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PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1915.

An honest man is as honest in the dark as under an are light

Who's Being Mulcted?

EITHER the railroads are being cheated in New Jersey or the public is being mulcted in Pennsylvania. When the cost of a trib to Atlantic City and return depends on whether the passenger knows or does not know the advantage of waiting until he gets to Camden to buy his ticket, there is something radically wrong. Hereafter passengers will have to provide themselves not only with the tables, but with the rulings of different State Public Service Commissions as well, that they may know how to buy to the best advantage. We may expect to see signs on the streets, "Information as to the cheapest way to get anywhere furnished for 10 cents."

It is obvious that the Interstate Commerce Commission must review this anomalous situation and bring order out of chaos, and the burden of proof slould be on the railroads to prove that the intrastate rates in force in New Jersey are not reasonable, failing in which the interstate rates should be made to accord with them.

Scandalous Proceedings

ADMITTING his own ignorance of the record, but citing Senators Cummins and Kenyon in such a way as to reflect indirectly on the Supreme Court of the United States, Senator La Follette petitioned the President to grant a respite in the case of the International Lumber get-rich-quickers, who had defrauded, and had been convicted of defrauding, thousands of innocent investors of several millions of dollars. Senator La Follette, it appears, had known one of the convicted men a quarter of a century and believed him "to be a man of the highest integrity of character, who would wrong no one."

It is unfortunate that Senator La Follette, A. Mitchell Palmer and others should have urged extraordinary interference by the Chief Executive in behalf of men whose trifling with the courts had already become a public scandal; men, too, who stood convicted of peculiarly mean and contemptible crime. But it is even more unfortunate that the President, on so feeble a presentation, should have interposed his extra-judicial authority to overrule the tribunals of justice and confer special privileges on avaricious gentlemen who sought to grow rich by victindetta whows and others unskilled in the technique of investment.

The Sure Winner

TINCOLN BRACHEY gambled with death with the usual result. If his exploits in the air had been for the purpose of developing the art of flying there would have been some compensation; but he was merely a doer of stunts for pay. He was the operator of an airship willing to risk his life to give a new thrill to the multitude. He knew this, when he decided in May, 1913, to fly no more. But the gambling instinct seems to have been too strong for him to resist, and he finally reached that tragic climax which he knew those who watched him were always looking for.

On the other hand, it may be worth noting here that the Wright brothers, who made flying possible, never carelessly risked their lives. They were diligently working to master the secrets of the air, and they resolutely refused to take part in any competition of folly. When one of them died it was in his bed of a fever.

German Diplomacy Fails Again

COUNT VON BUELOW, who was sent to Rome to persuade the Italians to remain neutral, seems to have been prepared to pay a price for it. He advised Austria-Hungary to cede Trentino to Italy at once and to agree to the rectification of the Austro-Italian frontier. But Francis Joseph, who has been despoiled of considerable parts of his Empire in the past, does not intend to cede any more of it to foreign states save under compulsion. He, therefore, peremptorily refuses to make an attempt to appears Italian hostility in this way.

It is possible that he thinks the cession of Trentino would not be enough to keep the Italians out of the war and is determined to make them pay a heavy price for whatever they get, with the hope that he can prevent them from getting anything. German diplomacy falled to keep England out of the war, and it seems to be unable to allay the war sentiment in Italy.

Justice Can Establish an Alibi

RESPECT for courts and lawyers is weak-ened by the latest Thaw verdict. Thaw killed a man and escaped a sentence to death, or imprisonment for a long term, only because his shrewd and cunning lawyers proved to the satisfaction of the judicial authorities that he was irresponsible. many men in New York had murdered and some free after the form of a trial in which the insulty plea was sustained, that the State had provided that such men should be confined in an asylum for the criminal forme until they were declared cured. So Thaw was sent to the prison prepared for

His lawyers made several attempts to secure his release by submitting testimony to prove that he had recovered his reason. But the courts, in each instable, refused to sleape him. Then Thaw bired several men, paying them \$5000, to amint him to excape. the had not been able to gain his freedom by county procurers so he planned to win it by ministry. He emapse, but was caught, and |

such as he.

came under the jurisdiction of the New Hampahire courts. After a long legal fight he was returned to New York to be tried on the charge of conspiring to escape from the asylum. But the jury, in its wisdom, has decided that the man was guilty of no crime, because, forsooth, he "had no criminal intent," His lawyers had argued that he was sane, and feared that his reason would be dethroned if he remained longer among lunatics, and that he exercised his rights as a citizen in disregarding the decrees of the courts and buying his way to liberty. He snapped his fingers at the courts, which had ordered his detention, and now the courts find that he is guilty of no crime.

The New York authorities are not yet through with him, and will try today to have him sent back to the asylom in another way. Even if they should succeed, they cannot wipe the stigma from our system of legal procedure which has been placed upon it by Saturday's acquittal. We say "legal procedure" with deliberate intent, for the skirts of Justice are so clean in this case that she has only to point to the proceedings. from beginning to end, to establish a complete alibi for herself.

Our Marine a Common Target

THE belligerents have put chains and balls I on the free commerce of the United States. The interests of neutral Powers have been brushed aside as if of no consequence whatever. The lanes of ocean travel have been interrupted and a few nations, because they happen to be at war, have assumed and are exercising the right of veto on any neutral commerce which they happen not

They have not been content to interrupt the trade of neutrals with countries at war They arrogantly cut off the trade of neutrals with neutrals. This cargo and that cargo England will not permit to go from the United States to Denmark unless Denmark, in turn gives guarantees of embargoes on her trade with Germany. And in defense of such a course London summons up ancient precedents, although synchronously she is overturning other customs and laws of the seas and establishing new regulations never before admitted internationally. She has established an effective blockade of German ports without assuming the responsibility of a blockade by declaring practically all articles of commerce, including cotton, contraband. She has put, or is putting, into effect a system as onerous and indefensible as that which almost ruined our commerce in the Napoleonic wars, but which this nation would at no time accept or acquiesce in.

There is no law on the seas today except the law the belligerents make. Our marine has become a target for all warships. Washington writes notes about it, and the chancelleries of Europe answer when they

In the face of this deplorable situation, which must be humiliating to every American who has any red blood in his veins, our statesmen are hesitant and undecided. Yet they must know that our rights would be scrupulously observed were we prepared to enforce them. But we are not prepared. Small as our marine is, we have not a navy sufficient to protect it. Such ships as we have are efficient, and it may be that convoys will be resorted to eventually as a protection against the sort of arrogant interference to which our commerce has been

The war in Europe is a war for trade, a bone which it is not proposed an outsider shall get. That is the reason of the outrages against our marine. The way to prevent such things is to have a really adequate

Puerile Objections

OST of the objection to revising the Constitution at the present time comes from men who are afraid that the convention will be controlled by delegates who believe in woman suffrage and in prohibition. They are afraid to let the people decide for themselves what sort of a revision of the fundamental law should be made. Some of them have said that business is unsettled enough now without still further complicating the situation by opening the door to all the faddists and reformers to do their will, This fear is unworthy of believers in demoeracy.

Every man who has given serious study to the document is persuaded that it should be revised, simplified and brought up to date. It is too complicated. It contains too many detailed provisions, interfering with the freedom of the General Assembly in adjusting the laws to the needs of the Commonwealth. It is a body of by-laws as well as a Constitution. And whether prohibition and woman suffrage should be provided for in a new Constitution or not, the State needs a Constitution which will lay down general principles so broadly that there will be ample room for the development of the various communities in accordance with the needs of their citizens. It is not necessary for the Constitution to regulate the petty courts of Philadelphia or to lay down rules for a score of other things which are now regulated by it. There is wisdom and judgment enough among the great lawyers and statesmen here to lead any constitutional convention in the path of prudence and to bring about such a reform in our fundamental law as has long been needed.

Who is the Daniels of the Schuylkill navy?

When Bernhardt comes to America make another farewell tour it will not be the same Bernhardt.

If they go about it properly clean-up week in May can be so managed as to be a good running start for clean-up day in Novem-

The publishers of the German Gazette, who thought a potato was a bomb, ought to send to Berlin for an expert who knows what a potato looks like.

There are many things on which the Commonwealth can economize with greater profit than on its appropriations for developing the Philadelphia port. Strange to say, General von Bernhardi be-

lieves that the Germans will win.

ress always was a wily politician.

Kitchener believes that the British will win. Which is also strange. Senator La Foliette makes haste to stand from under the scandal in that lumber company fraud case. The great prophet of prog-

The Postmaster General announces that he will economize still more closely. This means that Philadelphia will have another lesson in the way not to conduct a postoffice.

Count Witte was a diplomatist wise enough to use the newspapers of the world in his struggle with the Japanese at the Portsmouth peace conference. As a result he saved for Russia much more out of the wreck of hy Eastern policy than the Japenese had pleuned to give him.

COUNT WITTE, THE MAN AND HIS WORK

One of the Most Important Figures in Modern Politics in Europe. His Career Suggestive of Characteristics of American Life.

By the HON. CHARLEMAGNE TOWER Formerly Ambassador to Russia and Ambassador to Germany,

T WILL probably be a generation, it may be half a century, before the life of Count Witte, which has just come to end in Russia, will be fully estimated and adjudged; but the world knows enough about him now to recognize that one of its most effective and important figures has disappeared from the active politics of Europe and from the stage of human affairs on the Continent-for whilst his declining strength had somewhat relaxed his grasp during these latter years. yet he could not fail as long as he was alive to exert his influence upon those about him; and even from his retirement his opinion and advice had weight with the men who succeeded him and had to take up his active

duties in the State. His singularly diversified career, however, was made up of services to the Russian Government and people, the results of which are so far-reaching and complex that it is difficult to trace them singly at the present time, though it has left its stamp indelibly impressed upon the progress and development of the Empire, and will undountedly distinguish him as one of the foremost constructive statesmen whom Russia has pro-

Sergius Yulievitch Witte was born in Tiffis, on the 17th of July, 1849, and spent his early youth in the Caucasus, so remote from the capital or the influences of its surroundlogs that it is a part of his remarkable fortune that he ever emerged from there at all to gain prominence of any kind in the Empire. From his rugged appearance and his disregard of form in the midst of a court of great brilliancy, with his large frame, not overcarefully clad, and his total lack of polished manner, even at the height of his political power, arose the belief which was general in St. Petersburg that he was a easant, or at least a man sprung from the copie. He was in fact, however, the son of Yull Feodorevitch Witte, who was the Director of the Department of Agriculture in the Caucasus, his mother being a daughter of the house of Fadeyeff, related to that of Dolgourouki, as well as to other people of distinction, his connection being that of an

old and well-established Russian prominence. He was sent to school at Tiflis, though whilst he was yet a boy his father was transferred to a Government post at Kishineff, where the son entered the gymnasium and thence went to the University of Odessa, in 1866. There he showed such ability as a mathematician that he was graduated with honors four years later, having decided to fulfil his strong desire to become a professor of mathematics, which, if he had succeeded in doing, would probably have led him into a peaceful life at Kieff or Odessa. But his family opposed him successfully in this, with the result that when he left the university, in 1870, with a degree as candidate of the physica-mathematical faculty, he was given place in the service of the Southwestern Railway.

From this point his career shows many examples of that unexpected advancement arising out of the seizure of opportunities that present themselves under new conditions or unusual circumstances which frequently arrests one's attention in Russia by its striking similarity to the characteristics of American life-in Russia, perhaps, more frequently than in any other country of Europe, because of the similarity of the exigencies and opportunities which accompany the development of enormous stretches of new territory and the carrying forward of vast public enterprises. It was in this broad field that he found the natural expansion of the foresight and ability with which he was

A Good Railroad Man

Sergius Witte was a good railroad man. His love for mathematics and engineering increased his interest in their practical application, while his sense of responsibility impelled him to devote himself to a thorough comprehension of railroad management in all of its departments. He learned to drive an engine, also to lay rails, and there are people still living in Russia who remember him at work with the laborers helping to repair a breakdown on the line. In a country built upon a rigid bureaucracy, he was not a bureaucrat. He had the mind of the leader who knows how to apply his hand to any part that needs adjustment or support.

It was his dominating spirit of leadership that enabled him afterward to accomplish the great results that came to Russia through his genius as Minister of Finance and in the awakening of Siberia. It brought him into conflict, it is true, with the forces of opposition and reaction which beset him as in the case of every man of progress; and there were moments, probably, even in the midst of success, when these embittered his life.

Promotion came rapidly in the service of the railroad. He soon became assistant traffic manager, and, after another short in terval, general superintendent of the South western Railroad, at which period he found the first great opportunity of his life. When the Russo-Turkish War broke out the Imperial Government was under the necessity of transporting large numbers of troops in circumstances more exacting than had ever known before, and with a rapidity until then untried in Russia, Sergius Witte, the superintendent, well equipped by this time through his experience in management accepted the undertaking, and furnished with such skill the facilities required by the military commanders for their troops and their munitions of war that he attracted attention to himself, and gained prominence in very high official quarters.

The outcome of this service rendered by him was that Witte won the good will of M. Vishnegradsky, who became very soon afterward Minister of Finance, and remained always his powerful friend. When Vishnegradsky retired through filiness, in 1892, Witte was appointed by the Emperor Alexander III to succeed him as Minister.

At the Zenith of His Power

From the time of his nomination to be Minister of Finance until about the period of the outbreak of the war with Japan, M. Witte was at the zenith of his power; this was the moment of his most effective influence. He found the finances of Russia in a condition of protracted deficit, of inflated currency and nustable credit, which changed completely within a few years by restoring the currency to a gold basis. He established a system of tariffs which, while it involved bim in a tariff war with Gersany, protected the industries growing up



IF WE CAN'T,

YOU SHANT.

your friends,

BELLIGERENTS

THE SITUATION

at home and supplied the Government with funds for internal public developments.

Indeed, he so dominated the policy of the empire that he may be said to have been the controlling influence in matters which related to his interests in public affairs, if not in the Government itself. He supplied the funds and took the leading part in the building of the Siberian Rallroad, which he considered to be one of the great material developments, as time has proved it to be, of Russian enterprise leading to Russian material wealth. It may fairly be said that his genius so dominated the policies of that day that, although he lived in comparative retirement, quite apart from the social life of the capital, and never went to court except when the duties of his official position required him to do so, no step was taken in either foreign or domestic affairs without the inevitable questions, in every discussion in St. Petersburg: "What does Witte think of it?" "What will Witte do?"

Personality and Appearance

A visitor to Russia who saw him at that time describes him as being over 6 feet in height and a big, bulky man, with a pair of shoulders as thick through as those of a blacksmith; his gray head massive and brooding; "he is a figure of the rudest fullblooded force, slow in motion, incredibly ungainly in every action, with vast worn hands that swing athwartship as he walks. He is almost contemptuously careless in all matters that concern his attire or outward appearance. Hairy and hard, with a beard Illkept, his face is stolid and deeply lined; there is nothing of compromise, no art of grace, no study in the cast of it. The eyes alone betray the fact that in this man there dwells a spirit not manifested in the grossness and crudeness of his aspect. Shrined under heavy brows, they are pale and indeterminate in color. They are lambent and inscrutable, the eyes of an Oriental, wise with an infinite subtlety, discriminating pitilessly, discerning infallibly, probing without scruple to the core of each matter that invites him."

The portrait is true of this inscrutable man. No one was intimate with him; he lived aloof. But he had sympathies for the people, whose condition he sought to improve and whose burdens he lightened by better methods of agriculture and a more productive system of commerce and trade. He took their part, though not when they broke out into strikes and open revolt. Called upon to decide between radical demands and the conservative enforcement of law, he chose the side of the Emperor and the constituted authority; losing thereby, no doubt, much popularity among those who looked upon him as an advanced thinker. The truth is, that Witte aimed at national progress, but he was not a revolutionist. He understood his people, and was first of all a Russian, whose loyalty convinced him that the great benefits of the future must come out of the stable and natural expansion of the Russian character itself.

He had always opposed the war with Japan, and yet it fell to his lot to make the peace at Portsmouth which brought it to a close. He hoped to make a road to China and Japan which should open the gate to intercourse between Russia and the Far East, and through Russia from the Orient into the heart of the European Continent. He lived long enough to see much of his anticipation fulfilled; and, by far more than anything that he had ever imagined, the wonderful opening of new sources of wealth in Siberia has justified the labor as well as the personal devotion that he brought to that enterprise.

Among modern Russian statesmen none, it may be said, has had so thorough a comprehension or so broad a view of national questions, regarded especially from the point of view of benefit to the whole Russian people and their general welfare; and it seems safe to predict that it is in this connection. when time shall have weighed and balanced the acts and efforts of his life, that the memory of Sergius Witte will find some day its true place in the national thought of Russia.

FEMINISM AND NATURAL HISTORY From the Bridgeport Standard.

George Bernard Shaw would have the world elieve that free will in the choice of a lifeperieve that free will in the choice of a life-pariner has always been a myth as a male prerogative. Warfen Blake, in the Philadelphia Evening Lindsin, ventures the suggestion that Shaw studied natural history and was thereby aided to see the feminine world in a new light. Mr. Blake recalls John Burroughs' description of the candor with which female birds fight for possession of a disputed spouse, which naturally awaits their decision, and concludes that "fem-ingu antedates the 20th century, even antedates the female of mur own species"

the female of our own species.

Is one to infer that the femiliat movement is promoted by a dealer simply to throw off the cleak of discounty that has masked woman's personal of unstappeded powers of initiative?

BEST THOUGHT IN AMERICA

DIGEST OF THE MAGAZINES

(1) Century—"Cabbages and Kings." (2) North American Review—"Ethics

(2) North American Review—"Ethics Made in Germany."
(3) Forum—"Concerning Fatherlands,"
(4) Review of Reviews—"A German Economist on Conditions in War Time."
(5) Metropolitan—"German France."

GERMANISM

N THE war of words which has swept over the United States since the first of last August, Germany may be termed the Bone-of-Dissension-in-Chief. German life, ethics and Kultur; Nietzsche and Bernhardi; the Kaiser and his American representative, Doctor Dernburg, have all been targets for volleys and cross-fires, night surprises and sorties. The heat of the skirmish has been largely due to the enthusiasm of the group of "German-Americans" in this country. Numerous as the German apologists are in private life, they are conspicuously in the minority in our magazine press. Doctor Dernburg placed articles in quite a number of our magazines during the early winter, as did some of the prominent German professors at our universities. It happens, however, that there is not one article defending the German point of view in 15 of our best known and most representative magazines for this month. We have in this country several publications devoted to the German cause, three of which stand out conspicuously. The Fatherland whose editor, George S. Viereck, of New York city, has been testifying as a witness in the recent passport cases; the Open Court, published in Chicago by Dr. Paul Carus, and Reedy's Mirror. This last, although published in St. Louis, a headquarters for the German population, is only incidentally a pro-German organ, and is primarily a very live and sparkling little weekly.

As a nation, from our President down, we are trying desperately to remain neutral, and in this condition of would-be neutrality, it is interesting to read the comments of a neutral Princess, the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, on the Kaiser and German court life. The opening chapter of her memoirs, "Cabbages and Kings" (1), appears in the Century this month:

A great crowd filled an immense hall gray castle which the past has left in the heart of modern Berlin and I felt joyous and happy as I passed up the hall in the imperial procession, with a page bearing my long manteau de cour. ery time that I turned from side to side bow to the people, I caught a glimpse of the Kaiser at the head of the procession, a silver figure like Lohengrin, on whose cuirass and helmet the light flashed. Before him walked four heralds in medieval dress sounding silver trumpets, and when he reached the dais and stood before the throne looking down the castle hall, I saw in his steel blue eyes that look of exaltation which his profound and unshakable belief in the divinity of kings had known him years before as Prince

Wilhelm, simple, unaffected, joyous. Then he became Crown Prince, and I noted a change. His manner became more imperious, less spontaneous. I felt that he was schooling himself, holding himself in check, aware of the burden of coming responsibilities, fearing, yet longing for, the golden irksomeness of the imperial crown. Since he has ascended the throne I have never met him without realizing that he is dominated by the belief that he is an instrument in the hands of the Aimighty, divinely appointed to reign he conferred orders and decorations on stream of men who humbly approached his throne at the Ordenfest I could see from their reverence, and from the look of awe on their faces, that his manner, his regal pose, his glance, had forced them to accept his own belief in the majesty and righteousness of

Made in Germany

Briefly, but comprehensively, Bishop Brewster, of Connecticut, sums up in the North American Review (3) his interpretation of Ethics Made in Germany":

Nietzsche * * glorified the strength hat "can." In his "transvaluation of ull values" he put on top a force to succeed which was beyond good and evil. The Christian morality which kept fommon people in their place was fatal to the strength of the superior

place was fatal to the strength of the superior man. While this fantastic philosophy was largely repudiated by scholars, its literary power won it popular vogue.

The historian, Treitschke, taught that "the State is power" and amenable to no higher tribunal of public opinion or international law. This doctrine finds expression in the deciaration that the "State is the sole judge of the morality of its action. It is, in fact, above morality." Germany in recent decades has set up an ideal of social efficiency, and in thoroughness of organization has to a marrier.

a set up an ideal or social emotency, and in orroughness of organization has to a marvel-us degree realized it. It has been however, at a fremendous cost things held dear by a large part of man-no. To the rest of us this reunted type of willustion, mighty though it be, and largely

because of its might, seems something is

The Pies Mother Used to Make

In a half-whimsical tone, but with seriou purpose, Elmer Davis, who proudly acknowled edges his own German ancestry, americ is the Forum (3), that the "Fatherland" of which our German-American boasts so mod is a fiction of his dreams, like the class ples mother used to make.

The Germans who came to the Middle West. The Germans who came to the Middle Well in the fifties were moved by divers reason. The best of them were the men of '48-be intellectuals and liberals whose dreams he gone down before the musketry of Serendsmus, and who hoped to find in the arr country a place where they might build a new home for their spirits to issue dwellers who wanted to evade military serve and peasants who wanted to become something more than peasants. In the main the German-Americans of the Middle West and descended from South Germans descended from South Germans of the first half of the 19th century, than which a type more different from the conquering Pr-sian of 1914 has ever lived upon this earth.

And here is the very reason why the sons are so headlong in their allegance is the Germany of William the Second. The the Germany of William the Second. The were idealists, those men—sentimentalists even. And their sons have so idealized the Germany builded by the men who drow them out that they think it the same sort of Germany that their defeated and eiler fathers would have built had their drein reached fruition. The typical German is as a pugnacious person. And when he graft his pacific ideals on the Germany of Emarck and says, "Behold my Fatherland"—why he makes himself ridiculous.

The Review of Reviews translates for the Internationale Monatschrift a review of German economic conditions by one of that economists (4):

On the whole, he finds the situation not st bad as might have been expected: The should have thought a world war would should have thought a world war would should have thought a world war would should be a should should be a should should be a should should be a sh the economic machinery entirely. But a now see there is no danger of this. And it is not to be thought that the future will make things essentially worse. The greater injury we suffer naturally is the break in set relations with foreign lands. But even t is not necessarily fintal. In any event, have enough food in the country to live. The raw material for some of the most in portant industries " we can suggest through neutral States swedish iron ore. Other things such as oper, wool and cotton, we hope to obtain way of neutral countries. Presumably, to land's efforts to have them declared controlled to the controlled countries. band will be successfully controverted by America, who is so strongly interested in their export.

John Reed, lately returned from the from gives a pleasant sense of neatness and &patch and good fellowship in the German army, in an article in the Metropolitan (b)

Don't imagine that German soldiers are a cruel, arrogant race. They have done are admirable things. I am sure that some those little northern French towns can were so clean, so intelligently organi-Everywhere they have re-established is institutions and charities; they have so-whole towns. lighted every house with tricity—placed up-to-date hospitals, so tricity—placed up-to-date hospitals so by the finest doctors in the world, at the misposal of the humblest citizen. But it a cruel meckery. This is a conquered peak we rode about the country, miser hatred darkened every face that we our passing automobiles; and those came last caught the curses that were humafter us, "Cochons! Boches!"

A cafe had been turned into a General

came last caught the curies that we after us, "Cochons! Boches!"

A cafe had been turned into a Gempherstube, where an enormous infantratin a leathern apron sat behind great kes Muenchener beer, and deep-voiced Gempherstubes echoed out across the Grands hat Verdun, which is one of the architeting fores of France. They were big childlike people, those German soldies welcomed us with a good-natured little stellar, and wouldn't let us pay for our less the room was full of cigar smoke; and wouldn't let us pay for our less the room was full of cigar smoke; and each the clinking of cups glasses, and a song that began with voice and swelled in three notes to pervolume, as half the room joined in the were writing I tters over their beer, as others, with open books before them as wet tables developed in the children. others, with open books before them to wet tables, droned aloud like children

school. They were learning French! THE INQUEST Not labor kills us; no, nor joy: The incredulity and frown. The interference and annoy,

The small attritions wear us down. The little gnat-like bussings shrill The hurdy-gurdy of the street. The common curses of the will— These wrap the cerements round of

And more than all the look askance.
Of loving souls that cannot gauge
The numbing touch of circumstance. The heavy toll of heritage.

It is not Death, but Life that slays? Importunate fatilities