Evening Ledger

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Philadelphia, Saturday, February 10, 1917.

The Union League still rings true.

The sugar strike is not affecting the cost of sweetening the kitty.

No matter who carries it, I follow the flag.—Isaac H. Clothier.

And every other patriotic American says, "Me, too!"

Fighting to make the city smokeless.—Headline.

This is not a blow at the tobacco trust, but at the laundry bills, which are high because of the failure to enforce the anti-smoke ordinances.

So many more pressing matters demand consideration that the Democrats have decided not to attempt to force confirmation of the promotion of Doctor Grayson to the rank of rear admiral. They have discovered that the promotion was what the EVENING LEDGER called it, namely, a monkey wrench thrown into the legislative machinery.

J. J. Monahan, a Vare beneficiary, received a $200 raise through a provisional reappointment following his failure to pass an examination to establish his right to continue as a city draftsman. It is terrifying to imagine to what heights of important public service Mr. Monahan would have been forced had he passed the examination.

A cablegram from Petrograd convinced one of the Senators at Harrisburg that he should vote for the Sproul resolution. It was not from Czar Nicholas nor from Czar Penrose, who rarely goes so far from home in his efforts to keep away from the Senate. It was from one of the State Senator's "personal and business associates," who make Czars possible.

The Government of the United States will in no circumstances take advantage of a state of war to take possession of property to which international understandings and the recognized law of the land give it no just claim or title.—Statement from the Department of State.

The Administration has simply formulated what has been in the thoughts of all broad-minded Americans. War does not repeal the laws of equity nor justify the disregard of the rights of noncombatants, even though they be nationals of a hostile Power. If we have to make war it will be as a civilized nation.

The chief merit of the budget plan which commends itself to the men proposing charter changes is that it would put an end to the foolish practice of fixing a tax rate arbitrarily and then attempting to live within the sum raised. Under this practice the city has accumulated a most troublesome deficit in recent years. The new plan requires the executives to submit to Councils an estimate of the amount of money that will be needed and then requires Councils, after due consideration of the estimates, to fix the tax rate at such a figure as will yield the required sum. This is businesslike.

It may be that one of the incidental results of the war will be the application in shipyards of the methods of Henry Ford's automobile factory. Already the great demand for ships has led to the construction of a standard pattern, which can be duplicated quickly and at less cost than a ship of special design. The shipyard that can turn out a standardized ship on short notice and at a low price will reap the profits of the great building era which is dawning, and it will do more than a dozen rehabilitation laws to restore the American flag to the seas. Cheap ships are what the commerce of this country needs just now.

Lancaster County Masons have honored Pennsylvania's only President by erecting a tablet to his memory in their lodge room. Buchanan, who was born in 1791, became a Mason in 1817, 100 years ago. It was in commemoration of this anniversary that the tablet was unveiled. Buchanan was one of nine Presidents who belonged to the Masonic order. The first was Washington, and the lodge in Alexandria, Va., to which he belonged, still preserves many relics connected with his membership. The geographical distribution of the Presidents is more interesting, however, than their relation to any secret society. New Hampshire, New Jersey, Kentucky and Vermont share with Pennsylvania the distinction of having produced but one occupant of the White House apiece. The [illegible] Adamses were the only men of Mas[illegible] birth able to secure election. [illegible] Adams and Van Buren [illegible]

pre-eminence was supposed to have passed elsewhere until Mr. Wilson, who is of Virginian birth, was elected, making eight for the Old Dominion. Of the first twelve Presidents, seven were Virginians. The last of them, prior to the accession of Mr. Wilson, was General Taylor. Mr. Wilson is the first Southerner since the Civil War to become President. The country west of the Mississippi has never been represented in the White House. The next President is likely to be either a Westerner or a Southerner, unless international events shall change the thinking of the politicians so radically as to make geographical considerations of no consequence.

WHAT THE COUNTRY WANTS

THE President waited three days after the receipt of the German threat before dismissing Bernstorff. It was proper that every corner of this immense country should have had time to digest the threat before what was obviously its overwhelming and united will could be expressed by any one man. If he had waited many hours more we would have come to the mass-meeting stage.

He is again waiting after technical grounds for going again to Congress, as some believe, have been provided by the course of events. Once more the tide of public opinion surges toward him, but not so strongly as that tide which urged on the break. Any one who has studied American opinion in the last thirty months could have predicted that it would trust to luck, hope and pray that big words might make big deeds unnecessary. Mr. Wilson will be justified in taking his time as long as this spirit, so naively expressed by a Southern newspaper, is guiding many minds:

> President Wilson has a happy faculty for smashing precedents. The astonishing good fortune which has attended so many of Mr. Wilson's undertakings may yet prevent the United States from being drawn into war.

He must do the exactly right thing, but he has "a happy faculty for smashing precedents." What precedent is he expected to smash now in order to give his "astonishing good fortune" a chance to act? The precedent that American Presidents have not seen fit to hypnotize foreign rulers into submission? One may pray that the cumulative sinkings without warning will not tempt the German Government to defy us further and that it may back down before it is too late. But there is no prayer to be made that American mail ships shall be permanently tied up in our ports. That would be to pray that we lose our manhood. It may be advisable to tie up those ships another week or for a month. But it is beginning to dawn upon the nation that this cannot be done indefinitely. Our calmness is all right, but we must not delude ourselves: some of that calmness is simply the inability or the refusal to accept the facts and their implications.

Mr. Wilson's "astonishing good fortune" may be that the British navy will sweep the seas clean of U-boats. Or it may be that a great land victory for the Allies will scare the Germans into conciliatory mood. Or it may be that the British Government will modify its blockade in order to prevent America's entering the war and urging a peace more lenient to Germany than Britons desire.

But unless one of these highly improbable events occurs, it is necessary that American ships on peaceful errands be eventually protected by our navy. If Germany takes that protection as an act of war, it must be war. If this country wants to use the sea, its mind must be ready for possible war and not for dumb luck.

SINEWS OF WAR

WAR cannot be waged without money. The estimated wealth of the United States is $190,000,000,000. The funded debt is less than $1,000,000,000.

The wealth of the British Empire, including India, Australia and Canada, is $130,000,000,000. The wealth of the United Kingdom is $85,000,000,000. The total British debt at the present time is $17,000,000,000.

If this country should be called upon to make proportionately heavy expenditures our debt would rise to $24,000,000,000. The greater part of the British debt is a lien upon the United Kingdom. If we should be called upon to make expenditures as heavy as those of the British Isles our war debt would rise to $37,000,000,000.

The present British war debt is not so great in proportion to the national wealth as that piled up by the Napoleonic wars. The British are facing the future with confidence.

The resources of this country are so great that we can make whatever expenditures are necessary without creating a burden beyond our ability to bear.

"THE WORLD DO MOVE"

MAYOR CURLEY has offered to William H. Connell, chief of the Bureau of Highways in this city, the position of paving commissioner in Boston, and no one is surprised at the desire of the Boston Mayor to import an outsider to take charge of technical work.

Municipal reformers recall the storm of protest that was raised twenty years ago when Mayor Strong, of New York, called Colonel Waring from Newport to take charge of the street-cleaning department. The Mayor was roundly denounced for passing by the local engineers in favor of an outsider. The prevalent belief was that if the city was to pay a salary to any one it should go to a resident. The spoils theory of public service was accepted by almost every one.

Twenty years have wrought great changes, until so notorious a spoilsman as the Democratic Mayor of Boston finds it in his heart to seek not only an outsider, but a Republican outsider, to fill a local office requiring expert knowledge.

German cities seek their Mayors as American business corporations seek their executive managers, regardless of their place of residence. Who can say that in another twenty years American cities will not do the same and choose Mayors for demonstrated fitness instead of for factional political reasons? A step has already been taken in that direction. For Dayton, O., has a city manager, imported from Cincinnati, and selected because of his demonstrated ability to take [illegible]

NEXT STEP IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Health Insurance for Workingmen—Governor McCall, of Massachusetts, Urges It. Labor Favors It

By RAYMOND G. FULLER
Of the Russell Sage College of Practical Arts

MASSACHUSETTS, after four years of very successful experience with workmen's compensation, is now considering the adoption of compulsory health insurance, the form of social insurance most likely to follow workmen's compensation in the favor of the American public. The prospects for the passage of a health insurance bill by the present Legislature of the old Bay State are, at least, moderately bright, and it will not be surprising if Massachusetts leads the way in this country in the extension of the insurance principle to social evils, such as illness, old age, unemployment. The social evil of industrial accidents is already more or less adequately taken care of by the compensation laws in operation in more than three-fourths of our Commonwealths. The next step in the establishment of a comprehensive social insurance is the adoption of health insurance laws, which, though they will differ in many important respects from our present compensation laws, will embody the same principles.

Several States besides Massachusetts are taking up the health-insurance proposal in earnest, and whether or not the study and discussion of the subject result in definite legislative action this year, the study and discussion are in themselves worth while.

Governor McCall's definite and straightforward pronouncement in favor of health insurance in his recent inaugural address proved something of a surprise, not to say shock, in conservative circles in Massachusetts and attracted nation-wide interest. It was said that the pronouncement was dictated by the Governor's political ambitions, by considerations of political expediency. To these more or less irrelevant objections it may be replied that Governor McCall is a man who is in the habit of thoroughly studying public questions and is quite capable of arriving at firm convictions in consequence of such earnest and intelligent study.

Since the publication of Governor McCall's inaugural message and the introduction of House bill No. 1074 by Representative Young, of Weston, the great body of the Massachusetts public is learning for the first time what health insurance is. Serious study has been stimulated in all quarters. The State Federation of Women's Clubs held a conference on health insurance last week. The State Anti-Tuberculosis Association and various district nursing associations have lent their active support to the movement aiming at legislative action. Many local medical societies have strongly indorsed the principle of the Young bill, though unqualified approval of all its provisions has usually been withheld. The Boston Chamber of Commerce has assigned to a special committee the task of studying the bill and presenting a report. Still more significant is the action of the State Federation of Labor in empowering its executive council to draft a health insurance bill.

Health insurance statutes in this country will undoubtedly follow closely the tentative draft prepared by the American Association for Labor Legislation. The standards proposed by the association on the basis of European experience and the demands of effectiveness under American conditions include joint contributions by employer, employe and the State. If employers and employes are to have an equal share in the administration of the mutual funds, their contributions should be equal. "The share of the State—one-fifth—is enough to interest the public in the results of the insurance, while it is not so large a share of the actual cost that its withdrawal by an economical legislature or executive would fatally cripple the insurance fund." More weighty, however, than the argument on the ground of expediency is the argument on the basis of justice. The State already recognizes its duty as a guardian of the health of those of its people less able to care for themselves by factory and housing laws, by free hospitals and dispensaries. It is unquestionable that health insurance laws will have the same preventive effect that workmen's compensation laws have had in respect to industrial accidents.

Under the insurance plan contributions are required of the employe, computed as a percentage of wages. This percentage, in the American Association's model draft, ranges from zero, in the case of a worker earning less than $5, to thirty-two per cent. in case his earnings are over $8. Workers who object to compulsory insurance because of its cost do not appreciate the value of insurance, or else do not realize that the cost under State insurance is much less than under present methods. An argument that meets these objections on the score of cost may be drawn from statistics obtained in New York State.

Last year working men and women, in New York State alone, paid to four insurance companies, operated for profit, more than $29,000,000 for industrial insurance, which virtually amounted to mere burial benefits. Under the plan of universal health insurance outlined by the Association for Labor Legislation these working people would have received, without any greater expense to them, not only burial insurance, but also medical, nursing and hospital care and medicine and appliances, with, in addition to all that, two-thirds of their wages during sickness up to a maximum of twenty-six weeks in each year.

Since the remarkable testimony of Samuel Gompers before the Committee of Labor of the national House of Representatives last year, when he opposed compulsory health insurance as an infringement of the personal liberties of the workers, there has been much misapprehension of the attitude of organized labor toward the legislative proposals now under consideration. The truth is that organized labor is by no means unitedly opposed to compulsory health insurance. On the contrary, the support of organized labor is one of the strongest influences on the growing success of the movement.

From physicians comes the objection that practitioners will suffer by State organization of medical service. This is not a serious objection, any more than the objection that insurance companies will be hurt. The great leaders in medicine and surgery and health work in this country are virtually unanimous in favor of health insurance.

All Points of the Compass

Rubaiyat of a Commuter

LV

A young Book Agent came around one day,
She had a most insinuating Way.
I bought her Book, and paid a Dollar cash—
A Dollar wasn't very much to pay.

LVI

But afterward my Heart with Fear was rife,
I didn't dare go Home and tell my Wife
How I'd by Contract bound myself to pay
The girl a Dollar Weekly all my Life.

Late in the evening Bill Sharpless volunteered to sing "I'm Dying for Some One to Love Me."

"We'll stand for anything but that," said Charlie Holden.

"What's the matter?" asked Bill. "Don't you like my singing?"

"We don't know," replied Charlie, "but why take a chance?"

And so General Pershing, although he didn't get Villa, is bringing 2000 Mexicans with him into the United States. It appears that because they helped the American soldiers in their camps it is unsafe for them to remain in their own country. They would be murdered for aiding the hated invaders. We don't know much about war or international law, but we know what things we like, and this idea of making it impossible for 2000 men, women and children to live in their own country is not one [illegible]

EQUALIZING INFLUENCES

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Duty of America—Loyalty of the Foreign-Born—"No Longer a Frontier Nation"

THE VOICE OF WASHINGTON

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—The Government has spoken, has defined to Germany and the world the cause which will make the United States a participant in the great war. Irrespective of racial origin, political belief or religious creed, there is only one word now that must rule every true American. The word is loyalty—loyalty to American principles.

In this dire hour let us turn to George Washington, under whose leadership our ancestors cast off forever the gyves of foreign despotism. Let us harken to the voice which gave council at Valley Forge and rejoicing at Yorktown.

Beware of "the insidious wiles of foreign influence" was one of the political axioms that Washington bequeathed to his country. Thomas Jefferson warned against "entangling alliances" with other nations. If Columbia is forced into the European conflict she must enter it with unbound hands, must continue with unfettered forces and conclude peace with liberty of action. There must be no restriction of the freedom which our Colonial patriots died to establish. We must not contract to sacrifice our blood and gold for the maintenance of royal dynasties.

If the United States becomes involved our pathway has already been blazed. We must proceed unflinchingly toward our ideal. But the ideal of America and the ideal of Europe are not the same. The principles of the two continents have been and will remain for centuries divergent. One stands for individual freedom in thought, word and deed. The other for dynastical supremacy over reason, speech and achievement.

The United States must war, then, to regain and retain her freedom of the seas, a freedom that is exempt from the autocratic dominance of any nation. We must pursue this right until it is obtained, until the utmost reaches of the waters are liberated from molestation, until our flag is spread by the same winds that flaunt imperial pennants.

We must reserve to ourselves the choice of making peace when and how we please. That declaration must not be made through, with or by the agency of any European Power. We must not pledge our nation to bleed and waste in the interests of aliens. We have no concern in the disposition of Constantinople, the destruction of a dynasty, the partition of a nation, the conquest of a people, save the eternal concern of morality and justice.

HOWARD SHELLEY.
Philadelphia, February 9.

LOYALTY UNDOUBTED

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—The EVENING LEDGER and other newspapers throughout the country almost daily contain statements made by citizens of Germany and Austria-Hungary both, in which they in the most impressive way possible again reaffirm their allegiance to the country of their adoption. I cannot see any necessity for doing so, nor can I see wherein it is doing any good. To my mind, the reaffirming of allegiance admits the possibility of disloyalty among the foreign-born citizens of German and Austria-Hungarian birth. I am daily in touch with citizens of German and Austria-Hungarian birth, and I can cheerfully testify that I have not found one whom I would consider disloyal to the country of his adoption. The fact that all of them sympathize with the country of their birth in its struggle does not by any means indicate disloyalty to our country.

Congressman Bartholdt, during a debate in Congress, appropriately used the following remark, "One can be loyal to his mother and yet be true to his bride." In my opinion, the fact that one is born in this country does not make him by any means loyal to the country, just as one born in Philadelphia would necessarily make him loyal to Philadelphia. It does not require any proof on my part to convince some Philadelphians that although some are born in Philadelphia they are not loyal to Philadelphia.

The thing which causes me more grief than anything else is contained in the fact that there are so many intelligent men and women, preachers, professors of universities, business men, etc., who are craving for human blood and stand ready to satisfy that craving and violate the law of God which says "Thou shalt not kill." [illegible]

to strike a chord which, at this moment, is very unpopular, by saying that so far as I am concerned, I am not quite ready as yet to say that Germany is wrong. One thing, however, I have settled in my mind, and that is, that we, as a nation, have not been neutral, and this is largely responsible that we are now facing a deplorable situation from which I sincerely hope we will emerge with unbesmirched hands.

SIMON FABER.
Atlantic City, N. J., February 8.

LET'S BE UP TO DATE

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—Your editorial in tonight's paper, entitled "No Longer a Frontier Nation," expresses the truth about as forcibly as anything I have yet read. The principle holds good all through life, and as I sit dictating this letter to the dictaphone my thoughts fly back to Washington's days, when he sent his correspondence in longhand. Because Washington used a pen is no good reason why others should not use a dictaphone; advice that is given today may be obsolete by changing conditions tomorrow.

GEORGE H. BORST.
Philadelphia, February 8.

HAIL, PROGRAM MUSIC!

Story and Picture in Vivid Musical Form at Academy Yesterday Afternoon

Some concerts are "easy to listen to" and hard to describe. Others (say those of Doctor Muck are the reverse. Of the former nature was that given by the Philadelphia Orchestra yesterday. It was essentially a "program" afternoon. Scarcely a number came to life that did not have its picture, its motto, its plot. Now one need hardly add that such a program did not possess the supremest merits. "Absolute" music (hated by the lovers of the dramatic and revered by their opponents) had small place at a matinee that comprised the noble (but pictorial) "Alceste" overture, the lilting eighth symphony of Beethoven, the dream-haunted "Swan of Tuonela" and the robustious and theatrically pathetic "Lament and Triumph of Tasso." If anything of story value was found necessary besides these eminently concrete pieces, it was afforded in the things which that admirable baritone, Reinald Werrenrath, sang.

It may be true that Mr. Werrenrath is the great proofroom eluder, but it is equally true that the singer cannot elude the praise that goes to splendid, unaffected, sonorous, dramatic vocalism. Lacking the "great" note of bellowing operatic tenors, Mr. Werrenrath has this to content him: the fine, smooth delivery of the best schooling; the clean-carved personality that all concert singers must possess, and the distinction of literary as well as musical understanding. It was a real treat to hear George W. Chadwick's "Young Lochinvar," to the verses by Sir Walter Scott, so ringingly delivered. All praise to the interpreter, which must be withheld from the composer. For the truth of the matter is that Mr. Chadwick has been so hypnotized by the rushing, theatrical spell of the poem that he has forgotten his rubric of musicianship. His little composition reeks of the playhouse; lacking nothing of impulse or impetus, "Young Lochinvar" still rather irritates, then satisfies, on such an afternoon. With a romantic costume for Mr. Werrenrath and a little red fire in the wings the illusion of miniature opera would have been complete.

The soloist also gave the immortally attractive serenade from "Don Giovanni," voiced with capital feeling and divining vocal production, and a recitative and aria from "The Marriage of Figaro." Let us hope that Mr. Gatti will soon transplant hither his new production of this luscious work—not heard in Philadelphia since the Dippel performance with Maggie Teyte, Carolina White and Mario Sammarco.

The central feature of the concert was the eighth symphony of Beethoven. No one who knows the manner in which Mr. Stokowski plays the scores of the romantics can doubt that he extracted some essence of beauty from this, the solitary caper of the symphonic master. Neither can it be disputed that he failed to get to the primal motive of the work. It is a curiously contrasted series of moods, this creation. Broad farce succeeds sublime humor, worthy of "The Mastersingers," and strange and intrusive wistfulness is interblent with the major frolicking. Yesterday the sentiment seemed bought rather dearly at the expense of the cosmic fun. Obviously, the orchestra was not in the vein.

The recovery came with "The Swan." This is the sort of thing that the conductor does supremely. His reading of the Liszt number but reiterated his power for brilliance and magnificence. It was a proof of his own, especial, highly colored talents.

E. B.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. Who is Wesley Frost?
2. How old is the Boy Scout movement in America?
3. Who was Franz Schubert?
4. How many Psalms of David are there?
5. Who are the rurales of Mexico?
6. What are "crocodile tears"?
7. What State is called the Golden State?
8. Who wrote "Cabbages and Kings"?
9. Who is Assistant Secretary of the Navy?
10. In what countries have the greatest number of recorded earthquakes occurred?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. The Books of Moses are the first five books of the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
2. C. Alphonso Smith of the University of Virginia, author of O. Henry's biography, recently was appointed to teach English literature at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis.
3. "Zed" is the letter "Z" in English dictionaries.
4. William McKinley was President during the Spanish-American War.
5. San Juan is the capital of Porto Rico.
6. Petromortis is carbon monoxide poisoning coming from partly consumed gasoline fumes.
7. Honduras is the "Land of Great Depths."
8. The oceans of the world are the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, Antarctic and Indian.
9. Napoleon was the "Man of Destiny."
10. Walt Whitman is buried in Harleigh Cemetery, Camden.

French Claims

E. S.—The facts in the "French claim" dispute were obscured for many years because of the secret diplomatic relations between this country and France during the American Revolution, and by the transactions of Beaumarchais, the great French dramatist, who, under the name of Roderigue Hortalez et Cie., supplied the American revolutionists with eight cargoes of arms, ammunition and clothing, worth 5,000,000 livres ($1,000,000). Of this sum the United States paid all but $200,000, which was the "lost million livres" of the French claim. The genesis of the misunderstanding was the fear of the French Government to antagonize England by openly selling supplies to the American Congress. Hence, the traffic was carried on sub rosa by Beaumarchais and the Secret Committee of Congress, represented in France by commissioners. The commissioners gave Congress to understand that the supplies were the gift of the King of France, but suggested that reimbursement be made to Beaumarchais by means of tobacco shipments. When, however, the American-French treaty of alliance of 1778 made secrecy no longer necessary, Beaumarchais demanded payment. Congress paid all but $200,000, and while final settlement was pending it was discovered that Beaumarchais had received $200,000 from the French Government, a sum, according to a statement by the French Government, that was included in the gifts to America. Suspecting that the munitions contractor was trying to "collect twice," Congress refused to pay. Beaumarchais's heirs continued the claim and payment was urged by the French Government. France contended that the $200,000 had been expended by Beaumarchais in the interests of the United States, but not for supplies, and that the unpaid-for $200,000 worth of supplies were a loss to him. Congress still demurred, asking for particulars. The claim was settled in 1835, when France paid this country $5,000,000 for spoliation of our commerce. But out of this fund 800,000 francs ($160,000) was paid to Beaumarchais's heirs. Although the matter was thus officially closed, resentment continued in this country and France for some years.

"Stonewall" Jackson

Mrs. J. S. N.—Yes, General Bee, of South Carolina, is generally accredited with the honor of having originated "Stonewall" Jackson's nickname. The story runs that at the first battle of Bull Run between the Federal and the Confederate troops General Bee, seeking to encourage his hard-pressed troops, exclaimed: "Look at Jackson—there he stands like a stone wall!"

SAM LOYD'S PUZZLE

The present net income from the earnings of the P. D. and Q. road would be 6 per cent upon the entire stock issue, but as there is $4,000,000 in preferred stock, upon which is paid 7½ per cent interest, the road is therefore only able to pay 5 per cent interest upon the common stock.

What is the total amount of this year's common stock dividend?

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

No. 1, Saratoga; 2, Verona; 3, Erie.

Tom Daly's Column

THE VILLAGE POET

Whenever it's a Saturday an' rumors fill the air
Of "Schuylkill River frozen tight," I promptly hie me there,
For, spite of age, I tell you, when that bit of news comes through
I have no use for Chestnut street, nor other news that's new.

I mind when I was but a lad of ten or twelve or so
I used to hear my elders talk of skaters long ago,
The ring of whose steel runners still re-echoed down the years
An' wreathed their names with glory as "Our Skating Pioneers."
An' some day when I've leisure an' the facts are at my hand
I'll try to write a story of that wintry fairyland;
That scene of olden splendor viewed through half a century's mist,
When knights performed the "grapevine" and the "Philadelphia twist."

Through half a century? Bless my stars, it's half as much again!
'Twas back in 1849 that gallant score of men,
Whose keen delight in healthful sport made skating all the rage,
First organized the Skating Club, with dashing Colonel Page.

As chief in all their counsels, when such things were to the fore;
He also led their revels (which, indeed, concerned them more)
When glass was on the river by the breath of winter kissed
And knights performed the "grapevine" and the "Philadelphia twist."

But say! this is a Saturday when rumors fill the air
Of "Schuylkill River frozen tight"—so lemme hie me there!
Belike upon a Monday, when my skating all is through,
I'll spin another ode about the Skating Club for you.

BESIDES, the youngsters gave us a pair of fine new skates for Christmas. We didn't know they cost $4 until we saw it on the bill, which we hope to pay on the fifteenth.

WHEN the Master Painters of Pennsylvania, at the annual convention in this town the other day, made P. J. Byrne, of Pittsburgh, secretary, he at once forestalled criticism of his secretarial shortcomings. "My mother," said he, "often told of an old woman in Ireland whose thirst was so great she could drink Loch Erinn dry; but she discreetly went to a daughter's in the neighboring village, and, her potations over, returned home, in no penitential spirit however. From the highroad within sight of her house she called loudly, 'What noise have ye in there? What noise have ye?' and her husband, a meek little man, opening the door said, 'We're not saying a word, my good woman; we're not saying a word,' and her warning reply was, 'For fear you would! For fear you would!'"

ARE STARS SONS?

As we look down from heav'n on you
And watch the little things you do,
We'd like to say just what we hate,
But, then we think—we scintillate.
SIG. LOST.

Dear Tom—Anent the proposed "interment" of William Jennings Bryan—why waste a perfectly good letter "n"? W. D.

"The attention of the Whatsinaname Society," says the Springfield Union, "is called to the fact that Priv. Harry Ohara, who has just received the British medal for valor on the western front, is mentioned in the war dispatches as a Japanese."

Well, well, well! an' is it thirteen years ago that we wrote a piece about another wan o' the family? It is so. Upon a day in 1904 we took our pen in hand to say:

THE FIGHTING RACE

I've been readin' the papers
And watchin' the capers
Of Russian and Jap on the land and the sea.
And it's got me to guessin'
Why some names is missin'
That should be conspickyus where fightin's so free.
Shure! where are the Reillys,
The Caseys and Kileys,
And all the rest of the Macs and the O's?
There was never real fightin'
Or wrongs to be rightin'
But some o' thim byes 'd be strikin' their blows.

Now the longer I ponder
The struggle out yonder,
Where the Jap and the Russian are flirtin' wid Fame,
The more I'm decidin'
The Irishman's hidin'
Behind the quare front of a haythenish name.
If ye read of "Patriski"
Or "Michelkomiski"
Ye will know they're not Russian at all, if ye're wise.
And the Jap "Tomohara"
Or "Teddimagara"
Are simply good Connaught men there in disguise.

Here's Versatility for You

From Honda, Republic of Colombia, "Young Julio, the Spanish-Indian boxer," writes to say that since he arrived there on December 5 last, he has "scored three knockouts, made two other fellows quit and given twenty-two lessons. So, you see, I like the game no matter where I am. I would like to write little stories, jokes, etc., for your 'colyum' under the name of 'Young Julio,' so if it is O. K. let me know and every week will scratch up something worth while."

The answer is O. K., Julio, and may everything you write be a K. O.

In a tonsorial emporium—yas, suh, dat's what Ah said—at Twentieth and Naudain streets, which is within a melon-rind's throw of Lombard street, we noticed this sign:

HAIR STRAIGHTENED GENTS.

THE ULTIMUS ULTIMATE IN PRAISE

* * * it was a Bembo's chiefest praise to be called "Cicero's ape."—From "Poet and Painter—a Renaissance Fancy," by Richard Aldington in The Dial.

What, R. O. C. wonders, did Bembo consider his chief and chiefer praises?

WITHOUT giving us a chance to reply to his query as to whether we noticed the sign on the north end of the Parkway Building—"Tomie's Shoes Shined Around the Corner"—J. N. W. goes to remark that the average artist's fault is just his failure to "shine around the corner."