OH BOY,

LET TH'NEXT

GUY HAVE IT! "

THE BACKWARD GLANCE

1 SAY 50 !!"

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Philadelphia, Saturday, December 27, 1919

ACTION, GENTLEMEN!

MONTHS ago the organization of the joint Delaware River Bridge Commission was completed. The commission held a meeting yes-

terday "We may discuss the engineering

staff," said Governor Sproul. The world knows the leisurely ways of commissions. If the gentlemen concerned officially with the Camden bridge project are not yet certain of what they will discuss at their all-too-infrequent sessions, how often will they have to meet before they can agree on questions of design and terminals?

SUBBING FOR THE SALOON

WITH a confidence that seems born of inspiration, Ernest L. Tustin, the new director of public welfare, enters the long list of zealous people who believe that they have found or can find a substitute for the saloon. Mr. Tustin has not made his plans public. He appears to be thinking of a light-hearted combination of dance hall and movie show supervised by prophets of rightcousness from the municipal welfare department.

The scheme is interesting. Mr. Tustin should be helped and encouraged. We wish him luck. But the average hard drinking barleycorner went to saloons to be deluded. He could believe that he was an unbeatable strong man, Caruso, a prophet, the wisest politician of all, a poet, a prizefighter. He could have one delusion at a time or a whole flock of them simultaneously. Saloon substitutes will not meet all his requirements. They will not give him headaches, either, That's why Mr. Tustin's task is not easy,

POSTAL EFFICIENCY

AN UNPRECEDENTED burden was put upon the postal organization in this city in the week preceding Christmas. The volume of mail and parcelpost matter was stupendous. There was a time on Wednesday when it seemed that the delivery system would be hopelessly congested. Yesterday, however, the postoffice officials were able to announce that every letter and package was delivered before the force quit for their own holiday.

The tradition of efficiency is very old In the postoffice organization. Six years of bad management, tyrannical authority and poor pay have not sufficed wholly to destroy it. It will survive until a successor to Burleson arrives to provide a fairer administration. But the credit belongs to the hard-working civil service personnel and not to the political appointees.

HIGH SEAS AND HIGH BALLS

N AWFUL picture of a ship with an A unspliced main-brace accompanies the announcement that the shipping board is considering disposing of all its vessels to private American ownership. The utter hapelessness of competing with foreign passenger steamers on which alcoholic refreshment is legally sanctioned is ominously forecast.

But what is a woeful horoscope on land is not necessarily applicable to the sea. Epicures both in food and drinks have been known to fast persistently on shipboard. And some of the most indignant words ever voiced have been flung at more than one immune and self-constituted Samaritan who called champagne a cure for seasickness.

THE WILD EAST

BANDITRY of the sort that was supposed to have passed forever with the stage coach is having an astonishing revival along the line of the Lincoln Highway between this city and New York. Motortruck crews are required to go heavily armed. One driver was shot dead not long ago by thieves, who got off with his machine and a consignment of cloth valued at \$20,000.

Outlaws have been quicker than the police to perceive the possibilities of motor vehicles. The automobile is their chief dependence and the belief expressed by the authorities at Passaic, N. J., that at extensive organization of thugs exists, with first-aid stations, hiding places and equipment at various places along the route between Philadelphia and Jer-

sey City, seems well founded. Over a year ago traces of an elaborate organization of motor bandits were uncovered in this city. It was found then that trucks with valuable loads often were trailed in fast passenger cars by thieves who sought opportunities to steal the machines, even if an attack on the driver were necessary. The frequency of hold-up stories in the news shows how abjectly the police in this city and elsewhere have failed to meet the new tacties of resourceful criminals. In New Jersey as well as in Philadel-

ments more or less futile.

Authorities of the various states will have to learn speedily how to deal with the new type of highwayman if motor traffic is to be made safe on important roadways.

RAILROADS HAMSTRUNG BY CONGRESSIONAL BOLSHEVIKS

There is No Hope for Business Until the Old Hostility to Capital Invested in Transportation is Abandoned

THE solution of the whole railroad problem centers around the protection of the right of the public to continuous and efficient service from the transportation corporations.

President Wilson has not touched upon this phase of the question in his proclamation ordering the return of the roads to their owners on March 1. If he refers to it at all it will be in a special communication to Congress while that body s trying to agree on a new plan for railroad regulation and on what the government is to do to reimburse the railroads for the losses sustained during the period of public control and operation.

Railroads are not private corporations in the sense that a corporation manufacturing shoes or hats or clothing or typewriters is private. The railroad is a public highway in fact and in law. The courts have held that the owners of the roads are trustees of the people to whom is committed the task of operating the roads in such a way as to give the same service to every one on the same terms. Government has had to interfere in order to secure uniformity of service and

uniformity of charges so that there might not be discrimination in favor of any one. But the interference has not been intelligent. Rates have been fixed so low that it became impossible years ago for the railroads to secure the capital needed for extensions and improvements. It would be about as easy today for the railroads to float a loan as for the soviet government of Russia to sell an issue of bonds in the American market.

The Bolsheviki have been little more hostile to all capital than our own Congress has been to capital invested in the railroads. A billion dollars a year is needed for the next five years to provide the improvements and new equipment required by the roads if they are to give the country the service that its business demands. But to ask for it under present conditions would be like asking sane men to throw their money into the fire.

Congress has two months more in which to undo the evils of the past and to reimburse the railroads for the lesses sustained under government operation. If it acts intelligently and without prejuce it can lay the bugaboo of a panic which has been stalking up and down the land ever since the signing of the armi-

The railroad payrolls have been inreased by the government more than \$1,000,000,000 a year, according to Judge Lovett, of the Union Pacific system, and the rates have been increased barely enough to cover this item. The increased cost of fuel and material equipment has not been provided for in any way, and the government is insisting that the roads owe it large sums for equipment bought during the war.

Several of the brotherhoods whose members are employed by the roads are planning to demand a further increase in wages before March 1, while the government remains in control and while the threat of political reprisals against the party in control of the executive demailed up to midnight on Christmas Eve partments can be used with some hope of success. If these increases are granted the railroads will be in a very serious condition when their owners get porsessien of them.

> There is no way out save through a further increase in rates which the public will have to pay. And in addition to the further increase in rates, the public will be burdened with the payment of \$613,000,000 which Secretary Glass has asked to be appropriated this year out of the national revenues to pay the deficit that is accumulating under government

operation. It has been estimated that the total deficit will amount to \$1,500,000,000. If an attempt is made to pay this out of the ordinary revenues at once, the national budget will be so large as to be beyond the ability of Congress to provide for. If a reconstruction bond issue were made to cover this sum the taxpayer would be temporarily relieved, for the payment of the debt would be spread over a long period of years. Men interested in the railroads would doubtless buy the bonds and accept the government's promise to pay, while they would use the money thus supplied for the development of the roads.

This is not a matter to which, as we have said many times before, the man in the street can be indifferent. The railroads are not owned by a group of ich men with inexhaustible resources. They are owned largely by the holders of life and fire insurance policies and by the depositors in savings banks. This means by the plain people of moderate means. If the railroads are bankrupted the value of the savings bank deposits and of the insurance policies is seriously

impaired. This property must be protected, not only against the folly of Congress but against the unreasonable demands of the men who work on the railroads. But whenever some congressmen think of a railroad they think of what used to be called a bloated bondholder reveling in riches, drinking champagne for his breakfast and dining on terrapin. It has thus far been impossible to get this idea out of the mind of the lawmakers in Washington. The men who have looted the railroads in the past are largely responsible for this belief, but the day when railroad looting was easy has passed. never to return; that is, railroad looting

by unscrupulous speculators. The menace now comes from the brotherhoods of employes. They succeeded in holding up Congress when the Adamson eight-hour law was passed on the eve of a presidential election in September, 1916. They are planning another hold-up

phia politics has rendered police depart- on the eve of another presidential elec-

There is grave danger that Congress will forget that the public is more vitally interested than the railroad employes in the wage question and in the protection of the capital invested in the railroads. Word came out of Washington vesterday afternoon that the plans in the Cummins bill to protect the public against strikes were not to be adopted in the bill finally passed, and that no adequate plan had been devised for the settlement of disputes about wages and

Unless moral pressure is brought to bear upon the congressmen the event will doubtless justify this forecast.

THE TREATY SCAPEGOATS

REVIEWING his dark and disturbing impressions of his recent trip through Europe, William Potter deplores the fact that the peace treaty was ever made a political issue. In that opinion a huge majority of Americans concur. The disagreement starts with the futile process of fixing the blame.

There are hindsight experts who denounce the President for having urged the election of a Democratic Congress, for having gone to Europe at all, for having appointed on his commission no other Republican save the experienced but not influential Henry White.

From another standpoint the round robin against the league was the primary offense. It swayed partisan Republicanism toward a policy wholly at variance with the best party traditions and was plainly marked with bad temper as well as baste.

There are times, however, when culprit-hunting is among the most sterile of enterprises. The logical order of acts which make for progress has been reversed in the present crisis. The nation is under the crucial necessity of ratifying the treaty. A moratorium on fault-finding should be the first step. With it, acceptance of the pact will become comparatively easy.

Later on the scapegoats may be sorted out and there will be plenty of political arguments for all hands. It is noticeable that even in Germany reconstruction comes first. Disputes about punishing the guilty have not been permitted to embarrass the concerted plans for

In our own country those politicians who wish to make the treaty a campaign issue will have their most effective ammunition after the document has been made operative. The question of who blocked it most may then legitimately

AN OBJECT LESSON IN FRANCE

THE oversubscription of the new French loan on the first day that it was offered is more than an index of patriotism and an optimistic view of the future. It is testimony also of the sound financial habits prevalent in the leading European countries.

The small investor, composing the preponderatingly large portion of the pubic, is thoroughly accustomed to bond buying. Stock swindlers and easymoney artists are generally less triumphant abroad than here at home, not so much because Europe is virtuous or its public averse to gain as because respect for security is firmly implanted in the

It is America which is emphatically the happy hunting ground of the getrich-quick concern. Proof of this fact could be supplied by the postoffice to

The Liberty Loans, however, were a wholesome financial as well as a patritic stimulus. It will be well to remen ber that merit should the government see fit to float any additional general issues. Such bonds do not merely help to pay the debts of the United States. They furnish an armor against flighty finance, which France in particular has long successfully worn.

The victory of the new loan proves that, despite the alleged "orgy of extravagance" in Paris, a good many stockings over there are not silk but wool.

The fair-price board may get what it aims As to Fair Prices for-fair prices; but fair prices are not necessarily low prices, The best that can be hoped for in the cirimstances is that Mr. McClain, with the aid of the newspapers, may be able to drive the beartless profiteer out of business.

All the mathemati Just a Little Chore cally inclined political economist has to do nowadays is to square the vicious circle in which Wage and Cost of Product are playing Ring-Around-Rosy.

Bandits in Chicago invaded a ful store orced clerks and customers to lie on the floor and escaped in an automobile with loot to the value of \$25,000. Sounds like a chapter of Philadelphia's current history, doesn't The Home Defense Guard has been my

tered out. The training they received will always be an asset to the men and the serv ce they gave will be remembered by all The holiday spirit everywhere noticeable

gives direct refutation to the assumption of the friends of John Barleycorn that sicelty makes a sick city. The man who has both patriotism and

money has a good opportunity to show his colors by presenting a standard to the local Stanch in our admiration for General Pershing, we concede that fried dried apple

pie has too much dignity for slapstick

Wonder if Admiral Sims ever wonders if the time is not near when it may no longer be said that no President has ever come from the navy?

Steps being taken to prevent holdups financial institutions seem to show a lack of desire for a bank where the wild time

The Profiteer is the Other Fellow and his residence is Elsewhere. And where the Elsewhere would it be?

Here's where Chef Time makes hash out of the Christmas dinner.

We all feel better for the dissipations of a prosperous Christmas.

MAYOR-ELECT MOORE'S LETTER

Up-State Politicians Have Yet to Learn That Philadelphia Administration Will Not Recognize Factions

POLITICIANS are watching with curious interest the checkerboard as the game played hereafter from Harrisburg and Philadelphia. The Governor has his ear to the ground and travels over the state frequently, coming in close touch with public He knows the political game.
The Philadelphia situation, however, does not seem yet to be thoroughly understood by the people up-state. Candidates for high places looking to Philadelphia for favor and support do not seem to have fully realized the change that has taken place in the Quaker City. There is an inclination to go to old leaders or to yield to their recomendations with regard to appointments on the rather dubious ground that the 'dominance' of factions has not yet been learly determined. In view of tatements by the Mayor-elect of Philadel phia that factions will not be tolerated or recognized, the doubt of some of the state enders is somewhat mystifying, but it is believed in due course those who have been accustomed to "go-along" methods will come to a full realization of the truth that "the old order changeth," and that it has actually changed for all practical purposes.

PRESIDENT CALWELL, of the Corn Exchange Bank, who ties up pretty close a agriculture, has discovered that blooded is hard to get and that when cattle are offered for sale, which is now rare. nedigreed stock is quickly bought up. Every one will agree that we should have more cattle, and still more cattle, if the cost of living is to come down. Our consuming population seems to be increasing much more rapidly than is our edible stock. Mr. Calwell has an idea that we could encourage cattle raising in the East by an occasional exhibit of blooded stock, and there are many others who agree with him.

C. B. CARTER, secretary of the National Association of Hosiery and Underwear Manufacturers, asks for a large hall suitable for the sixteenth annual convention and exhibition of that body. The association has used the First Regiment Armory and the hall of the Commercial Museum, but is clamoring for more room. The meetings of the untional association bring many buyers to the city and they are undoubtedly of great commercial value, all of which goes to show that Philadelphia should have a big new hall-not too big, but big enough meet such emergencies as that described by Mr. Carter.

THE State Highway Department has a way I of filling up odd automobile numbers by assigning them to persons more or less prominent in public affairs. It may be a good thing in more ways than one, since it easy to detect ear No. 25 or car No. 101 if the driver happens to be cutting up any didos, which, of course, he ought not to do with the ear of any public official. Perhaps Commissioner Lewis S. Sadler and his motor vehicle force intended by this method to pay a compliment and to set an example.

THERE is much complaining up in the vicinity of Park avenue and Olney avenue, Forty-second ward, concerning street improvements. Milk wagons stuck in the mud when trying to reach new houses are said to be a feature not altogether pleasing to those who purchased property in this vicinity. C. B. Fenstermacher and a numher of other property owners in the vicinity, having brought this matter to the atten tion of the authorities, hope something may be done. A milk wagon stuck in the on a frosty morning is not very helpful in the matter of baby culture, and the Forty-second warders will probably find some redress before long.

THE Northern Liberties Welfare Workers' Association is agitating for a playground in the vicinity of Fifth street and Fairmount The Rev. Edwin S. Lane, of the social service commission of the diocese of ennsylvania, is pressing this matter, along with other active citizens, including Clinton Rogers Woodruff, chairman of the commis On the committee surveying the situntion is Mr. Carter, of the Beth Eden Community House, and Miss Rosenbaum. of the Northern Liberties Playground.

CHARLES J. WEBB, the big wool factor, C is as well known in Wyoming as he is in Philadelphia, and in Australia as he is in Wyoming. We do not always appreciate extent to which the big Philadelphia business man is appreciated elsewhere. Con ressman Frank W. Mondell, the leader of the House of Representatives, recently stated that the names of Webb, Grundy and Cummings were almost household words in his home state. The Grundy referred to is Joseph R. Grundy, of Bristol, who buys a great deal of wool in Wyoming, and the Cummings is Colonel J. Howell Cummings, of the Stetson Co., whose hats, or rather sombreros, are quite familiar to the western

THE president of the Pennsylvania Lumbermen's Association this year is Harry J. Myers, of Bethlehem. Harry dabbles a little in politics and generally keeps posted as to what is going on in the state and he never lets go the business side of it and hence is able to talk politics withou ring to secure office. Mr. Myers is one of the active spirits in the direction of Naz areth Hall Military Academy at Nazareth nd he also figures in the big Lincoln Day elebrations at Bethlehem.

FORREST H. RIORDAN, chairman of the publicity committee of the South Sixtietl Street Improvement Association, has let i known that that association is in favor of the incoming administration and expects to co-operate with it. The association which is headed by H. G. Heebner, president, represents a big part of the Forty eixth ward, claiming for its boundary lines the east side of Fifty-eighth street, west to Cobbs Creek, north side Cedar avente south to Baltimore avenue. It is said that he members of the association are 90 cent owners of property-a very good show

Down in Washington they have organized a War Department Co-operative Stores Association to heat the high cost of living. hose workers in the War Department have devised a system by which they can disnense their members at wholesale prices food clothing and other necessaries of life. The ssociation has the indorsement of men like Julius Kahn, chairman of the military affairs committee; P. C. Harris, the adjutant general; General March, chief of staff, and Quartermaster General Rogers There are 23,000 employes in the War Deartment and the members of the association think that by drawing this large arms together they can make a big dent in living costs. The plan is something like that of the celebrated Rochda's system, which for a long time has had foothold in England. J. HAMPTON MOORE.

The real sweetness of sugar is with the seller rather than with the buyer.

THE CHAFFING DISH

To His Brown-Eyed Mistress Who Rallied Him for Praising Blue Eyes in His Verses

IF SOMETIMES, in a random phrase (For variation in my ditty), I chance blue eyes, or gray, to praise And seem to intimate them pretty-

TT IS because I do not dare With too unmixed relteration To sing the browner eyes and hair That are my true intoxication.

NOW, then, that I consider brown K For ladies' eyes, the only color: And deem all other orbs in town (Compared to yours), opaquet, duller,

T PRAY, perpend, my dearest dear; While blue-eyed maids the praise were drinklng

How insubstantial was their cheer-It was of yours that I was thinking! It seems to us perfectly natural and cred-

table that the retiring councilmen should be eager to take their mahogany desks with Those desks, undoubtedly, are associated in their minds with the pleasantest and easiest job any of them ever had; moreover, like our own cherished rolltop, they are probably crammed and pigeoned with all orts of neglected correspondence which they intend, some day, in the happy leisure of their old age, to answer. Certainly, to speak for ourself, we would

rather push the desk home on a barrow than have to answer all the letters in it. One of the problems that worries the

architect of the projected new building for this newspaper is what to do about our desk. We understand that, after one look at it he decided that the only safe way to proceed yould be to jack up the pile of unanswered letters and then erect a new building around

If General Pershing goes on eating fried dried apple pie, the question of his candidacy for the presidency will soon be decided.

It is our opinion that the really sagacious man is the one who saves until fter the festival some of those "Don't Open Until Christmas" seals. He saves them, of course, to put on the presents he hastily mails, the norning after Christmas, to the people he inadvertently forgot.

And the really base-minded man is the one who reckons up, on a sheet of paper, the number of people he forgot who sent cards to him, and compares it with the num ber he sent to those who sent him nothing, and concludes that he stands about even.

Many of the thoroughly well-meaning schemes of social regeneration puzzle us greatly; but we profess ourself even more than usual nonplussed by a broadside from Xenia, Illinois, which has just reached us. In this it is said, "We hold that the orderly evolution of society can be secured only by the abolition of interest."

Testing that doctrine by applying it to particular case, ourself, we take the liberty of observing that nowhere has interest been more substantially abolished than in our own At the moment we are somewhat soiled, to the pure vision of the Xenia thinker, by having battened on the inconsiderable interest of a few Liberty Bonds but there was a time when for several years we never got near enough any interest even to know what it looked like. And we do not remember that this condition made us any more gay, innocent or altruistic at heart. The Xenia enthusiast complains that "Inbut we think he is too optimistic. .

Dove Dulcet, who is a simple-minded thinker, has confided to us that he believes the Deity to be a kind of publisher who has issued the universe in the form of galley proofs. We are now in the stage of cor recting the misprints, Dove avers; and he

thinks the page proofs will be along about the year 3000. Dove also maintains that once the volume ready for publication, the publisher will

back it to the limit with a big advertising

appropriation. Dove's theory is an interesting one, and if Dove weren't so tedious we would have liked to discuss it with him more at length. We did remark, however, that books that are published by the author himself rarely have a successful sale and are usually panned by

Looking over our modest reasons for thankfulness and preparing our spirit for the bracing discipline of New Year resolutions, we are very pleased not to be the owner of a railroad that has been two years under government control

But as director general of the Urchin's clock-work train we assert that the successful conduct of such a system makes the trousers very baggy.

Out in Cincinnati they face the facts of nodern life with refreshing realism. From a friend in that city we got a Christmas card with the following sentiment printed on it Perchance 'twill Santa somewhat gripe To crawl in through your flat's steam pipe. Though modern apartments are minus a flue, There is no chance that he'll miss you.

Our favorite author, Shepherd M. Dugger, well understands the effectiveness of alternating the sublime and the comic. Students of literary art will note his technique in the following passage:
The beautiful clouds, the ships of the

ethereal sea, in whose electric berths the giant thunders were sleeping, now sailed only mountain high over the valleys, presenting a side view to the tourists; and they caught the rays of the sun in their rigging or allowed his beams to pass through between them to the beautiful earth below, the landscape was leopardized miles around with a moving robe of light and shadow.

Just at this instant a buffeting breeze

lifted Skipper's light hat from his crown and gave him a lively southward race for its recovery, and every time that one of his big feet went forward, the heel of the other flew up behind and hit him on the hip, while his great hands were extended forward in pursuit of the structure of cereal straw.—The Balsain Groves of Grandfather Mountain

The "Balsam Groves" has aroused genia omment from a number of our gently nur tured clients, one of whom, Mr. George H Mell, tells us that within sight of Grandfuther Mountain, North Carolina, is a general store with the following sign:

Terms Strictly Cash. To trust is to bust; to bust is Hell No trust, no bust, no Hell.

Another client says that at the time of he Centennial, Philadelphia was the birth place of a book no less unconsciously amus ing than the "Balsam Groves." called "The Maple Dell of '76," and our client sighs to see it again. Does any one know of a copy?

Social Chat The Rev. Robert Norwood is a keen ad-The Rev. Manner of the Gumps.

Roy Helton is at work on a poem for the Dish.

Tomorrow being President Wilson's birth day, the Dish has sent him a present, but we doubt whether he will read it.

If the back-page Beauty Corner can hold out for about eighteen years longer we have a daughter who will knock them cold.

A. Edward Newton has collaborated with James Boswell in writing a little book about the late Samuel Johnson. The lucky publisher of such a pair of sprightly writers is Mr. R. B. Adam, of Buffalo. SOCRATES.

THE WELL

SELECTING

A SPOT

FE-Wurb,

MONTD!

FEWER

With osiers straight and long That slips away So quietly: Let us play That we are fisherfolk And this the Well of Song Beneath the Scarlet Hazels

In its shadowed deeps Fintan the Salmon sleeps Like a bright-plumed bird: He will wake, he will rise At a whispered word, And we may snare him Tangled in a net Cunningly staked and set

And have the world for prize, Or better, cease to care For any kingdom there, Both grown so wise. -Ella Young, in the Nation

Today's menu: Turkeybone soup.

What Do You Know?

When is it proposed to return the railroads to the government?

2. What is the fleche of a church? 3. What is the origin of the word chore?

4. Why was the Bridge of Sighs so called and where is it?

5. What is the literal meaning of the word "nee" attached to the name of a married woman, as "Mrs. Mary Smith, nee Jones"?

6. Where are the Canary islands?

7. Who is the premier of Japan? 1 S. What is the mean heat of the human body?

9. What was the battle of Bennington and what state celebrates its anniversary as a legal holiday?

10. What President of the United States was the longest lived?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" was written for the Christmas of 1843.

2. The salary of the Vice President is \$12,000 a year. 3. Unalaska is one of the largest of the Aleutian islands, which extend in a chain from the southwest extremity of

Its scaport is also called Unalaska. "The Physiology of Taste" ("La Physiologie du Gout") was written by Brillat-Savarin, a noted French epicure and gastronomist, who was also a writer on other subjects and a jurist

of some repute. His dates are 1753-5. New Orleans was under French dominion for forty-eight years and under

Spanish for thirty-seven. The Republican Presidents were Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, William Mc-Kinley, Theodore Roosevelt and Wil-

liam H. Taft. 7. The great fire of Rome occurred in the

reign of the Emperor Nero. 8. General Pershing spent his boyhood in the town of Luclede, Mo

9. The word arctic is derived from the Greek "arktikos," bear, in allusion to "Ursa Major," the Great Bear, the brightest constellation of the northern heavens.

10. Because Lady Astor holds a seat in Parliament, King George broke precedent in opening his speech to that body. The old form of address was "My lords and gentlemen of the House of Commons." The new revised version was "My lords and members of the House of Commons."