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Philadelphia, Tuesday, August 28, 1917

RUSSIA

OUT of the chaps that was came the earth as it is, with 28 per cent of it land and 72 per cent of it water. Why the whirling elements so separated themselves no man knows. A popular rebellion is a sort of chaos. The restraints of order and authority are loosed. The nether masses of humanity can see no good in a change that does not equalize speial conditions. Of what value is a revolution to them unless it puts bread into their mouths and clothes on their backs? The national mind becomes a seething mass of active forces and influences. Whether it will settle into an ordered form, 72 per cent democratic and 18 per cent autocratic, is problematic. The weight of authority, established by historic precedents, is that revolutions do not move backward. There is progress even in the chaos which they induce.

The Russian revolution itself was no more a miracle than the events which have followed it. America is the mother of modern democracies. It might be supposed that here, if anywhere, the devices of autocracy would be identified uner ringly and the program of democracy be crystal clear. We find, however, that German propaganda finds exponents among even honest men, not only in the streets but in the Capitol. There are MORE TACT AND LESS DEMAGOGY Americans, native born, who lie awake nights devising ways and means to weaken the military might of the nation and prevent the use of its full powers in the prosecution of the war. We even find agitators who mock the truth and proclaim, with some appearance of sincerity, that we are not fighting for democracy at all, but for some mysterious, subtle purpose that defles analysis, war in order to save their investments in foreign bonds. Most rich men who have such investments will pay three or four times the amount of them in war taxation, but such simple facts do not worry the agitators. They have made up their minds and want nothing to do with truth.

Russia is a land of oratory unchained. Every victim of former autocracy is headed for a soap box. He knows he has been driven and kicked and cuffed for years. There is something the revolution can mean for him, and he wants that something written into the policy of the nation at once. Kerensky has to contend not with political parties, which would be comparatively simple, but with innumerable groups of public opinion, most of them half baked. If there were a definite program to balance his own against he could achieve a triumph quickly. But before he has knocked one crowd of objectors out of the way, there are two other crowds in its place. It required almost a decade after Yorktown to form the United States of America, and three-quarters of a century and a great war thereafter to render the bonds indissoluble. Why expect Russia to become a perfect national machine within a few months? It was a giant suffering from malnutrition when Kerensky took charge. He has had to fight back hunger, sedition, ignorance, stupldity, pseudo-American agitators, Teuton spies and propagandists and impaired orale in armies which had been betrayed repeatedly by their own officers. apoleon had a lighter task. Treachery and treason, at least, did not nest in his Republican armies.

The establishment of a Russian Resublic under conditions assuring stability the greatest single event the democeasy of the world can bring to pass. We we seen what the French Republic ans to the world. A similar great pernment, liberal in its motives and ated by unselfish impulses, stretching er eastern Europe and the north Asian sent, would throw the weight of in authority so definitely in favor of stic institutions that the surof autocratic forms would be ble and a world safe for democause a democratic world, would . It would pay us to surrender

advance more millions to the Kerensky Government, and to follow them with more and more millions if necessary to save the day.

There is no heritage we can leave our

sons likely to be of more advantage to them than a free Russia, which would be worth to the world all the blood and treasure the great war has cost. We can afford, therefore, in this hour of her peril to offer every moral and material help within our power. The President sent such a message yesterday to the National Council of Assembly in Moscow. As the leading exponent of Liberalism in the world, Mr. Wilson has shown an uncanny ability to diagnose national and them their meaning. There is reason to believe that he considers the triumph of democracy in Russia to be essential to the future peace of the world.

WHICH TIME WAS MR. LEWIS RIGHT?

CARLY in 1914 Mr. A. Mervitt Taylor, cent exchange ticket. He desired to know and to order, if it wished, the termination | that can come to a man of letters in France. of the exchange ticket outrage.

Among the other gentlemen who furnished opinions was William Draper Lewis, who stands sponsor now for a lease that would legalize and legitimatize exchange tickets. Mr. Lewis's opinion takes up sixteen pages of the 1915 transit report. After quoting the State Constitution to the effect that the police power "shall never be so construed as to permit corporations to conduct their business in such manner as to infringe the equal rights of individuals," he concludes:

For this reason, therefore, it is believed that the Public Service Commission may make an order remedying the discrimination, if any, involved in the present ex-change system of the Rapid Transit Company, although by so doing it may affect the income of the company and the appli-cation of the exchange system as it existed in July, 1997. This will not, it is be-lieved, impose any limbility on the city.

Mr. Lewis reached an opinion similar to that arrived at by other counsel consulted. He was emphatic in declaring that the Public Service Commission had full authority to end discrimination, and was, in fact, in duty bound to bring any discrimination to an end. Mr. Lewis of his apartment in the Avenue Auguste could not at that time see any legality in Bianqui. During a long and fascinating contract the exchange ticket outrage.

Was Mr. Lewis right then or is he right now when he proposes a lease which would legalize the aforesaid discrimination and deprive the community of its right to petition the commission for relief and the prompt abandonment by the company of its discriminatory practices? that is France. "The battles of the Marne and of Yeer

There happen to be some millions of land. They comprise virtually the only is freedom for France and the world. although they believe, for the most part, ages are being taken into the National death of my beloved son, I have advocated Army and are likely to prove themselves as good soldiers as any others. They have

> The assumption that negroes cannot be mobilized and put in concentration camps without race riots resulting is entirely gratuitous. One riet does not make a revolution. We shall make a sorry spec tacle of ourselves if it is shown that our boasted democracy is so saturated with prejudice that one part of the population cannot endure the presence of another part. A little tact in the selection of encampments, some common sense on the part of police officers and a little less demagogy from certain men of the Vardaman type in Washington are needed. We cannot estracize American citizens if we want to, and we ought not to want to.

Monte Santo is worth translating The Holy Mountain of Holy War is indeed

Can find no excuse for subway tie-up headline in New York Times. Philadelphia's transit disease must

It's hard to see why the packers should now be clamoring for a meat dictator. Can they actually be dissatisfied

with their own rule? It's no use for biology to insist that bysters have scant power of locomotion while a melancholy public sees them pre paring to go up rapidly in the autumn

Arctic Crocker Land would have been such a nice place to stow the Kaiser after the war that Donald MacMillan's denial of the existence of such a region is disappointing to many of us, in addition to Admiral Peary.

It was no worse for Argentina to have her protest against U-Boat outrages unanswered than to receive a mere scrap of paper. Germany herself established the worthlessness of such articles signed in her realm some time ago.

German corrosive gas that ate into the pollus' clothing at Verdun, neverthe less failed to stop the advance of the French. Their souls went marching on, for, as usual, the Teuton forgot to arm himself against those essential elements of victory.,

A New York official blames "reck less walking" for many of the accidents in which motorists become involved. Why not press the point a little further and remove all pavements? The awful temptation to promenade could thus be sternly repressed.

Kerensky's warning to Russian traitors sounds like an echo of the Paris amittee of Public Safety of 1793. The nals of that powerful organization used rify us, but today it seems per to to recall that the might of the

SOLDIERS WRITE THE WAR HISTORY

Georges Lecomte Says Letters From the Front Tell the Story of the Conflict in Splendid Terms

By HENRI BAZIN Staff Correspondent of the Evening Ledger is France.

PARIS, Aug. 7. IN FRANCE above all other nations of I the world a man's value is reckoned through that which he has in his head and heart rather than his pocket. Among numerous instances of this truism, the Societe des Gens de Lettres-the Society of Writ-International movements and wrest from ing People, to translate it literally-stands clearly out as an example. He or she of any nationality who writes the French language in any public aim is eligible for

membership. Every Frenchman who has made a repu tation in letters since 1838 has been a member. Nearly every writing Frenchman of contemporary time is a member. And among this company of men and women are to be found the names of litterateurs, dramthen Director of City Transit, asked atists and poets of international fame in for and got the opinion of several eminent | alphabetical list with the lowly back writer lawyers as to the legality of the eight and struggling unpublished author, "who aims high and has not failed, since he tried whether or not the Public Service Com- hard," as Stevenson says. To be chosen mission possessed the authority to exam- president of this society is among the highine into the question of discrimination est literary distinctions and compliments

> The first was Francois Villemain, the dramatist, who, with Louis Desnovers, Honore de Balzac, Victor Hugo and Alexander Dumas, founded the society in 1858. M. Villemain's successors were, in the order named, Balzac and Hugo. Following these illustrious writers among others are to be found the names of De Musset, Jules Simon, Arsene Houssave, Zola, Marcel Provost and Paul Hervieu. The incumbent is Georges Lecomte, with whom I recently spent an interesting morning.

M. Lecomte is a writer of power and charm, a charm to be compared to his per sonality. In addition to a busy literary life he has found time to undertake the direction of the Estlenne Municipal School in Paris, where boys from any walk of life are instructed in any of the arts allied to printing and bookmaking. The first attribute toward admission is an inherent taste. And here is the reason why the graduates of Estienne are neither mechanics nor artisans, but artists, working in tooled leather, in a letterpress that is the delight of the biblio-phile, in designing, lithography and every kindred trade to the arts of print, illustrating and the book.

M. Lecomte received me in the living room

A Holy Union of France

"No matter the subject we may touch, the war is the theme ever before us. Out of it has come a world proof of the ideals ingrained within our people, regardless of their position in life. We have seen and are

will, I think, stand out as incidents in the history of the war when in far time it is dispassionately written, stand out as the A POSITIVE genius for blundering has events in the whole story; when heroism and sacrifice started the turning of the tide in its flow toward the coming definite victory of the victory of the coming definite victory of the victory There happen to be some millions of the won permitted the magnificent results in negroes in the country, they are citizens Artols and Champagne, the long stole holdand they are an important factor in the ing of the line at Verdun with the victory prosecution of the war. They, men and of it, and the magnificent record of the that has morally and materially come out women, till some millions of acres of Somme. And evolving from these things

the near and far future of the nation. been called on before and not found lack- keep before us the beauty of the death that same to our sons, the nobility and gener osity of their offering, their jovial tion to the task they undertook, their union of common sacrifice, their affectionate respect for their divers opinions, ideas and ellefs; the idealism that inspired them and their faith and hope as expressed in the

many letters they left behind.
"For these things, freely exemplified in all our dead and all our living soldiers, edall our dead and all our living soldiers, ed-ucated and cultured or with but little in-struction, unfold the true spirit of France, of French ideals, of the manhood of an old nation that in outward appearance had ceased to exist before 1914, but which in reality was but dormant beneath a bost varied exteriors. The essential thing, then, is ever to remember this, remember these brave dead and the brave still to die star them upon a life as long as time through the hourly and daily action of us, their parents, who remember their thoughts, their faiths, their hopes, their sacrifice. After us, the work will go on of its own voitton the work will go on of its own voicion through the real, the true history of the

Not a Thing of Names and Dates

"It will not be a thing of dates and places and records, of opinions by histo as to reasons for reverses and victories; but a great, great book, containing naught else but the letters of our soldiers written from the front and the trenches to the dear ones behind. Some of these letters are master. pieces of perfect writing. And many are full of grammatical fault and error in exrull of grammatical fault and error in ex-pression. Yet all are linked together in a great bond, a unity of hope, of aim, of de-sire. They are among the hundreds and hundreds of thousands to be reproduced as they are, even to a misplaced comma. Many were written in pencil, in full health but upon the eve of death, written as though dictated by the soul ere it left the body.

"They are the true future history of France, the true history of our old ideals and of our new, the exalting example for all the future races of men that shall in-habit the globe. I have seen and read with pride and emotion very many of these let ters. A sentence from one is typical of the full contents of hundreds of thousands. "It is a penciled letter written to his wife by Francois Georges Belaud, a simple poilu, a cook by profession and a man with the bare rudiments of education; written in full vigor on the eve of his death upon the field of honor. After assuring her that he wrote but as a matter of precaution since he was at war and urging her in case of his death to have full courage and give their little son all the instruction her means would permit, he said:

And above all thou shalt tell him when he is big that his father died for him, or at least for the cause that will bring him service and service to the generations to come after.

"The generations to come after. And the living sons. Generations and sons not only of France, but the whole world of free

RAPPING CHICAGO?

The Mayor's admirable greetings to the representatives of our ally, his intense mericanism, his seal for the prosecution the war, the dignity of his official utterances, the sincerity ar rdor of his syn pathy and labor in the supreme struggle of democracy have increased his hold upon public opinion and public respect. He is not only the head of the most civilized and the most fruitful administration the city has known. He has the qualities, the conmown. He has the quanties, the seasy and strong national otion which the Mayor of New have in time of war, unless how



I know you'll be surprised to hear That I am now in France Because a child is rare these days For getting such a chance And if the censor lets me I Will tell the circumstance.

Perhaps I better not just now But write this poem so It will not tell you where I am Or where I mean to go Which is enough to know.

But O I wish that I could say The things I hope to do If I can only make the man Expose himself to view That I am tooking for a chance To give a talking to.

Or even hint his name But he can speak the English tongue And understand the same And what I got to say to him Will make him blush with shame.

But I must been the censor's rules And write this poem so But I can tell you though That there are still some children here

Which is enough to know. To be Continued.

Connecticut-Ups Doctor Alexander Hamilton, traveling brough Connecticut, wrote in his journal under date of August 28, 1744;

clowns. Near the town there is a pond of about half a quarter of a mile broad. Across this they lay a rope, and two or three strong fellows concealed in the bushes hold one end of it. To a stump in view there is tied a large fox. When they can lay hold of an ignorant clown. on the opposite side of the pond, they inveigle him by degrees into the scrape, two people pretending to wager—one upon the fox's head and the other upon the clown's-twenty shillings or some such matter that the fox shall not or shall pull him through the water in spite of his teeth. The clown easily imagines himself stronger than the fox, and for a small reward allows the rope to be put round his waist, which done, the sturdy fellows on the other side behind the bush pulliustily for their friend the fox, who sits tled to his stump all the time of the operation-being only a mere spectator and haul soor pilgarlic with great rapidity through the pond, while the water hisses and foams on each side of him as he plows the surface and his coat is well wet. I saw a poor country fellow upon his back like a log of wood, making a frothy line across the pond, and when he came out he shook himself and swore he could not have believed the fox had so much strength. They gave him twenty shillings to help to dry his He was pleased with the reward and said for so much a time he would allow the fox to drag him through the

labor that there is in one great section of the nation. The men within the draft of the Patric, being eligible through the heroic have happened to a sign in a window.

Six-The peace proposals of the All I can see from here is

GREAT BARGAINS IN ODD LOTS OF LADIES

"EXCELSIOR"

"The shades of night were falling fast As through an Alpine village passed A youth who bore mid snow and tee A banner with the strange device. Excelsior,"

Just what excelsior might be And found that it was nothing but A mass of shavings neatly cut. And, furthermore,

To see a huckster with a pack That's big enough to break his back Aclimbing up the rocky steep And shouting, while the townfolk sleep, "Exectsior."

"HASHIMURA TOGO from the Japanese schoolboy stories by Owen Johnson." says the Strand's advance notice, thus stealing the thunder of Wallace Irwin. But Owen Johnson did write "The Salamander," and that's the sort of creature o. o. d. p. tried to make of one Harry Arms who "sees flames burst from window, rushes to second floor and gathers them up."

PHIL FRIEND has received a rhymed letter of thanks from Foster Reeder, of which this is only part:

Last Wednesday night, to my surprise, when there I chanced to turn my eyes, saw the poetry you wrote. Say, Phil:

almost got my goat.

For there I was, bound up in splint.

a-lookin' at my name in print, with praise
of how I stand the gaff and give my troubles all the laugh.

Its true, Old Man, I have the blues, bu that refers to my big bruise. I am not blue at all, Old Sox—(now isn't that a paradox?).

The last stanza begins, "A motorcycle broke my pelvis," and there stops short and trickles off into pathetic prose. There is no rhyme for "pelvis," sez he. Let's

WE'LL be taking a little vacation shortly and we wish we were worthy of such a send-off as the Ballygawley correspondent of the Tyrone (Ire.) Courier does be handing out here:

Holiday for a worthy Townsman.—Mr. Robert McKeown, assistant in Mesars. Fairs, Ballygawley, has gone to the senside to recuperate his health. The young ladies of the village wish him a speedy return. His jovial disposition has endeared him to all the gentle sex and we all hope he will enjoy a good holiday.

This cruel war can't end too soon. o. d. p. we read:



But just to show you I am well

am airaid to tell too much

You will not puess too much at once

I had occasion to see a particular diversion this day which they call "haul-ing the fox." It is practiced upon simple

searched my lexicon to see

Why should a youth in Alpine heights Be wandering about at nights And peddling stuff for packing glass And breakables? The youth's an ass. It makes me sore

ake a rest.

souls. In East Africa also, from 1888 until 1996, Germany had time to kill 125,000

NICK P. KALELLIS.

DON'T FORGET LUXEMBOURG To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

the German menace. Many persons, however, thought that the Teuton control would take the form of a marriage with the young

"VOT'S DER USE!"

The Pope's Offer From a Greek Standpoint-Justice Wanted for Luxembourg

THE PEOPLE

pond as often as he pleased.

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. It is an open forum and the forme. And evolving from these things a freedom for France and the world.

"As a member of the "Union of Fathers and Mothers Whose Sons Have Fallen for subjects that the pleased.

This Department is free to all readers who wish to express their opinions on subjects of current interest. It is an open forum and the former of the views of us correspondents. Letters must be signed by the same and address of the views of the views of us correspondents. Concernly the same and address of the views of use of the views of use of the views of the views of use of the views of use of the views of use of the views of the views of use of the views of use of the views of use of use of use of the views of use of

THE VOICE OF

Sir-The peace proposals of the Pope to be nothing else but one augmented and improved edition of proposals which formerly the Germans tried to put on the table for discussion. For this reason with coolness, but did not fail by the press o characterize them as new German fire

There can be no doubt that the Vaticar this time acted upon the suggestion or under the pressure of the Central Powers; neither can there be doubt that if the Allies showed even the smallest disposition to accent the proposed terms by the Pope. Ger many and Austria would see the daybreak of the sun ray—hope and safety. Into the lines of the Vatican's document appear clearly the German pen and the German thought. No indemnity, restoration of the lost possessions to Germany in return to France of the occupied territory by Germany, universal recognition that the hone

of the opposing armies is assured, are plans suggested. The hairs of the heroic Mercier should document. He witnessed the barbarities of the Kaiser's soldiers among his innocent and bloody folk. But we cannot accept this peace; neither can the Belgians, Serbians, the French, the Russians, the Poles nor one man following even super-

ficially the history of the war. Acceptance of peace according to the new program means nothing else than submission by civilization to barbarism. It would We give you time to be bette prepared in order to put heavy the chains us later. Now you are tired and may

Let us remember how Germany ruled her colonies. In Southwest Africa, for ex-ample, she took care of one uprising by destroying by fire and iron about 30,000 In East Africa also, from 1888 until

We must never forget the words of Cardinal Mercler, "Down with the power which works to bring back the world to the

Philadelphia, August 24.

Sir-None of the peace proposals that have been made seem to pay any specific attention to little Luxembourg. I am there-fore pleased to note that Doctor Van Dyke in his current series of magazine pap does not forget that outraged little Duc Beigium's international guarantees were supposedly no stronger that those of Luxembourg. Napoleon III had looked coverously at the little State, but his ambitions were frustrated by the convention of Lon-don, which in 1867 declared Luxembourg neutral sovereign country under a guaran-tee of the powers. She was even considered more independent at the time of the Ger-man invasion in 1914, for the personal union of her ruler with the House of Orange reigning in the Netherlands had ceased in default of a direct line of succession. default of a direct line of succession in the Vetheriande in 1890.

Netherlands in 1992.
The only reason why we hear of no ravages committed by the Huns in Luxembourg is because its inhabitants had not a sufis because its innaturality had not a sufficient military organization to protest against the violation. The sum total of the armed forces was about 2000 volunteers and 150 gendarmes. This weakness was, of course, to Germany's advantage, but it does not mitigate her guilt in the slightest degree. The principle of restoration for which the Entente stands out must assuredly includes Luzembours. as well as Serbia Humania Monteneuro and Palgium. DosGrand Duchess.

Luxembourg, although a charming country, had long before 1914 been off the beaten track of visitors to Europe. Perhaps if the tourist agencies had exploited its attractions some valuable hints as to German designs might have been acquired. even by the chance observer. But civilizaeven worry greatly over the German occupation of Helgoland, so incidentally handed to the Teuton empire by visioniess Lord

Salisbury. At any rate, we cannot in justice afford to ignore Luxembourg's just claims today.

Philadelphia, August 25. THANKS FOR NEWSPAPER SPACE

the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir-In behalf of the Catholic Young Men's Archdlocesan Union, which acted as host to the Catholic young men of America who were assembled at the forty-third unnual convention of the Catholic Young Men's National Union, which was brought to a close on Wednesday, August 22, I beg to express our sincere and grateful thanks for the generous space which you gave our proceedings in the columns of your paper

Very truly yours, M. J. SLATTERY. during the progress of the convention. Philadelphia, August 25.

SUGGESTS SLIPPERS FOR PRUDES

To the Editor of the Evening Ledger: Sir-In one of the daily papers state ments have been made that at examining stations splendid arrangements were made by the doctor in charge, by which every candidate was draped off by curtains, and each man was supplied with separate booth for undressing, etc. What a nice thing that must have been! I wonder if slippers were furnished each ma and possibly a valet might have been obligingly handy to render aid to the men in their undressing and dressing. The paper suggested that other examining stations

night adopt this excellent plan (sic). will think that the men coming before them wish such a laddy-da method planned for their delectation. Where I had the honor their delectation. Where I had the honor of examining, the crowd was separated by low curtain, and only a certain number o Indressing and dressing were done in this room, and not one complaint reached m ears regarding exposure or anything else. All of the examiners have regarded our men as entitled to consideration, and prudery has not entered into the game at We suggest slippers to the prude perhaps pajamas

THE OLD PAPER COLLAR, TOO? When they began making car wheels of

paper some years ago it was such a revo lutionary thing that every newspaper and magazine had articles about it. Since then paper has entered into the making of so many things that we are not surprised at any new application of it. Washtubs, path of all kinds, doorknobs, the interio of houses-these uses of paper are familiar

Philadelphia, August 24.

The making of paper rugs and carpets is becoming a big industry in the East. We have long been familiar with the paper napkin and the paper drinking cup, of which the American people use 500,000,000 a year, five for each person in this country. The newest article of paper is the spoon.

A new factory in Lynn, Mass., is making 2,500,000 paper spoons a day. They are coming into use at soda fountains and in ice cream parlors, being used once and thrown away. We have known of paper shoe soles, too

but now they are talking of paper clothing, and seriously, too. At a convention of 110 manufacturers of clothing assembled the other day in Chicago from all parts of the country a communication was read from Joseph Tyrell, president of the National Sheep and Wool Bureau, saying it might be necessary to begin wearing clothing made partly of paper next year. Woolen cloth that cost \$1 last year costs \$2 and \$3 this year, and will be \$4 and \$5 next year. Mr. Tyrell proposed a cloth composed of 40 per cent. paper, some cotten and a little wool. This sort of cloth has been made as an experiment, and it is said to be soft, durable and good-looking. The paper is spun into a thread and mixed with the cotten and wool. other day in Chicago from all parts of the

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

What is the origin of the nickname "John Bull," as applied to England?

2. What was the object of the Pantisocrats?
3. What is "Crocker Land"?

4. Who is the present ambassador from France to the United States? 5. What nation, now at war, has produced the newest fighting device?

6. What is the national anthem of Belgium?

What country is reported to be calling for military service crippled men and inmates of hospitals who have not yet recovered from their illnesses?

8. What is the principal Parisian "theatre of horrors"?
9. Of what royal house was King John of England a member?
10. Persons of what race exempt from conpulsory United States military service have volunteered in large numbers recently?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz The Julian Alps are located in the Austrian province of Carniola, of which the capital is Laibneh.

William C. Redfield is Secretary of Com-

2. William C. Redfield is Secretary of Commerce.
3. Napoleon Bonaparte brought to a close the Holy Roman Empire in 1806.
4. Joseph Conrad, the novelist, is a Pole.
5. Florence Nightingale was a nurse in the Crimean War.
6. Lord Robert Cecil is the British Minister of Blockade.
7. Ex-King Constantine of Greece is living in Lagano, Switzerland.
8. The custom referred to by Hamlet as "more honored in the breach than in the observance" was that of the firing of a royal salute to signalize the beginning of was-

sall,
e battle of Saratoga was ranked by Edward Creasy, the historian, as one of the
fifteen decisive buttles of the world,
in aneroid barometer is one that measures
air pressure by its action on an elastic
lid of a box exhausted of air, not by
height of fluid column.

A MILD DRAMATIST OF FUSTIAN

TITAT school of criticism which reads the mental states and external incidents of the career of William Shakespeare into his plays, which calls him hard and cynical when he wrote "Timon," passionate when plays. he wrote "Othelfo, anti-democratic when "Julius Caesar" was composed and tenderly introspective when "Hamlet" was conceived, would have a hard time reconciling the personality of one of Philadelphia's noted dramatists of the old school with the character of his plays. This playwright was Dr. Robert Montgomery Bird, once a name to conjure with in stageland, now outmoded and rather undeservedly forgoten. Doctor Bird was as mild man as ever brandished a pen or wrote orotund and magniloquent blank verse, plays are as robust and noisily orat as he himself was retiring and shy. It is impossible to interpret him

One of the worthlest of these was "The Broker of Bogota," which has lately been unearthed by Professor Arthur Hobson Quinn, of the University of Pennsylvania. and included in his compilation of repre-sentative specimens of the American drama. The play, which achieved an artistic. though never a wide popular success, was acted in Philadelphia by Edwin Forrest. On the occasion of its premiere, said to be the only time the author ever witnessed a pres-entation of his piece, a gentleman seated entation of his piece, a gentleman season-near Doctor Bird observed of one of the characters, "The author of this piece, who-ever he is, must be a damned scoundrel himself or he never could have sketched such a villain as that." The doctor started, gazed at the speaker, and, satisfied that the man spoke without a knowledge of the

through his works.

man spoke without a knowledge of the writer. made some remark in reply and left the theatre almost with the shame of a man who had committed a crime.

"Colley Ciber" (James Rees), a distinguished Philadelphia critic of the "palmy days." says of Doctor Bird, that "he was a complete bookworm, so absorbed in literary pursuits that he paid little or no attention to worldly matters. As an instance tention to worldly matters. As an instance of this we might cite facts to show how prone he was to the wiles or rather sly jokes of his intimate friends, who took delight in what they called "drawing him

Doctor Bird was also a novelist and his "Nick of the Woods" for a long time enjoyed popular favor. The title has even enjoyed popular favor. The title has even a familiar sound today, although, the work was written in the 1830's. His most frequently acted drama, despite the superjority of "The Broker of Bogota," was "The Gladiator," which held the stage until the time when Robert Downing abandoned the stage for the field of religious exhortation. As an index of Doctor Bird's character "The Gladiator," with his pompous and high-flown rheteric, was wholly fallacious, just as the hitter transfer of the stage of t