EVENING LEDGER-PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1914.

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ULARE MAD	1. MATTER.
BILADELPHIA, WEDNESD	AY, DECEMBER 16, 1914.

Imbecilie Economy

BELABORING high prices has been a popular enough pastime to drive a couple of million men out of work and into soup houses. By now it may be beginning to dawn on citizens in general that something for a nickel when you haven't got the nickel is a whole lot more expensive than the same thing for a dime when you have that piece of silver at your disposal.

High prices are the barometer of pros-They indicate a healthy condition perity. in the business world, plenty of work at good wages, smoking chimneys, buzzing wheels. It is easy to find low prices. Go into the backwoods or settle in an agricultural community where poverty hangs on the sessons and the fruits of civilization are as far off as the Garden of Hesperides. There are islands in the South Seas where money is unknown. Eggs are cheap there, and fish and air. Clothes cost nothing because there are none

That is what we have been straining to get away from. Humanity has been thinking and laboring and struggling and sweating for centuries to get up and away from such stagnation. Its intelligence has been co-ordinated and its stamina tested in the proa digious battle. And when by the mercy of Providence and the magnificent application of genius we have progressed so far that the push of a button turns night into day and the push of another brings into our kitchens the riches of all lands and countries, when we have made the metals our servants and the hidden forces of nature our slaves, there burst forth loud protests from vociferous gentlemen of the "I-wish-for-the-good-old-days" type, and they actually succeeded in convincing a large part of the people that the high cost of living was ruining them.

We have had a taste of theoretical low prices. We have seen what it means to set the clock back. There is a happy mean, neither too high nor too low, but under ordinary conditions the law is inexorable that high prices connote real prosperity, an abundance of money, the capacity to get the things that money will buy. As between our mills running and a few cents more for their products and our mills not running at all there can be but one decision. We need legislators who can grasp the idea of the middle ground and not spend their time devising new methods of smashing profits. Inventive genius is the greatest safe depressant of high prices that we have. Our lawmakers, on the other hand, begin by trying to depress prices and

all of the politicians of the land will be with the Senate, but most of the straightforward, unsophisticated people will side with the President. At any rate the impasse should have been avoided by the exercise of a little fact.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

HAIL to the triumvirate! The mogul maximus and the moguls minimi, so to say, have met and conferred and decided. To this part of the program Mr. Vare will attend and to that Mr. McNichol will give his attention; for even as julcy contracts must be divided fairly between the two, so likewise must the lawmaking of the Commonwealth be equitably distributed between them. So has it been decided and so will it be done.

Most of the things on which Philadelphia has set her heart she will get, say the mighty three, for great operations require contracts and contracts require contractors, and there are no contractors who stand a chance except the two who are going to see that the Legislature does the right thing. How fortunate it is that the needs of these gentlemen and the necessities of Philadelphia point the same way!

But as for smaller Councils and good government, nay, nay; it must not be. Who's kicking, anyway? If the Organization is willing to provide scores of Councilment with the means of livelihood and the appurtenances thereto, at the expense of the taxpayer, who so vile as to object? Besides, the pickings have been too rich under the old plan to gamble with a new one. This is a free country and we have a right to be governed the way we like, by a mogul maximus and moguls minimi or any other kind of mogula we want. But it is perfectly obvious that the Commonwealth has erred in not providing funds for the formal promulgation of the edicts and orders of these democratic rulers.

Give Us a Definite Policy

THE outbreak of the war brought what-Lever common sense there happened to be in Congress to a head. A few of the barriers placed in the way of an American merchant marine were removed. As a result 101 ships, of a gross tonnage of a third of a million, have come under United States registry. This is a gain of some significance in itself, but it is most important as showing what can be accomplished if the navigation laws are liberalized, or, to use a better word, modernized.

Our system is obsolete. It is the most standpatter thing we have. In the matter of consular fees alone the American ship is penalized intolerably. A British vessel, it seems, pays a gross sum annually for consular service, but an American bottom is mulcted by our representatives in every foreign port it visits. There are other imposts equally as discouraging. We have had protective tariffs to protect American manufacturers, but in shipping we have pursued exactly the opposite course; that is, we have protected our competitors against all competition by us. The President has diagnosed the disease very accurately, but he suggests a palliative instead of a remedy. He wants to experiment.

There are men in the United States who know something about shipping and would not be long in deciding on a definite plan for the rehabilitation of our marine along economically sound lines. The dying Congress can do nothing of more final value to the country than to appoint a capable commission, the recommendations of which, after due consideration, should form the basis of a settled, definite and nonpartisan policy to be adhered to tenaciously and vigorously carried out.

Simple Simons or Piemen?

GREAT are politicians and devious their ways. There is that \$50,000 appropriation whereby and by means of which the unemployed are to be succored, aided and fed. It is a large sum of money, although when distributed among more than 100,000 men. who want work instead of charity, it will not go very far. Millions for public works would have been a real oasis for men who want jobs and can't get them. But the erudite gentlemen who guard the municipal treasury found so simple and excellent a solution of the problem entirely beyond their comprehension. Not that they are Simple Simons, for they have been known to trade and barter with success, but because they enjoy a good game, and there is no game quite so exciting as politics. The distinguished persons who will distribute the \$50,000 will make every dollar of it count, and with it they will accomplish no end of good. They will take the tool as they find it and use it with consummate skill. But there would have been no need for their afforts and unemployment would have been reduced to the normal if the plemen had not been listening to their master's voice, the deep, guttural tones of the Organization. The unemployed will not forget.

THE REAL KAISER BEHIND THE MASKS

Wilhelm II Only a Man Like Many Others, But a Man of Mystery-Surprises of a Diverse Personality-A Biography Difficult to Write.

By VANCE THOMPSON

No personality has been so disfigured and distorted in this whiriwind of war as that of the Kalser of Germany.

Hate has been poured out on him; the corleaturists have had their way with him. He has even been seriously depicted as the Antichrist., In Switzerland, in Italy and France I saw thousands of savage and often Indecent caricatures of the Kaiser; and it is a strange and disconcerting fact that these postcards were made and printed in Germany-chiefly in Munich.

On the other hand, the German, and especially the German-American, papers have lent themselves to laudation-almost to deffication-of this unhappy govereign. One German professor-it was Dr. Adolf Lassen, professor of philosophy in the University of Berlin-could find neither English nor German words fit to express his adoration of the Kaiser and, rising into Latin, he declared Wilhelmus Secundus to be delicia generis humanl-"the delight of the human race"-which is quite as absurd as to call him the Antichrist.

In Many Roles

The Kalser is a man like many others; he is an unhappy man with a tragic destiny. Amid all this adulation and vituperation 1 wonder whether it is posible to tell the truth about the predestined man. I have seen him many times in the year; I have studied him as one of the most significant problems in European history, and most of what I know about him I have learned from his German subjects. Perhaps, after all, it is best not to write too much, but a little truth never hurt any one-living or dead.

When he came to the throne more than a quarter of a century ago he surprised every one. He had been known as an authoritative and bellicose Prince, and his speeches and proclamations showed him as a pacific and courteous monarch. And throughout the years he has gone on surprising people. He has done everything and been everybody. and in his multiple disgulses it is hard to tell just who the real Wilhelm is. Is he hunter, yachtsman, skater-he has posed in each role-or is he painter, musician, poet or preacher? He has played every part. That is why he is so clusive as a man. At the moment you saw him dressed as a Prussian general: in an hour he was disguised as an Austrian field marshal, an English admiral or a colonel of the Bersaglieri. He has worn the casque of the Death's Head Hussars and the fez of the Turk. Under all these shifts and changes of costume and attitudes what sort of a real man was hid?

Physically, not an impressive man. The German Kalser is short and of late years rather stout.

Seeking an Ideal Wilhelm

Rather short and stout, with a clear eye and an imperious look, with a wilful chin and a straight, strong nose, with sensual nostrils and lips-that is he. The mustache you know. Sometimes he wears it drooping, sometimes twisted up into truculent curves; sometimes clipped short. He is always experimenting with it; and with his hair. One year he parts his hair on the side; another year it stands erect en brasse. He has always loved to vary his personal appearance. seeking, as it were, the definite and ideal Wilhelm he is to hand on to posterity. It is as though in all these transformations he had been trying to find himself. A man of peace and prayer. And yet you remember the Moroccan crisis? It was as though wild Mars awoke in him. He stormed down into Alsace-Lorraine-he leaped from city to city, filling them with midnight alarms, with bugle calls and drum beats. Some haunting ghost of the Great Frederick had chased away the Lohengrin in him. But he did not make war.

charge of them after Bismarck's death and was protected by Prince Herbert von Bismarck. But Herbert died in 1904. Immediately his widow was forced to give up the papers and poor old Chrysander, without trial or examination, was locked up in a madhouse. So that blography will never be written. The old Chancellor's vengeance will never know the real Wilhelm, or know no more than you and I can know today. And that is not much, is it? Merely this:

That he played many parts in life-and played them gallantly in spite of the fact that hereditary diseases kept knocking at his fevered brain: and that a Thyestian destiny dogged him. And the beginning of that destiny's fulfillment was when the Kaiser, who had loved to play at war-as he played at painting and preaching and verse making and hunting-found suddenly that his stageworld had become real, horribly actual, a flame-swept world of war.

But neither you nor I can be quite sure, for Wilhelm II is the enigma of his generation He is more mysterious than the Man in

the Iron Mask, because he has hid himself behind a dozen masks. And no one knows his real name.

VERSE-MAKING IN TRENCHES

Great Love and Great Hate as Spontaneously Expressed in War Poems From the Front.

THE fervor of "lofty song" has always I flamed above the smoke of battle fields and now burns anew, says a writer in whose article in the Paris Figaro the Literary Digest has found some interesting and suggestive facts. He calls attention to poems by Rostand, Zamacols and other notable poets contributed to the columns of that journal. Yet it is still more striking that a great quantity of verse comes to the Figaro day after day from soldiers, nurses and general workers at various points along the front. It is admitted that in these efforts the expression does not always measure up to the subject. Yet if, as La Bruyere says. "the writing of a book is a trade in itself," so also, according to the present writer, it is a trade in itself "to cry out one's sorrow and one's joy in the language of Apollo, to drape with harmonious phrase and winged phrase one's hate and one's love." The souls of these poets in action, he explains, are overwhelmed with emotion and their minds confronted with such mighty happenings that they are too strained to conceive of them justly. Spontaneously as patriotic songs spring to the lips of soldiers on the march, poetry flows from the pen of every Frenchman who tries to express what he feels in the present circumstances. Simplicity and sincerity, consequently, are the chief characteristics of this verse from the trenches, and it would seem, the writer tells us, that France is "finding its youth again and can understand only two casentini passions-great



Dreams of "the Visionaries" Have Come True-No Mourning Over the Passing of the Old Bicameral Council.

By HENRY A. CLARK

State Senator and Author of Act Providing Con-THE system of commission form of gov-ernment for cities of the third class in Pennsylvania has been in operation and effect

to long that we are now able to determine from actual results whether it has proved to be the success that its friends prophesied or the failure that its opponents predicted.

The practical operation of the system in one city and the results attained in it may or may not be fairly typical of what has been accomplished in other places, but the natural inference is that if it has been easily and surely a success in one it ought to be and could be so in all, for the municipal problems of the entire group are similar and the legal formula for solving those problems is the

same During the discussion of the bill in the legislative sessions of 1911 and 1913 and up to the 27th day of June of that year when the bill became an act by the Governor's approval, the city of Erie, having a population of about \$0,000 and being the third largest city of the class, was an ardent, continuous and intelligent supporter of the measure.

Its Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade, Business Men's Exchange, nearly all of the civic associations and a great majority of its citizens demanded a change and rejoiced when it came.

Have they been disappointed? Do they vish the old bleameral council reinstated? Decidedly not, judging from the expressed views of many of her leading citizens.

When nominations vere to be made a large number of candidates presented themselves,

in Form of Government in Pennavlvania Cities the departments for which each seemed best fitted and have been in daily session since.

Each member specializes on the work of his department, acts accordingly and gets immediate results.

Joint action of the whole body is quiet and easy, and conclusions are reached without the long, disappointing, vexatious and oftentimes costly delays characteristic of the former system. Those having business to transact with Council are surprised and pleased at the intelligent and expeditious way of handling it. Under the old system members of Council

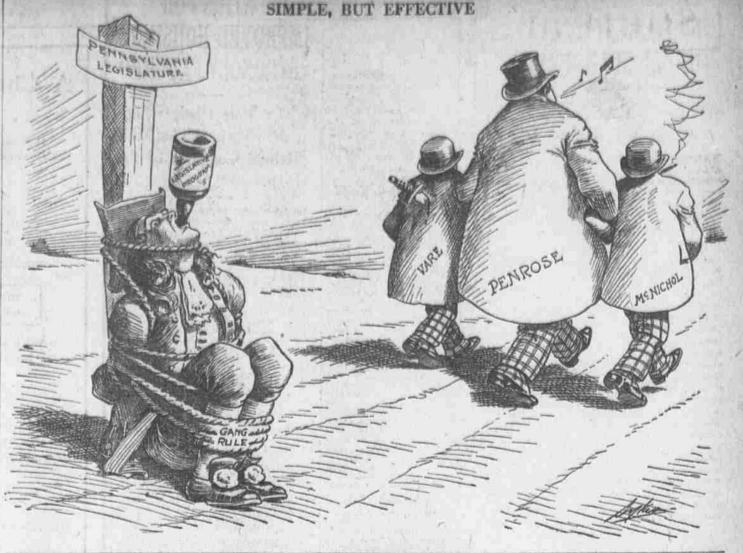
strove to get what they could for the wards from which they were elected. This resulted in sectional development without regard to the best interest of the municipality as a whole,

Now ward lines are practically eliminated and city improvements are planned on a comprehensive scale with reference to the present and future needs of the entire city.

By dividing municipal business into departments and placing a Councilman, designated as superintendent, at the head of each. responsibility has been fixed and this arrangement has borne most excellent results. There is no shifting of responsibility from Common to Select Council, or the reverse, or from the Mayor to the Controller.

Responsive Responsibility

The superintendents, commonly known as commissioners, of the several departments, keenly feel their responsibility, are quickly responsive to the just demands of complaining citizens and to the necessities of civia improvement, and are careful in the expenditure of money to secure those common benefits. Contracts are enforced; their provisions are not stretched or waived through favoritism. The benefits of the new system may be briefly summarized as follows, in so far as the city under consideration is concerned; Log rolling has been done away with. The pork barrel is a thing of the past. Fixed responsibility. Continued sessions. Council always ready for business.



end by depressing prosperity.

Uncle Sam as Miss Nancy COLONEL GOETHALS should be dis-missed for extravagance. He actually cabled the Government that he needed ships to preserve the neutrality laws. It is obvious that he might just as well have written or have sent his dispatches by messenger overland, on foot, For how could Colonel Goethals, possibly know the situation so well as his superiors at Washington, those far-visioned statesmen who intuitively are aware of every-Intag ?

Besides, the ships are needed to carry potatoes and canned goods to the extremities of the world. The big guns are to be removed to make space for cargo. Verily, Colonel Goethals must be strangely ignorant of the program for restoring the American flag to the oceans. Plainly his judgment is not to be relied on, for his long career has been charactorized by few, if any, mistakes; a fact in meelf likely to arouse suspicion. Uncle Sam is rapidly becoming Miss Nancy and may have his wrist watch taken from him if he is not careful.

Ahead of Mr. Bryan

FTAHERE is calumny abroad. Hear Representative Buchanan declaring that as "Mr. Roosevelt seldom expresses himself through the newspapers and magazines, it might be well to get hald of him and drag something out of him on the subject" of our unpreparedness. Perhaps Mr. Buchanan has been Why, word for word, Mr. Roosevelt allosp. is \$100,000 ahead of Mr. Bryan!

Quibbling Over Patronage

QUITE naturally Senator O'Gorman wanted to suggest all of the Federal appointments in the State of New York. Presedent Is an mis aldo. Nearly every President has consulted with Senators and Representatives before distributing patronage. Thus, a mandatury interpretation has been put upon the words of the Constitution: "He (the president) shall nominate, and by the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint."

sminters are jualous of their own honor and when it is threatened they fuse into a body of definie. There are prominent constitutionslists who hold that the words "by the advice and content of the Senate" apply only is appointments, and that the President has run rull right of homination.

If shing is true President Wilson has simply territed a procedent, and is no doing has alied down upon himself the rebuke of the formers. And the burden of proving that the common is mult for the appointment falls tion the Secara. But behind the technicalian of the ones Hes the entire question of ne distribution of pstronage, denorose and representatives have always chained it, and is plaint has varely been denied.

that such a quantity about make a cleanpermit the Windlang and the Walted. ing Banata its Bananistica, Constitutionminito and Frieddyn, in right, adnetting production, the Seconda is office. Bet Brannie

A coal man's Christmas.

If Russia had a few more news dispensers the German armies would be annihilated.

After the war there will be an entirely different kind of retrenching in Europe.

For a time it appeared that Colonel Goethais was more likely to get a Chantauqua lecture than ships.

There is some reason to suppose that Doctor Brumbaugh also will have something to say about legislation.

Although the commuter may be a bit discomfited, he yet has a potent weapon with which to worry the railroads-the trolley.

Evidence continues to pile up that "It's a long way to Tipperary," whether from the British or the German point of view.

If Senator Penrose is nominated for President on the Republican ticket, it will be Ollie James who makes the seconding speech.

Counting both the Vares as one man, we have in them, MuNichol and Penrose one triumvirate and four pairs of breeches, a combination unprecedented in history or art.

The Woman's Logislative Congress has voted down sugenics and supported eigaruitus. Yet, if fewer cigarettes were amoked, sugenies would not be so much emphasized.

The poil of Councilmen on the transit place revealed the fact that a number of our lawgivers had never heard of them. Filling two john at once does not give a gian much lolasite.

President Wilson and Senator Marine are reported to have reached a breaking point in their official relations. If so, the President can console himself with the knowledge that there is no designs of the "Farmer Orator" along re-alected from New Jersey which internety had to supplier him at Witness's the reign of Withelm II. They had five opens

That is the thing to bear in mind. Twice he threatened, but he did not make

war. The gesture satisfied him. He had spoken like a warrior and he was content. The mere attitude sufficed. Here I think we are getting close to the meart of this mystery.

Great actor, great poet, great diplomat. great orator, great warrior-it was in his sad destiny that he should try to be each of them and all. The malicious "Countess van Eninghoven" states it was Professor Knackfuas, of Cassel, who painted his pictures --aided by Karl Saltzmann, who put in the landscape and marine; that the Court Chaplain Frommel wrote his sermons; that Von Moltke composed the famous "Hymn to Fair": and that the military discourses were prepared by the officers of his military household. I do not quite believe it. In a way he did all these things. He lived for a while in these diverse personalties. And the good Germans, his subjects, averred it.

Tragic Destiny

Do you remember a book once famous? It was written by Professor Quidde, of Munich, and 150,000 copies were sold in the first two weeks. In all 500,000 copies were sold and the professor made a small fortunemore than Mommsen or Von Treitechks gained in 16 years. The title was "Caligula: a Study of the Insanity of Cesarian Power," and what the professor did was to establish a parallel between the acts of the successor of Tiberius and those of the Kalser of Germany. Vaguely I remember some of the comparisons. Like Wilhelm II, Caligula loved the theatre and posed himself as an actor, taking all parts, singer, gladiator, dancer; and, too, he was, fond of making speeches. And then, I remember, Caliguia announced his intention of invading Great Britain; and he marched his legions to the sea: That was all.

And Professor Quidde, in his book, recalls the fact that when Caligula came to the seashore he ordered his legions to gather up the seashells and carry them back to Rome as 'spolls of the conquered ocean.'

I do not say that across these therman anacdotes and polemics you can see the real Kalser, but I think you can see at least a hint of the real man-for he is naither Antichrist nor the "delight of the human mos." And his real blography will not be published until the Year I of the German Republic. Perhaps not even then.

I went to interview aid Bismarch onne; what I got from him was the shortest answer in the history of interviewers; it was "Refe." Hut I made the acquaintance of Doctor Crysandler. He was for years Blamarch's privata secretary and had followed him in his recreat in Friedricherulis. Armed with formidanis and redoubtable decompute. he and the old Chancellor had written the history of of secret documents. Doptor Oreansfee and in

hate and great love." We read then: "Love is the aubject of all these new poets; love for wounded France, for her ruined monuments, for her imperiled traditions, love for her sons that have died and for those who are about to die. And hate, as wellhate for the barbarians who brought these woes upon her. Yet their love is born of this hats. * * * Take this passage, for example, from a postn written by Maurice Lecoeur, a sergeant in the 59th Regiment, on the evening of the battle of Islettes:

souls!

Less redolant of anathema, but equally informed with martial spirit, is the picture resented by Lieutenant Jacob, of the Mist Infantry, of a troop movement. He writes: "Comies the order to advance, and the squads de-ploying wide Seak the foe on every side; Bold but slowiy' sainst the chance of the warn-ing sound that fills The sir with whisper as it kills."

Prince Charles of Bourbon is responsible for a posm to the memory of a private. Voituret, who achieved fame in the battle of the Marne. A selection from it follows: "The Hivey Marne flows red today, and will still

For sar where singly Volturet has stratched

We read, for instance: What of your rights or tractes?" The leaveship thermals word— Stand by or the and inside my react Calmby, economic Relation from the What of my food and inside? Madden face rende... The line space, but not on the evolution is the Toppan may be man.

Thursday, Not.

a spirited contest took place and during the campaign for final election the interest was intense.

The result of the election was a keen disappointment to many, some regarded it as a calamity-others did not so consider it. The Mayor held over, and among the four

members of Council elected were a pattern maker, a printer and a lawyer.

Increased Civic Activity.

The advocates of the system had declared that it would beget an increased civic activity, and they were correct.

Presumably the structural features of the law are too well known to need mention now, as they have heretofore been discussed and given publicity. The newly elected officials of the city of Erie qualified and entered upon their duties, passed the necessary ordinances to enable them to carry out the purposes of the act, assigned themselves to the heads of

apostrophines King Albert of Belgium as follows:

"Nor 'fore the agony quailed or shrank. Think not we reckon alight of this, Vallant in field and sacrifice! Our children shall the legend tell Of Albert, King, whose name shall spell Wherever read as none other can: "Great King, Great Soldier, and A Man!"

As an example of the patriotic devotion awakened by the present conflict, these selections from a hymn to France are offered:

"Hail France, my native land, and home of all that's high and fair! I bid thee fear no hostlie hand nor hordes that grind loved acres bare. For they shall bloom another morn, a smile more radiant and wide— Euriched with rarar wheat and corn where-sver one last foeman died!"

Unemployment Problem

From the Chicago Dolly Tribune. To what extent, asks Mayor Mitchel, can the co-operative effort and foresight of manufacturers, financiers and merchants minimize chronic unemployment at a certain period of the year? In answering this first question the business men may have important suggestions to make to States, countles, cities and other governing bodies. Such bodies undertake various enterprises without reference to the con-dition of the failow market and the money mar-hat. They can plan more winely, norigone full-clously, and enter the market as employers and spandars when their aid is particularly wel-There is also the question of better arganiza

tion of public, gunsi-public, and private em-ployment bureaus. The bureaus opened by cities and Status are desires or worse to too image cases, because the paralyzing hand of mapping and politics is no them. Inefficiency in the rule Of the private againties some can be the rate of the provide agenties since can be cared by surgical treatment only; the legiti-hate and reasonably efficient ones should be preserved and brought into some sort of def-nits relation with official and behavoient Aggangies,

AReal Christmas Tree

Properties along Term Breating Freet. At an exception of the Western Latter which have to use for its entricition Christmas tree a talephrets pile trimming with sages scrass bet aftern accessibles better by standard Emergen-ent its recomming present processity sector. Keel

No time-consuming delays. Economy and efficiency. The awakening of civic pride.

A greater interest manifested in municipal affairs by the people.

These, the "dreams of the visionaries" who advocated the adoption of the measure, have become actualities in the City on the Lake.

Our Preparedness

From the New York Sun. I cannot aympathize with those sincere gen-tlemen who oppose military and naval defenses for this country on the ground that they will make for war. I do not think so.-William H.

If we want to put ourselves in a position to render a service to humanity and to the world, we will not do it by arming ourselves and swag-gering around and bragging to the world of what we can do.-William Jennings Brysn.

No reasonable, prudent arm who faces facts can reach the conclusion that the nation has no need of preparation of its military resources. -Lindley M. Garrison. can

If the full strength of the British fleet wars brought in conflict with the United States fleet we would not, in my opinion, be able to protect our commerce and our country successfully beof its greater strength -Rear Admiral

I SAT APART

The children danced a merry ring. I watched them while. I heard them sing. "Derry down, oh, derry down! The bride shall wear a myrtle gown." Benumbed I sat spart.

Three mothers chatted 'neath a tree With matronly complacement is matronily complacency: My child is tall, and yours are fair. our son stands with his father's sir.

But envy gloomed my heart,

The ring gives way. See each child hie, As airy, daring dragondy. "Derry down, oh, derry down! The wife shall wan' a yelvet gown." I moaned my empty fate.

These's heads 'gainst mothers' breasts they fing, These ample breasts that poets sing. "The plant become wined with blue Hew tenderly dots comfort you." My elemented teeth wars agrata.

Wus his child ithe theas, lithe and fair. His lassis whom I might see in err? "Devry down, ob, devry down!" ithe bath no haist to drive to town." I chitched my unfilled breast.

this much again the quickening through the of the words plarmed any beatting gray who who again against managing there all against the managing there are a solution to any known at

option Continents on Complement of

 and the second state of the secon homage to the dead on the field of honor, and not a few are tributes to "havele Belgium."