under his administration escape from the abominable conditions that have been foisted upon them by the party that defeated him. Surely it is not the fear that he may again be the nominee of the democratic party for the presidency. We do not, under the circumstances, consider this contingency in the realm of probability.

Then why? He is a man of unquestioned character and of unusual abilities. His voice and his pen have constantly found employment in the defense of the people against the encroachments of political intrigue and capitalistic greed. He has spent a life-time of sincere, though some might think mistaken, endeavors

to serve his country and to strengthen the foundations of righteousness. He has never been charged with, nor under suspicion of unholy alliance with political corruption or designing self-interest. In character, capacity and conduct William J. Bryan is high above the pack that snaps and snarls at his heels. Then why? It is this question that, frankly, we can not answer. We hear the howling but, rushing to the window, we can find nothing but the moon.

We can easily understand that certain politicians of the "loaf and fish" variety might dislike him, because he fears not to brand them when occasion requires. We can understand that papers afflicted with, or under control of, plutocratic interests might criticise him, for they fear him and his influence with the people. But we cannot understand, and we have no patience with, the incessant and gratuitous flings of men who have no occasion but to admire the man.

We do not take our queue from hostile politicians or press. Our estimate of Mr. Bryan is that he is a good and a great man; mistaken sometimes, as all fallible men are, but trying in all seriousness and all sincerity to serve the people. We think, therefore, that honest democrats, whose party principles he has never deserted—and we say this in full knowledge that he once scratched a candidate for governor of Nebraska—may well accord him continued admiration and respect, meanwhile bearing as patiently as possible the baying in the backyard. —Richmond Virginian.

**SPEAKING OF JUDGES**

United States Attorney Henry A. Wise of New York recently remarked in a public address: "But it has been difficult to send the rich to jail. The judges evidently think that they should have plenty of warning, and in case after case of this kind I have pleaded in vain for jail sentences."

Last week Judge Kohlsaat released the heads of the Beef trust upon writs of habeas corpus, and in so doing gave these indicted millionaires another long reprieve. It was in May, 1902, that the government commenced proceedings against the packers. And not one of the men has yet been tried.

The New York World is bitter in its opposition to the recall, and yet, in a recent editorial, it delivered these scathing comments upon the Chicago travesty on justice:

Yet this most odious of trusts, which draws its enormous profits from the monopoly and engrossment of one of the prime necessities of life, which extorts its tribute from rich and poor alike in every part of the United States, has been able for more than nine years to use the law's delay to ward off prosecution, and today not even the beginning of the criminal trial of its chief beneficiaries are in sight. What a reproach to American government and American jurisprudence! What a blot upon the administration of justice! —Denver News.

**WORSE**

Surgeon at a New York Hospital—"What brought you to this dreadful condition? Were you run over by a street-car?"

Patient—"No, sir; I fainted, and was brought to by a member of the Society of First Aid to the Injured." —Life.

**GOOD THINGS**

"Why, I always supposed old Tyte-Phist had more than his share of the good things of this world."

"The good things? Mister, he hain't got a blamed thing but a barrel of money and an appetite for another barrel of it." —Chicago Tribune.

**PROSPERITY AWAITS YOU! WHERE?**

**SEE REMARKS OF MEN OF NATIONAL REPUTATION:**

Speaker Champ Clark says: "Go South Young Man! Go South and Grow up with the Country." He should have added, "The Opportunity of your Fathers was in the West, but Your Opportunity is in the Gulf Coast Country of Texas."

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