

## OUR SCHOOLS.

PAPER NO. 2.

BY PROF. WILLIAM H. HAND.

Beggary Salaries for Teachers. The services of a bank cashier, of a bookkeeper, of a carpenter, and a school teacher have a market value. The market value of these services is based upon what the employer feels that the employed is worth to the business. What value have the people of South Carolina put upon the services of a white school teacher? Last year the State paid an average salary of \$267, a year, or \$45.87 a month for a little less than six school months in the year. This salary is lower even by the month than the wages of an experienced dry goods salesman, or a competent stenographer. By the year, the salary of a teacher does not compare with that of the unskilled carpenter, or plasterer, or bricklayer. Almost every town of 2,000 people in the State pays by the month, higher wages to its policeman than to its women school teachers. Men teachers are paid a little better, but beggary salaries have run almost all the men out of the schoolroom.

"As will be seen by the various figures I have given, either men or women working in the cotton mills and exercising less patience are readily making more money than the average public school teacher."—August Kohn, in The Cotton Mills of S. C.

It is reasonable to expect the services of competent men at \$50 and \$70 a month, and competent women at \$35 and \$40 a month, for a few months in the year? The answer involves a very simple question in economics. It has cost either men or women from four to six years in time, and from \$800 to \$1500 in money, and it is fitted to teach. And if either is fitted to teach, his preparation fits him for something decidedly better pecuniarily. If neither is fitted to make more than \$267 a year in some other vocation, he is on the high way to penury.

Why do our people pay no more for teaching? Is it due to poverty? There was a time when that explanation could have been given, but not so now. We have on every hand too many evidences of plenty and even luxury to accept any such excuses now. The real explanation is hard to admit. These salaries represent the valuation our people place upon education. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Our people rate the education of their children when they employ teachers, somewhat as they rate their land when they visit the tax list.

Our people are well able to pay better salaries, only after they have come to appreciate the value of better teachers and better schools. Many of the praises of good schools are more lip-service.

Incompetent Teachers. To discuss this feature of our schools is very distasteful, but it must be done, and done fearlessly. Every well-informed person knows that our schools are burdened with a host of incompetent teachers, persons fitted neither by nature nor by training. Such teachers waste the money of the children, ruin the children themselves, and discredit teaching itself. They know nothing about what to teach, and even less about how to teach, and again I have said in schoolrooms watching the blind blunderings of teachers plodding through recitations without ever getting hold of a teaching fact or a teaching principle, until my very heart ached in sympathy for the children who had to endure it all. Yet I have gone out from such scenes to be told with pride in three hours they had a fine teacher. The travesty of such teaching is bad enough, but when the patrons are pleased with it, it becomes pathetic. I can put my finger on the names of dozens of white school teachers who could not to-day pass an examination in the eighth grade in the Columbia city schools. Yet to these incompetents are entrusted the education of children, and the people are satisfied, and are paying to them the children's money.

I know teachers by name who go to their schoolrooms day after day without having studied a single lesson they are supposed to teach. Some of them do not own a single book that they are attempting to teach. How can such a teacher succeed? If he has in him nothing of the student, how can he expect to inspire a pupil with the zeal of the student? To such a teacher the name of Spencer and Arnold and Mann are but sound-buzz brass and tinkling cymbals. Some teachers and some patrons bank largely on the teacher's experience. Experience is an excellent thing when coupled with other qualifications, but when divorced from them, experience is to teaching precisely what it is to the practice of medicine—it kills as often as it cures.

Scholarship, studiousness, training, and energy are all necessary to the highest success in teaching, but there is another qualification which far outweighs all these combined "manhood." The personality of the teacher is the factor to take hold of the life of a child and guide him upward to the limit of the child's capacity. Is the teacher's life worthy of being reflected in the life of every child he teaches? If not, he is incompetent. Will your teacher measure up to this standard?

Why are so many incompetent teachers employed? There are several reasons. The one most obvious is, that such teachers can be had cheap. Most people wish to keep open their schools a reasonable length of time, and the pittance in the school treasury will not employ a competent teacher for long. Hence, a cheap teacher is the horse-jockey who is put in charge of the school. When ever a school board goes out to find a cheap teacher, it succeeds in getting a cheap one in every sense. If a man goes to the market with seventy-five cents with which to purchase a dollar article, he need not be surprised to get shoddy. A school board need not expect to get a \$750 teacher for \$267. Why will not a \$1000 man teach school for \$500? Simply because he has sense enough to teach school. To-day in South Carolina any competent man teacher of two years' experience can get a nine-months school at from \$10 to \$100 a month. School boards are advertised for such. Why should I be willing to teach your school for \$50 or \$60 a month when I can get \$100 a month elsewhere? When corn is selling at one dollar a bushel, will I offer mine at sixty cents—if it is marketable? Does the school board hunting a cheap teacher catch the meaning?

However, there are other and more serious reasons why we have so many incompetent teachers. There is the daughter of the local trustee who must have some of the school fund with which to buy her clothes. What difference does it make if she has had no other education than that which she received in the very school she is going to try to teach? What difference does it make if she knows no more than some of her most advanced pupils? What difference does it make if she never saw an educational journal or a book on the art of teaching? What difference does it make if she is but eighteen years old, and without a practical experience in teaching or in life itself? Then, there is poor widow Smith's daughter. The mother is poor and the daughter is in poor health, perhaps. Really the community owes both something, and the district school is the easiest charity to bestow. The uneducated daughter can somehow drag through the recitations, and manage to keep the big boys inside the school house. She gets the school, and the people solace themselves by thinking that they have done "a might good thing."

Then, again, there is Mrs. Brown, 70 years old. No one ever accused her of being educated, or in any other way of being fitted to teach school, but she taught school just before the war, or just after the war. Some enemy to competence advocates her election, remarking that "She is a mighty good teacher; I went to school to her forty years ago, in fact, she learnt me about all I ever was learnt." Mrs. Brown keeps the school house open most of the time for six months, draws \$150 of the defenseless children's money, and the community feels gratified over its act of pious gratitude. I hope that I am not misunderstood in this last example. I am glad to know that some teachers at seventy years of age, educated and vigorous, are able to do effective work, even in the common schools. Old age and misfortune should be gracefully remembered and cared for, but not at the expense of the education of our children. Pensions should be paid outside the school house, not inside.

There is yet a more serious reason of so many incompetent teachers—more serious, because they are here under the sanction of law. Hundreds of incompetent teachers are in our schools because of the vicious system by which certificates are granted and renewed. I disclaim any intention whatever of casting any reflection against any set of persons, but under the present system we need not go to get rid of inefficiency among our teachers or the common schools. Let us face the facts: Teachers' certificates are granted by the county boards of education, composed of the county superintendent and two lay members appointed by the State superintendent upon the recommendation of the county superintendent. The county superintendent must go every two years to ask the people to vote for him. Many of the people who help to elect the superintendents expect a return of favors. These superintendents must sit in judgment upon the efficiency of applicants to teach school. We are some of these applicants? Sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, of men who helped to elect the county superintendent. Now, it would be an insult to intimate that any honest county superintendent would violate his honor by granting intentionally an unmerited certificate, but it requires no sagacity to see the undesirable situation of the superintendent in such contingency. He ought to be relieved of any such embarrassment.

It may be appropriate to give the facts concerning a few cases of abuse in granting certificates. The writer knows of more than one teacher that holds a first grade certificate, but that has never stood any examination whatever, though not exempt by law. Another is the case of a teacher holding a first grade certificate for over ten years, but stopped teaching long enough to let her certificate expire. Later she returned to teaching, and on taking the examination failed to make a grade high enough for any certificate at all. Question: How did she get a certificate, and why was it renewed from year to year without examination? Some county boards have made such records for brightness in granting certificates that any other county board feels safe in renewing one of the former's certificates; while a few have made such unenviable reputations in granting these certificates that no other board is willing to renew a certificate issued by the former. These are unpalatable facts.

Many claim that good teachers are secured by accepting diplomas of reputable institutions of higher learning. This plan is faulty. In our section of the country the term college has no definite meaning; there is nothing by which one college can be legally differentiated from another. Therefore all college graduates are accepted in the schools on equal terms. It is a fact well known to all educators that a person may in the course of ten years not only fail to improve as teaching grows better, but actually grow inferior. Besides, some college courses offer teacher training, some claim to do so, while others make no claim at all. Yet another defect must be taken into account: A student with very poor preparation may go through a fairly reputable college, taking only academic work, only to find himself generally ignorant of the common school subjects which he is required to teach. The best colleges are the most willing to submit to examinations for teachers' certificates. The inferior college and its graduates are very much opposed to these examinations. No further comment is necessary.

The certification of teachers ought to be in the hands of a competent State Board, appointed to that office.

## BRYAN FACETIOUS

OINTED CRITICISM OF TAFT AND

ROOSEVELT.

Many Things With Regard to Which Republicans Have Come to His Way of Thinking.

William J. Bryan left Lincoln, Neb., Tuesday for Chicago and thus began a three weeks' campaign tour, which will carry him into the middle West, the eastern states and back through the West into South Dakota before returning home.

Perhaps no recent news afforded the Democratic candidate for president so much interest as the announcement that Mr. Taft proposed making a campaign tour. Mr. Bryan regarded his opponent's decision as a distinct vindication of his course in the present, as well as his two previous campaigns, when he trekked over the country and delivered sixty speeches.

When asked if he had any comment to make on the subject, Mr. Bryan said:

"Well, I am getting a great deal of consolation out of the way the president and Mr. Taft have been doing. I used to be called hard names because I advocated an income tax and now the income tax has been endorsed by the president and Mr. Taft. I used to be utterly denounced because I favored railroad regulation. Now the president and Mr. Taft have brought that reform into popularity and I am no longer considered dangerous. I used to get a good deal of criticism because I favored tariff reform, but now tariff reform has become so urgent that Mr. Taft is willing to have a special session called immediately after inauguration to act on the subject. It used to be that when I talked about independence for the Philippines I was told the American flag never came down when it once went up. Now we have a Republican candidate for the presidency who believes the Philippines must ultimately have independence."

"But I have reason to rejoice over the fact that some of the things I have done are now viewed in a more favorable light. When I made some phonograph records in order that I might discuss political questions before more people, the Republican papers ridiculed me and called it undignified, but Mr. Taft has lifted the phonograph to eminence by talking into it himself."

"And now my greatest sin is to be a virtue by imitation. Surely imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." When I went out campaigning in 1896 and 1900 they said it was demagogic to run around over the country hunting for votes. Now it is eminently proper since Mr. Taft is going to do it, and I hope the Republican papers will make due apologies."

"They said in 1896 and 1900 that I was scared when I made speeches from the rear end of a train, and I was and the result showed that I had reasons to be. I have been wondering whether this explanation would be given when Mr. Taft starts out and whether the result will be the same with him that it was with me."

"It is hard for us to keep our patients from being infringed on this year. I am afraid they will try to raise a campaign fund by popular contributions next."

**Aged Veteran Commits Suicide.**  
At Birmingham yesterday Robert Wiltse, an old veteran, shot himself.

After all, our bread doesn't fail "butter side down" more than half the time.

Those who think they have all religion are the ones who most need to worry whether they have any.

Lots of people let their daily manna spoil while they pray for butter and sugar to spread on it.

The abuse of worship as an end does not prevent its value as a help.

**Better Prices Coming.**

We believe that cotton will advance in price in a short time. The damage reports of the crop from all parts of the cotton belt indicate that the crop of 1908 cannot possibly reach figures which the trade is generally expecting. The probability of only a normal supply of raw cotton this season to meet the world's demand for the next twelve months; and fill the already depleted gaps in exhausted supplies, should not only tend to encourage farmers to stand for good prices, but should advance the price of cotton even in the face of "Bearish" manipulation. The effort of foreign spinners, backed by speculation, to depress the price of cotton to 8 cents within the thirty days, will fail. There is absolutely nothing upon which to base a demand for such low prices, except the selfish greed of those who might be personally benefitted under such a contingency. We look for cotton to advance in price in the next few weeks.

**The Chicago Inter-Ocean** thinks that "the Democratic party is showing a cohesive tendency that is disquieting."

So as to keep in the limelight Roosevelt had a report sent out that some one tried to shoot him a few days ago.

and with certain well-defined qualifications. Still, a man or woman may pass an excellent examination, but prove a dismal failure in the schoolroom. Such can be eliminated only through a responsible and competent supervisor. Until some such plan is adopted, we may make up our minds to having our schools filled with inferior teachers. Supt. Martin recommended last year a beginning in the direction of reform in these matters, and the General Assembly showed a commendable willingness to take some action, but failed to do so.

William H. Hand, University of South Carolina.

## AFTER IT IS PICKED.

FARMERS LOOSE MILLIONS OF

DOLLARS BY THE

Careless Handling of Their Cotton

After It Is Gathered and Being Prepared for Market.

Every year cotton farmers worry themselves almost into nervous prostration over the matters of seed selection, excess of moisture, drought, "firing," army worms, rust, boll weevil and a dozen other ills to which the growing plant is subject. But when the staple has come to maturity and been harvested (in a more or less careless and wasteful manner), what do they do? This is the question propounded and answered by the Savannah News.

Beginning with the picking and running through to the final marketing there is a tremendous amount of waste, roughly estimated to amount to more than a million dollars per crop. The "clean" picker is the exception rather than the rule. The average picker, hustling to get out the greatest number of pounds in the shortest space of time, leaves many ripe bolls unopened to take the weather and drops other open cotton upon the ground to be trampled and lost. In hauling to the gin, much more cotton is lost through careless handling. In ginning modern methods have made the losses inconsiderable, which is also true of baling. But after the fleece has been followed the greatest loss of cotton is "parked" in the open air, and most inexcusable losses of all good deal of criticism because I favored tariff reform, but now tariff reform has become so urgent that Mr. Taft is willing to have a special session called immediately after inauguration to act on the subject. It used to be that when I talked about independence for the Philippines I was told the American flag never came down when it once went up. Now we have a Republican candidate for the presidency who believes the Philippines must ultimately have independence."

The farmer will watch his growing crop as carefully as he would a sick child, and then, after the cotton is ginned, permit it to be baled badly and rolled out into the open to take the sun and rain as they come. It is not an uncommon sight to see hundreds, even thousands, of bales of cotton "parked" in the open air, at a shipping point, the bales ragged and unkempt, and without protection against water or fire; and the same sort of thing is true on a great many farms. The producer seems to labor under the impression that his duty to this crop ends when he has got it picked and baled. He will see his bales get soaked in a heavy rain without "turning a hair," or he will see the bales rolled through mud puddles without entering a protest. But if he were to see a bug in his growing crop he would have a nervous chill.

Bad baling inflicts a tremendous loss upon the cotton growers every year. It is unreasonable to suppose that spinners will pay as much for a bale that is dirty and wet and rotten on the outside as they will for a bale that is clean and dry. It is against the very common sense of things that they should do so, Indian cotton nearly always reaches the spinner in excellent condition, because great care is taken in the baling of it and the bales are always kept in good order. When the Indian bale is broken open at the mill there are no 10, 20 or 30 pounds to be thrown out as unfit for spinning, as is very often the case with American bales.

Efficient packing of cotton, of course, costs a little more than poor packing, and there is some expense attached to the packing of bales. But these added costs are, in the long run, real economies.

**Rural Information.**  
The lost traveler accented the freckled lad astride the gate post.

"No way, how far is it from here to the next town as the crow flies?"

"Dunno, mister, I ain't no crow."

"Well, which is the best way to go to the pike?"

"Hit it any way you want, it ain't got no feeling."

"Tut, tut, my boy; don't be so fazeous, and tell me if I can make the next car."

"Hardly. It's already made."

The traveler frowned and removed the perspiration from his brow.

"You appear to be a pretty smart youngster."

"No, half as smart as my brother, mister."

"Hi, hi! What made him smart?"

"Why, he fell into a yellow jack's nest."

**Grandfather or Grandmother.**  
A brewer in Philadelphia says that one morning he observed an unusually expansive smile on the face of the jovial German who is foreman at the establishment. An interesting event had occurred at the home of the German the night before.

"I congratulate you, Hans," smilingly said the employer. "Of course the new arrival is a wonder!"

"Of course it is," was the emphatic reply. "His baby weighs more and fatter than mine!"

"Splendid! And is it a boy or a girl?"

"A girl!" replied the foreman in chagrin. "In der excitement I had forgot to find out whether it was a grand-father or a grand-mother!"

**Preparing to Get Even.**  
"Yes," he said, "I wish to adopt a girl."

"A little girl?"

"No, a girl old enough to have energy and perseverance and one who has had enough experience with the piano to make her think she knows how to play it. And if she thinks she can sing, why, so much the better. I tell you, I am going to get even with the people in the next life, even if I have to adopt two musical prodigies."—Lippincott's.

**The Galveston News** thinks that "Another thing needed in this country is justice that will put the man behind the gun behind the bars."

Proving the crookedness of other lives will not straighten your own.

When a man brags of his square dealing look out for the sharp edges.

This world is always godforsaken to those who have forsaken the good.

## SIMPLE DIAMOND TESTS.

Unwary Pawnbrokers Have Been Deceived by Stone Fakers.

"There are few persons," remarked a jeweler, "who are able to purchase a diamond on the strength of their own knowledge and observation and without placing implicit confidence in the man who sells the stone. It is a fact that even pawnbrokers have often been taken in by jewelry and precious stone fakers."

"Although it takes many years of actual observation and experience, there are a few simple tests which will considerably aid a buyer of diamonds. One test is to prick a needle hole through a card and look at the hole through the doubtful stone."

"If the latter is spurious two holes will be seen, but if it is a diamond only one hole will be visible. Every imitation stone which resembles a diamond gives a double reflection, while the diamond's reflection is single."

"This is a delicate test, because it is difficult to see even a sharp and defined object through a diamond. The single reflection of the diamond also allows one to determine an uncertain stone."

"If the finger is placed behind it and viewed through the stone with a watchmaker's glass, the grain of the skin will be plainly seen if the stone is not a diamond. But if it is a diamond the grain of the skin will not be distinguished at all."

"A diamond in solid settings may be identified in the same manner. If genuine the setting at the back cannot be discerned, but if it is a phony stone the foil or setting will be seen."

"There is no acid which has any perceptible effect upon a genuine diamond. Hydrofluoric acid, if it dropped on a stone made of glass, will corrode it, and at a late hour on the night he called Mr. Bryan, then at Terre Haute, Ind., on the long-distance telephone. Mr. Bryan was informed, as Mr. Taft had been, that the banquet would be a non-political one, and that it would be held under the auspices of a non-partisan organization. He readily agreed to attend. The deep waterways project is favored by the leaders of both parties and is not, therefore, a subject over which any political discussion is expected."

There will be no question as to which of the candidates will occupy the right-hand seat. It will be occupied by Mr. Taft at the expense of the Democratic candidate and his friends. Chairman Mack declared that Mr. Taft, as a recent member of the present Administration, was clearly entitled to the place of honor at the feast. The Ohioan, therefore, will sit at the right-hand of President Hall, and the Nebraskan on the other.

The meeting of the two candidates will differ from the meeting of the National Capital and in the State of Illinois forty-eight years ago, when Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas began their famous debates by reason of the inhibition placed on political discussion.

President Hall said that an attendance of about 1,000 persons was expected at the banquet. In addition to the great banquet room of the Auditorium, the rooms adjoining on the ninth floor of the Fine Arts building have been secured, and the whole will be thrown together for the occasion.

Managed by Trust Magnates.

It is only necessary to consider the personnel of the finance and executive committees with which Mr. Taft has surrounded himself in the present campaign to verify Mr. Bryan's charge that the Republican party is still in the hands of the Trust Magnates who will be allowed to continue to plunder the people should Taft be elected. Among the men serving on both committees are Wm. Nelson Cromwell, the personal and legal representative of E. H. Harriman and probably the most conspicuous trust lawyer in the country; Geo. Rumsey Sheldon, a Wall street magnate and multi-millionaire; Frederick W. Upham, of Chicago, a millionaire many times over; Charles F. Brooker, of Connecticut, broker and vice president of the N. Y. N. H. and H. railroad; Frank O. Lowden, son-in-law of Geo. Pullman and vice president of the Pullman Car Company; T. C. DuPont, member of the DuPont Powder company, against which a suit for its dissolution is now pending in the federal courts for the way in which it milked the United States treasury in powder contracts, and Bois Penrose, the political heir of Boies Quay in Pennsylvania and the chief manipulator of Philadelphia's corrupt political machine. Any one who believes that these men would favor a revision of the tariff or any other measure that would benefit the masses must be simple minded.

**A Cure for Sickness.**  
A chat with a hardy Breton fisherman brought forth this novel cure for sickness. While the old man told of the storms that he had been through, the narrow escapes he had had, and the long journeys he had taken, he was interrupted by the question, "And sicknesses? Were you ever sick?" "Never," replied the old man, "and I'll tell you the reason if you like to hear—I never went on any ship without taking a little mirror in my pocket. As soon as I felt the sickness coming on, I looked in the glass, and all symptoms passed away. I got the cure from my father, and I never knew it to fail." The receipt is easily tried, and if it does not convince the skeptical there is the consolation that no loss need be entailed by giving it a chance.—P. T. O.

**What the Waiter Had.**  
"In Omaha," says a New Yorker, whose business keeps him on the road quite a bit, "the general breeze of the West is shared by the waiters in the restaurants."

"A legal light of that town recently entered a restaurant and was immediately approached by a waiter, who observed cheerfully:

"I have deviled kidneys, pigs' feet, and calves' brains."

"Have you?" coolly asked the lawyer. "Well, what are your troubles to me? I came here to eat."

He has no force with men who have no faith in them.

It's easy to get tangled up in truth's cutoff clothes.

People who are true blue never suffer much from the blues.

Whether life shall be desert depends on the springs in your heart.

There's one unfading cure for the blues; brighter some other life.

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## WILL DINE TOGETHER.

BRYAN AND TAFT WILL BE

CHIEF GUESTS AT BANQUET.

Two Rival Candidates for Presidency

To Meet at Same Board and Address Same Audience.

For the first time in the history of modern politics two rival candidates for the Presidency of the United States will meet at the same board and address the same audience, when Wm. H. Taft, Republican, of Ohio, and Wm. Jennings Bryan, Democrat, of Nebraska are to be the guests of honor at the annual banquet of the Chicago Association of Commerce at the Auditorium on the evening of October 7.

This announcement was made Friday at the headquarters of the Chicago Association of Commerce, which organization already had secured assurances of the presence of the two Presidential nominees on different days for the third Convention of the Lakes-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterway Association, for which the Association of Commerce will act as host.

Mr. Taft's acceptance was obtained by President Richard C. Hall, Vice President E. S. Conway and Secretary T. E. Wilder, of the Association, who returned to Chicago from Cincinnati Friday.

The long-distance telephone figured prominently in the negotiations to secure the presence of Mr. Bryan at the banquet. The invitation had been under serious consideration of the Norman E. Mack, chairman of the Democratic national committee, for some time, and at a late hour on the night he called Mr. Bryan, then at Terre Haute, Ind., on the long-distance telephone. Mr. Bryan was informed, as Mr. Taft had been, that the banquet would be a non-political one, and that it would be held under the auspices of a non-partisan organization. He readily agreed to attend. The deep waterways project is favored by the leaders of both parties and is not, therefore, a subject over which any political discussion is expected."

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President Hall said that an attendance of about 1,000 persons was expected at the banquet. In addition to the great banquet room of the Auditorium, the rooms adjoining on the ninth floor of the Fine Arts building have been secured, and the whole will be thrown together for the occasion.

Managed by Trust Magnates.

It is only necessary to consider the personnel of the finance and executive committees with which Mr. Taft has surrounded himself in the present campaign to verify Mr. Bryan's charge that the Republican party is still in the hands of the Trust Magnates who will be allowed to continue to plunder the people should Taft be elected. Among the men serving on both committees are Wm. Nelson Cromwell, the personal and legal representative of E. H. Harriman and probably the most conspicuous trust lawyer in the country; Geo. Rumsey Sheldon, a Wall street magnate and multi-millionaire; Frederick W. Upham, of Chicago, a millionaire many times over; Charles F. Brooker, of Connecticut, broker and vice president of the N. Y. N. H. and H. railroad; Frank O. Lowden, son-in-law of Geo. Pullman and vice president of the Pullman Car Company; T. C. DuPont, member of the DuPont Powder company, against which a suit for its dissolution is now pending in the federal courts for the way in which it milked the United States treasury in powder contracts, and Bois Penrose, the political heir of Boies Quay in Pennsylvania and the chief manipulator of Philadelphia's corrupt political machine. Any one who believes that these men would favor a revision of the tariff or any other measure that would benefit the masses must be simple minded.

**A Cure for Sickness.**  
A chat with a hardy Breton fisherman brought forth this novel cure for sickness. While the old man told of the storms that he had been through, the narrow escapes he had had, and the long journeys he had taken, he was interrupted by the question, "And sicknesses? Were you ever sick?" "Never," replied the old man, "and I'll tell you the reason if you like to hear—I never went on any ship without taking a little mirror in my pocket. As soon as I felt the sickness coming on, I looked in