

ers and the clubs should encourage them to purchase the things produced at home. She also announced that those wishing the establishment of a class in French should give their names to the secretary. A number of applications for such a class have been made, but ten names are required before starting a new department.

The year book will be issued as soon as the names of all members have been obtained and Mrs. Field made an appeal to the women to use their influence towards increasing the membership to at least 400.

A charming break in the reports was made by several musical numbers from Miss Clara Ferrenberg, a young soprano visiting Mrs. A. J. Sawyer. The music was received with great delight by all the ladies. Miss Ferrenberg sings with an ease and certainty that come from a thorough training. Her interpretation of the little ballads, two of which were in English and one in German, was exceedingly artistic, and strongly marked by her own individuality. She gave to the numbers an arch vivacity quite unusual among singers. Her songs were "Twas April," Nevin; "Swabian Maiden" Proch; and an old English ballad, "Mary of Argyle." Miss Anna Stewart was a skillful accompanist.

The leaders of the departments were each called upon for a short report. They announced their plans and the dates for their meetings, and cordially invited all the club members to enroll under their leadership. Mrs. F. M. Hall, leader of the art department, said that the work would be of a more practical nature than previously. She gave the outlines and the names of the speakers for the winter.

Mrs. Nellie M. Richardson, leader of parliamentary practice, spoke of the increasing knowledge of parliamentary procedure among cultivated club women and said she would have advanced work for former members in addition to the general principles for new members. The first meeting is next Tuesday at 3 p. m.

Mrs. Eli Plummer, leader of current events, said there would be some changes in her department. Roll call will be answered with items of news. Mrs. Plummer invited the good listeners as well as the talkers to her department. Miss Brackett, leader of the history department, announced that the study would relate to the middle colonies and the revolution. On Thursday afternoon of this week the class will begin the study of New York.

The program of the literature department under Miss Towne shows a union of fiction and Browning.

Mrs. Abel read the outlines for the child study department, which will begin next Saturday with a lecture on "Heredity" by Dr. Stein.

The household economics, Mrs. John A. Ames leader, will meet next Monday at 2:30 p. m. at the Y. W. C. A. rooms. The program was not announced.

Before adjourning to the tables where Mrs. I. N. Baker and Mrs. F. E. Labr were waiting to serve delicious ices, a motion was unexpectedly made by a lady that in the future the members should be requested to remove their hats at the meetings. Before putting it to a vote the president demurred slightly. She said that that was positively the last appearance of her summer hat and she would feel it a hard lot to be required to remove her new one. On amendment that the president and secretary were not included, the motion carried. The ladies lingered until twilight to discuss the plans and to meet old friends.

Is Griggon a good story teller?

Fine. He has been married eight years and his wife believes everything he tells her.

LETTERS TO "GREENBOY."

[J. H. TYNDALE.]

III.

It was my intention to give you a taste of so-called "imperialism" and its twin sister "militarism." While interest in the trust conference recently held in Chicago has not quite evaporated, it may be well to say something of trusts as a public issue, although I might as well pick up a live coal. It is small wonder that people call the trust question "a burning issue." It certainly is the dominating issue, whatever other hue and cry and worthless side issues may be raised.

More industrial trusts and monopolistic "combines" were formed in 1898 than in the entire quarter of a century since the Standard Oil Company—parent, guardian, and pattern of American monopoly—first began to destroy competition in illuminating gas.

All combinations of capital and identical or similar lines of business are trusts. Every trust fights shy of the word "monopoly." Yet the terms are practically identical. A patent will give you a monopoly with its profits. If you subsequently combine with coming competitors you form a trust and still monopolize a certain article or line of articles. The only difference is that the monopoly is at first in the singular number and later on in the plural. There is barely that difference between them attributed to the sultans of Turkey by the late Mr. Gladstone. He said that the only difference between the living and the dead Sultan was the difference between Abdul-Assiz and Abdul as Was.

It is contended that not all combinations of business and capital have illegitimate purposes and not all are attended with disadvantageous circumstances. While restricting competition, the trusts are credited with being the result of competition and the natural result of natural conditions. By consolidation of capitals, plants and the management, a goodly percentage of expense is eliminated and this makes possible the continued use of capital and the uninterrupted employment of labor.

It is admitted that consolidations mean loss of position and loss of employment to a great number of individuals and places some occupations on the retired list. The introduction of the sewing machine and other labor saving devices is pointed out as a parallel case. That the cases are not parallel needs no explanation from me.

But the toasted cheese in the trap at the end of a long trail of Limburger leading up to it, it is the solemn promise, backed by some well selected samples, that the price of all the necessities and comforts of life is cheapened to the consumers. This is the relatively small quantity of milk within the hard shell of the cocoa nut.

My dear boy! When the process of concentration has come to a completion the law governing both prices and wages will come to the front with irresistible force. The consumer will be charged the highest price that can be squeezed out of him. Such is human nature. The laborer will be paid the lowest wages upon which he can hold body and soul together. For such is human nature also.

The democratic party as now constituted has no very high opinion of the U. S. Supreme Court. I have. And these are the words used by the Supreme Court: "It is true the results of trusts or combinations may be different in different kinds of corporations. Yet they all have an essential similarity, and have been induced by motives of individual or corporate aggrandizement as against the public interest."

There are those who propose to

"smash" the trusts. They wish to do work such as Hercules is reputed to have accomplished by putting to death a variety of monsters "hydra-headed" and otherwise. "Octopus" is a favorite name for the trusts. Calling of names and all argument by invective is puerile. Yet this is what the democrats are just now engaged in. They rarely dwell in the realms of facts. Their business is to gallop on phantom steeds. If they had lived in the days of Julius Caesar, they would have objected to crossing the Rubicon because they might get their feet wet.

The other side of the medal has been ably presented by Bourke Cochran, who said in fact:

"The thing you are seeking 'to annihilate' is the great economic tendency toward association, which if suppressed in one form, will soon find expression in other shapes numerous and diverse. The power moving men toward these combinations is essentially like the law of gravitation, which can never be successfully 'annihilated' by statute, and, therefore, we ought to direct our attention to the more reasonable task of limiting and regulating these great agencies rather than the impossible project to overthrow them altogether."

The absolute evils of trusts are perhaps best understood by those who recognize the tendency to combination and to production on a large scale as something to be regulated and controlled rather than to be annihilated. The remedy seems to lie in the direction of withholding any and all kinds of special privileges. The ready possibility and probability of competition is sufficient to prevent combinations from taking on monopolistic characteristics.

In all this muddle, keep this in mind as a central theme. "The support of trusts or even their passive toleration is equivalent to a childish belief in the stability of human nature."

HERE AND THERE IN OMAHA.

The Trans-Mississippi exposition left one mark of its presence behind it in Omaha and, that is the concert garden, or as it might more appropriately be called the beer garden. These resorts are a cross between the roof gardens of the eastern and more pretentious cities and the little cooped-up family resorts found at the rear of many saloons in Nebraska towns. There is usually a saloon in connection with the Omaha variety and there is always a bar in the room or near by, from which waiters carry drinks to all parts of the house while the "performance" is going on.

As for the performances they are risque. There is usually a "prima donna" soprano with a cracked voice that sounds like an old fashioned organ with the wheezy tremolo stop on in full blast. She wears gowns that once decked a better singer, but in their faded splendor they carry a hint of genteel shabbiness. Of course there are dancers—a concert garden without dancers is very like dinner without soup. They come out and pirouette about in abbreviated skirts and turn somersaults and all that sort of thing—just the same old dances that were used in grandfather's time, and then shy behind the scenes to wait the next turn.

Of course there is a sleight of hand man and he does some tricks, bad enough goodness knows, and then there is more singing and the show comes to a close with everybody on the stage ragging and singing at the top of beery voices. By this time the sodden men and women who have had the temerity to stay through the whole show are just mellow enough to enjoy anything, and they all join in with the singers on the stage with a wild hurrah. Then they stagger to their feet and stumble towards the door. The lights go out one by one, until there is but one faint gas jet in the great room and the ghostly shadows fill the barlike place—empty

and cheerless, and the rats have full sway until another night.

In speaking of his garden one prominent manager said "We do not expect to do much business here until after the exposition is over. We simply try to keep up expenses until then, for the Midway does all that sort of business during the summer and fall. But I tell you we don't care about that. You see the Midway has taken the curse from places like this. It has educated the people of Omaha and they don't think it so bad to come in and drink beer and listen to the shows. Formerly, only the lowest classes patronized us, but now we have a clientele among a better class of people and you would be surprised to see what men and women will drop in during the course of the afternoon and evening. This winter we expect to do a big business and are preparing to put on pretty good shows."

It was at a banquet at the Her Grand hotel. The table was bright with flowers and wine sparkled in glasses about the white board. The talk drifted to literary subjects. Some one remarked "That was too bad about Mrs. Peattie's cottage in Michigan burning up wasn't it?" "Yes," remarked another one, "they say that about fifty of her manuscripts perished in the flames". "D—good advertisement that," said the old newspaper man, "It certainly meant a notice in the associated press," and with that the talk drifted to other subjects.

Some men aspire to social place
And some in battle seek renown,
While others crook the servile knee
And bend the neck to wear a crown;
And some will ask a wreath of bay
Before they barter self away.

Some men will sell themselves for wine
But some demand a purse of gold,
While others for a woman's smile
Consent to be ignobly sold;
For one and all are made of dust
And have their price in greed or lust.

Some men demand a higher price
And some sell out for but a song,
But high or low, or rich or poor,
Or good or ill, or right or wrong,
Each soul, however, clad in mail
Some weakness has wherein to fall.
—William Reed Dunroy.

"I am now," said the barkeeper, as he took the seedy gentleman by the collar. "going to kick you down the street."
"If you please," said the seedy gentleman, resignedly, "would it be any more trouble to kick me up the street, as that is the direction in which I am going?"—Indianapolis Journal.

The Poet—Poets like others have to begin at the foot.
She—Is that the reason why a poet's head has such a neglected look?

Bighead—In hear that England is going to fight the boers.
Bumper—Good idea. There are a lot of bores in this country that I'd like to see licked.

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