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REFORM THE LAND LAWS.

How backward we are still is shown by the fact that no urgency of public opinion and no pressure of common honesty has yet succeeded in making the preliminary step—a reasonable reform of the land laws. The agencies of justice are employed in discovering and punishing land thieves whose crimes were invited by legislation apparently framed for their especial profit. The repeal of the desert land act, the timber and stone act, and the stringent enforcement of the provisions | darn poor job of it." of the homestead act are necessary to honest dealing with the land question. Speculators and land grabbers prevent this, while occasional Congressmen and Senators are smirched and disgraced by participating in land frauds. We have enlarged the unit of public acres for land reclaimed at great expense, although a large family could not passibly cultivate twenty acres of this land as it should be. Perhaps economy must be substituted for the extrayagance now too prevalent in every department of government before we can hope to see it supreme in land reclamation and distribution. But this plain business conception must be restored before the country can hope either to realize upon or re tain its most valuable resources,-World's Work.

THE COMING OF THE COMET

In a little while Halley's comet will be visible to the naked eye. It is rushing this way at the stupendous speed of about sixty miles a second. Compared with this speed, the swiftest projectile, fired from the most powerful gun, would seem to crawl through space. In an article in the Literary Magazine, P. Harvey Middleton tells briefly of the relation of this comet to history and what might happen if it actually hit the earth squarely, which it will not. You may safely say will not, for this author and other astronomers place the chance of such a calamity at about one to 281,000,000 chances for its passing harmlessly by. Some say the danger is even less than that; that it might not hurt us if it did hit. It is now assumed by many astronomers that Halley's comet is identical with the Star of Bethlehem, which appeared to the three Wise Men of the East on that most memorable date in history, the birth of Jesus. And for many centuries, it has been connected in the minds of the superstious with disasters of one kind or another, usually wars. Even now, if German and Britain should clash, or Japan and America go to war, there are many who would blame it on the comet. In 1026, when the comet was in sight, William of Normandy led his hosts on the conquest of England. In 1378 the comet spread itself across the heavens, and the church of Rome was rent in twain. In 1456 the comet came again, and Europe fought desperately against invading Turks. In 1531, it saw Pizarro wreck the empire of the Incas. In 1607 it marked the first English colony in America. In 1759 it looked down on the Plains of Abraham, where Wolfe and Mont- the farm, that six became bankers, calm decided the fate of a continent. four merchants, two lawvers, two In 1835, it came during the Seminole war. But we have warred a good deal without the light of comets, and intelligent men now regard these events as mere coincidences. The coming of the comet means little, in fact, except to the astronomers, and these are busy preparing for its reception. Expeditions will go to Australia and South America and Hawaii to study it, and everything is being placed in readiness. But few are afraid, which is well, for with comets, as with lesser visitors, worry doesn't keep them away, nor help entertain

them.—Atchison Globe.

JOSEPH G. CANNON.

years ago he was applauded for holding the mirror up to life, for picturesqueness and plainness have been so developed and nourished by the seer of Danville that without them he would be like President Taft without the expansive smile, like Theodore Roosevelt without the teeth and eyeglasses, like "Buffalo Bill" without exists cannot be denied. the long hair and slouch hat.

Cannon comes of Quaker parentage and was born in North Carolina in 1836. He spent his boyhood in Indiana, and later move to Illinois, where he has lived ever since, his home being in Danville. With the exception of one term, when he was kept at home by his constituents, he has been in Congress since 1872, or nearly four decades. Over a quarter of a century ago he was appointed by Speaker Carlisle a member of the committee on rules-the self-same committee over which the stirring battle has just been fought in Washington. For many years he was chairman of the committee on appropriation, and was known as "watchdog of the treasury."

Once upon a time, about eight years ago, Mr. Cannon dictated an autobio graphy to a Washington correspondent It was short, succient and characteristic. It ran: "Mr. Cannon was born of God-fearing and man-loving parents. He made himself, and he did a

In appearance Mr. Cannon is a rather slim man, about five feet and a half in height. Despite his 74 years he is as straight as an arrow. His rugged face is ornamented with a grizzled beard, his upper lip being shaved. He is quick and alert in his moveland for Alaska, in order to tempt dis- ments, his eyes have a youthful sparkhonesty there. We have made it 160 le. In conversation he is almost as

> In Washington years and years ago he became noted for his keenness in debate. He is a master of satire, of razor like edge. In the thirty-six years he has been at Washington Mr. Cannon has helped write many an important law. In the Forty-third Congress as member of the committee on postoffices and post roads he introduced a bill changing postal rates on se cond class matter, and aided in putting through the amendments prohibit ing the distribution of lottery tickets and obscene literature through the mails. At the beginning of the war with Spain Mr. Cannon as chairman of the committee on appropriations cautioned delay, but when it became evident that the war would come he put in the bill appropriating \$50,000,000 for national defense.

At Danville Speaker Cannon has what is regarded as one of the best equipped private libraries in the state and when at home he spends hours browsing on literature. He is ranked as a millionaire, having made his fortune in the street railroad and banking business and in investments in agricultural lands. In oratory Speaker Connon is galvanic. As he brings forth a new point he comes dancing forth on his tip-toes, swinging his arms like the sails of a Dutch windmill, upper cutting and parrying and swinging and sidestepping. There is a saying in Illinois that he would not be able to make a speech in a twentyfoot ring. His speeches are well interlarded with biblical quotations, an occasional bit of near profanity and always with parables and stories to back up each point.—The Union.

COUNTRY BOYS "MAKE GOOD."

The Columbus Dispatch has been conducting a discussion as to "what becomes of the boys from the farm?" the question having arisen in connection with a great general discussion concerning the present high cost of living. A farmer of Union county, Ohio, enters the discussion with a specific statement as regards the farm boys who went to school with him in a certain rural district fifty years ago. His list includes the boys of eleven farms, thirty-two youngsters in all.

Annalysis of this list shows that nine of the boys in question stuck to clerks of court, two dentists, two laborers, one a manufacturer, one a broker, one an agent for farm machinery, one a state senator and one United States senator and ultimately vice president of the United States.

"Such is the list," says the writer. 'Have they made good?" Now the school is abandonded and the children are hauled in a wagon to a central graded school. I wonder if, when they are proved out in the affairs of life they will make a better show-

ing than we have." We will readily agree that this latter-day school must needs "go some"

to make a record that outshines that For nearly a generation Speaker of these pioneer scholars, but the fact Joseph G. Cannon, the stormy petrel that so nany of these have "made of Congress whose wings were clipped good" is not so important and impres by the insurgents, has been a unique sive as the futher fact, developed by figure in public life. "The last of the the statement, namely, that nearly all frontier type of statesmen, of which of the farms in question are now farm-Lincoln was first"-when a celebrity ed by renters. This is an interesting said that of "Uncle Joe" some six fact, and as deplorable as interesting, since it is a sign of the degeneration of the American voeman stock to the low level of the European tenant. It signifies a trend toward modern feudalism. The case cited is an extreme one, and fortunately this trend is not so marked as would appear from the

"It is true that the boys have "made Biographically speaking, Speaker good," but it would seem that the farms that fostered them have not .--Pittsburg Sun.

THE LIBERTY OF CHILDREN.

If women have been s'aves, what shall I say of children; of the little children in alleys and sub-cellars; the little children who turn pale when they hear their fathers' footsteps; little children who run away when they only hear their names called by the lips of a mother: little children-the children of poverty, the children of crime, the children of brutality, wherever they are—flotsam and jetsam upon the wild, mad sea of life?-my heart goes out to them, one and all.

Children have the same rights that we have, and we ought to treat them as though they were humans. They should be reared with love, with kindness, with tenderness, and not with brutality.

When your little child tells a lie, do not rush at him as though the world were about to go into bankruptcy. Be honest with him. A tyrant father will have liars for his children; do you know that? A lie is born of tyranny upon the one hand and weakness upon the other, and when you rush at a poor little boy with a club in you hand, of course he lies.

take it in your arms; let the child know such was the tenor of the interview and gullible, both of which statements

fault, drive it from the door and say: "Never do you darken this house again." Think of that! And then these same people will get down on their knees and ask God to take care of the child they have driven from home. I will never ask God to take care of my children unless I am doing my level best in that same direction.

But I will tell you what I say to my children: "Go where you will; commit what crime you may; fall to what depth of degradation you may; you can never commit any crime that will shut my door, my arms, or my heart to you. As long as I live you shall have one sincere friend."

Do you know that I have seen some people who acted as though they thought that when the Saviour said: "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," he had a rawhide under his mantle, and made that remark simply to get the children within striking distance?

I do not believe in the government of the lash. If any one of you ever expect to whip your children again, l want you to have a photograph taken of yourself when you are in the act, with your face red with vulgar anger. and the face of the little child, with eyes swimming in tears and the little chin dimpled with fear, like a piece of water struck by a sudden cold wind. Have the picture taken. If that little child should die I cannot think of a sweeter way to spend an autumn afternoon than to go out to the cemetery, when the maples are clad in tender gold, and little scarlet runners are coming, like poems of regret, from the sad heart of the earth—and sit down upon the grave and look at that photograph, and think of the flesh, now dust, that you beat. I tell you it is wrong; it is no way to raise children! Make your home happy. Be home with them. Divide fairly with them

Give them a little liberty of love, and you cannot drive them out of your house. They will want to stay there. Make home pleasant. Let them play any game they wish.-Robert G. Ingersoll.

Particular.

"Waiter, bring me a finger bowl?" "There's your finger bowl, sir." "But that's only one."

"And do you want two, sir?" "Certainly I want two. You don't suppose I'm going to wash my left hand in the bowl I just washed my right hand in. do you?" - Yonkers

Free Handed.

Club waiter (fishing)-I dreamed less night, sir, that you gave me a sovereign. Stingy Member-Indeed, James! That's a little high for a tip, but-eryou may keep it.-London Telegraph.

Not Exactly a Compliment. Hewitt-Ignorance is bliss. Jewett-You'd better get your life insured. Hewitt-What for? Jewitt-You're liable to die of joy.-New York Times.

CONFUSION IN THE TEMPLE.

Lincoln democratic politicisms ad mit that the evidence is strong that two factions are rapidly forming to the democratic party which are bound to strive for the mastery in the convention and perhaps up until the primary result is known. None of them care to be quoted on the matter at this stage of the proceedings.

The one faction is headed by G.v. ernor Shallenberger, who has as his support 'he state organization as now constituted, and Gilbert M. Hitchcock, candidate for the United States senate. On the other side are the Ohio man's figures, but that the trend friends of W. J. Bryan, who have rallied to his support after he has been severely cruteised for announcing his support of county option It is said that W. H. Thompson has allied him self with this part of the party and will soon take a similar stand on the liquor question.

These rumors are backed by such facts as these: Returning democrats from the Syracuse dinner declared that much headway was made in an agree ment, tacit or otherwise, between Hitchcock and Shallenberger. Offi cials of the state organization includ ing Chairman Byrnes, spoke highly of both Hitchcock and Shallenberger, and criticised Bryan severely for the stand he had taken on county option. W H. Thompson was closeted with T. S. Allen for hours at a time while he was going to the Syracuse dinner and returning. Allen soon thereafter made it clain that he was for county option. It has been persistently rumored that Thompson is likely to do the same thing. Lincoln democrats, who are on the Bryan side, have been urging W. B. Price to get out of the race so that the county option vote would not be spilt. A conference between that candidate and C. W. Bryan resulted in no conclusion on the matter. It is said also that C. W. Bryan urged Price not to stand in the way of the success of the movement to When your child commits a wrong, committed. Mr. Price denies that of this he has been called weak-kneed that you really and truly and sincerely | but admits that he had a conference love it. Yet some Christians, good with C. W. Bryan on the matter of Christians, when a child commits a his candidacy. Whatever may have been the result of the conference, Price now says that he is in the race to stay and that he will be found there until the voters send him home.

Concerning the charge made by J C. Byrnes, chairman of the democratic state committee, that Mr. Bryan is now taking a stand directly divergent with that which he always encouraged and advised when he was running for office, Lincoln friends of Mr. Bryan declare it is absolutely false, that the liquor question was never an issue in any campaign in which Mr. Bryan was a candidate until 1908 and that then it did not extend beyond the legislature. They say that Brynes is talking about what he knows nothing because he never was identified with the party machinery until he went to the state senate in 1907.-Lincoln Jour-

AN EXAMPLE OF PROGRESS.

In 1850 Texas sold to the United States a strip of territory approximating 100,000,000 acres for \$10,000,000. Texas was larger than she is now and was in debt. The land was considered valuable and Texas needed the money. At an average valuation of \$10 an acre the land today would be worth a billion dollars. As a matter of fact, some of it is worth several times \$10 an acre and is all the time becoming more valuable.

There was opposition to the sale at the time, but it was ineffective. Those who favored the sale contended that the land was worthless and that the United States Government was buying an elephant. The Legislature thought is wise to sell, and the deal was put through. The territory sold now covers the eastern half of New Mexico, a corner of Oklahoma and Kansas and a strip of Colorado.

If Texas had retained that land she would today be about one third larger and a billion dollars wealthier than at present. The outcome is a striking illustration of the growth and progress of this country. - Louisville Courier Journal.

PRESIDENT TAFT PREFERS RESULTS.

President Taft has placed a definite program of legislation before congress nd, although sectional and factional interests have been the cause of much bickering and delay, yet the program steadily is making progress with but little and unimportant changes. President Taft knows that his administration will be finally tested by results, and with characteristic eagerness he has been pushing the forces at his command to keep all the party promises that have been made. He is not blind to the fact that the public has been put in a suspicious and critical attitude toward him. Although his way of doing things may not be exactly the same as those to which the American people have been lately accustomed, that is no sign that they are not thoroughly practical. His efforts have been to the point and he has been constantly pushing to have the entire program carried out that nothing of real importance on the administrative slate may be left over for the next

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In seeking to get results President Taft has not undertaken to be a trouble hunter, nor yet to make himwhich both he and W. J. Bryan are self a source of contention. Because re with foundation in fact. Although he does not court antagonisms to his proposed measures, yet he is steadily guiding the great federal legislative machinery and hopes to be able to stand before the people, when congress adjourns, with a finished program and promises transformed into real reform laws.—Omaha Bee.

A LITTLE PLEASANTRY.

on the Duchess According

"If seated next to a lady at dinner and if at a loss for a topic, touch lightly on the weather. Then turn to dress. It that fails, try a little pleas-

With these words from "Etiquette For the Populace" stamped upon his memory, Mr. Quickrich, who had made a million out of candles and thus gained a sudden entry into society, escorted the Duchess of Dash into the dining room. The multiplicity of forks and knives and spoons staggered him. The soup nearly made him faint. But he took his courage and an olive in both hands and launched forth pluck-

"Bloomin' dull day, duch, ain't it?" he began, recalling topic No. 1. "Ahem!" he coughed as he remembered the next topic, dress, "Er-do you wear flannel next the skin?" A marble shoulder nearly knocked him in the eye-a very cold and frigid

"Hum!" muttered Quickrich, "Rather 'ard to get along with. Let's see. I'll try a pleasantry." The Duchess of Dash's back was

finger and jabbed her in the ribs. "Click!" be cried playfully. And that absolutely did it, and him

self with it.-London Answers.

LIP BUTTONS.

Queer Ornaments Worn by Natives Northern Alaska.

Perhaps the most interesting archaeological discovery made on the north coast of Alaska has a relation to the present methods of personal decoration now used by the natives of Alaska, the most significant feature of which is the wearing of lip buttons, or labrets, by the men. The present custom is that when

boy is fourteen or sixteen years of age holes are pierced in his lower lip, one below each corner of the mouth. A small wooden plug is at first inserted to keep the hole from growing together, and month by month a bigger and bigger plug is used, till finally the openings are half an inch in diameter. At this point the young man begins to wear stone or ivory plugs. These ornaments are put in from the inside ordinarily as one might insert a button into a shirt front. Usually the two buttons worn are each of a different sort, while sometimes only one of the occasionally met with who wear no

buttons at all. When a visitor is seen approaching, however, the ornaments are always inserted, for one does not feel dressed without them. In preparing for sleep they are usually removed.-V. Stefansson in Harper's Magazine.

Life's Turning Points. The climacteric years are certain rears in a man's life that were long believed to be of peculiar significance to him as turning points in his health and fortune. These are the mystic number 7 and its multiples, with odd numbers, 21, 35, 49 and 63. The most important of all was the sixty-third year, which was considered tatal to most men.

Helping a Man to Suicide. It is remarkable how a suicide by a certain method or in a certain place will lead to another of the same kind. A surgeon of the Middlesex hospital in London went into a barber shop to be shaved. The barber spoke of a man who had been unsuccessful in an attempt to kill himself by cutting his throat

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"He could easily have managed it," said the surgeon, "had he been acquainted with the situation of the carotid artery."

"Where should be have cut?" asked the barber. The surgeon told him. He at once left the room, and, not returning as soon as was expected, the surered him in the yard with his head nearly severed from his body.-Lon-

Staggering. Suffragette-What is a party without women? Mere Man (dippantly)-A stag party. Suffragette - Exactly. And what, sir, would this nation be without women but stagnation?-Christian Register.

The Chief Requirement. "My boy seems to be the champion of the block.

"Good fighter, eh?" "Oh, no; merely a good judge of whom to mix it up with."-Washington Star.

Wanted Procf.

Nephew (to the returning aunt)were away? Aunt-Certainly. Nephew-Then open your trunk and let me see it.-Fliegende Blatter.



PLAN EARLY FOR SUMMER TOUR

PACIFIC COAST: From June 1st, low round trip excursion rates to the Pacific Coast, and on special dates April to July, still LOWER COAST EXCURSION RATES.

YELLOWSTONE PARK: All indications point to a larger number of Park Tourists during the summer of 1910 than ever before. The tour rates are very low, and include attractive diverse routes through Colorado and Salt Lake City.

TO THE EAST: Special rates will be in effect to eastern turned to him. He protruded a fore-cities and resorts. Definite announcements should be made within the next thirty days.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TOURS: Tourist rates during the summer to Denver, Estes Park and Colorado resorts, Hot Springs, S. D., Sheridan and Ranchester, Wyo., for the Big Horn region, Cody (gateway for Holm's personally conducted camping parties through the park), Thermopolis, Wyo., the coming wonderful Hot Springs resort (railway completed

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