THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Objects to Wife's Mother

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—A serious question of difference has arisen between myself and my wife regarding her mother coming to make her home with us. It is not a question of objectionable mother-in-law, in a general sense, for I presume my wife's mother would not interfere with us especially. Recently my father-in-law died and my wife, being an only daughter, she says it is her duty since her mother must break up her home to bring her to live with us.

The mother-in-law is a little bedriddenabout coming, and as she is quite old we have discussed the advisability of placing her in a home for the aged, and I have volunteered to pay the cost. My wife says she would not permit this, although she believes it would be the best thing for her mother. She says she would be mortified to death to have people say to her that they had placed her mother away among strangers in one of these homes.

The mother is willing to come to the home; in fact, I feel that she would prefer doing so rather than come to live with us, but her daughter is determined. We would be somewhat crowded in our little apartment if the mother came, and if she did I would have to give up my den to be converted into a bedroom. I am fond of cards and we use the den frequently, and if my mother-in-law came to live with us I would have to break up our little card parties. But my wife does not care if I have to tell my most friends that we cannot meet for cards any longer, for it would not be half as bad as if I had to tell her friends her mother was to be supported, for the most part, by charity.

I am quite sure that if I am unable to overcome my wife's objections it will lead to more or less disastrous consequences for with the feeling we both entertain now there is bound to be a drifting into most serious conditions when her mother comes, and it seems unfortunate that this should have occurred, for my wife and I previously had no incident, have lived on the most friendly terms. I hardly see how any one could help me much with their advice under the circumstances, but I would accept it gratefully.

W. L. E.

Philadelphia, December 27, 1920.

Feels Blue Laws Not Elevating

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—The present tendency toward attempting to make people righteous and religious through the establishment of the Sunday observance dogma by civil authorities is a danger signal at which we should take alarm. Sunday laws and universal compulsory observance are an entering wedge opening the gates for a flood of religious persecution to follow in its wake. It is high time that a strong voice of protest be raised against ecclesiastical encroachments upon our free institutions and the consciences of the individual.

The American people should feel very thankful that a free press still endures, those who are alive to encroachments against our republican form of government exists at the present time. Let us keep the church and state definitely separated that truth, justice and liberty may prevail and that tranquillity and happiness may be continued and promoted for the benefit of all concerned.

N. W. H.

Philadelphia, December 28, 1920.

Against Immigration

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Being certain I am speaking for myself I am not selfish, but our Senate unless influenced by the financial powers that want cheap labor should look up our Congress and stop immigration for at least one year or we will have soup kitchens again. Thousands of unemployed now in our large cities are citizens. It should be figured on the same basis as business. Take care of your old customers first. Unless our Senate wants to be classed with the English House of Lords in this case they had better back up Congress.

W. H.

Philadelphia, December 29, 1920.

How Can He Get Back?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I want the advice of [illegible] readers as to how I am going [illegible] at my wife for a title she purloined in [illegible] Christmas. She [illegible] expressed a [illegible] consequently [illegible] chiefs from a [illegible] mas presents [illegible] dren, and [illegible] I never get [illegible] hardly the [illegible] vious disposition [illegible] thing on me [illegible] cause I refused [illegible] as she thought [illegible] presents for her family and friends.

Now, [illegible] into some [illegible] but she [illegible] friends [illegible] presents, and [illegible] the book [illegible] second-hand, [illegible] a price for them. I [illegible] a copy of Burton's [illegible] because my [illegible] a desire to have [illegible] the lines on [illegible] cards to compare [illegible] might be [illegible]

But now [illegible] Christmas [illegible] land." [illegible] my wife [illegible] taken a [illegible] son cruise [illegible] recall m[illegible] my wife [illegible] wouldn't [illegible] lection of [illegible] ters in the [illegible] tion for [illegible] which she [illegible] come addition[illegible] months.

I have [illegible] the best [illegible] the junk [illegible] lently pass[illegible] to spend [illegible] of helping [illegible] I get hu[illegible] her, or [illegible] think [illegible] most [illegible]

Philad[illegible]

The Hyphenate

To the Ed[illegible]

Sir—[illegible]

Letters to the Editor should be as brief and to the point as possible, avoiding anything that would open a denominational or sectarian discussion.

No attention will be paid to anonymous letters. Names and addresses must be signed as an evidence of good faith, although names will not be printed if request is made that they be omitted.

The publication of a letter is not to be taken as an indorsement of its views by this paper.

Communications will not be returned unless accompanied by postage, nor will manuscript be saved.

correspondents opposed to Irish freedom that some who would like with the desire for it go over there. Why should people who confessedly and avowedly love the American form of government, who or their ancestors came here as did the Pilgrims or the Marylanders under Lord Baltimore, to get away from the oppressions of that country be expected by "Jonathan" "Free Ireland" or "Justice for Both," as they sign themselves, to go back to a land which they claim is misgoverned?

This was believed in accordance with the fair and traditional spirit of America, that all men are created equal and that there is no divine right in England to rule Ireland over this land way. They love its government better than that of any other in the world. They love it so well that they feel as the writer felt and expressed it with regard to Belgium and other European countries in public speeches for America's cause in the war, that there is no natural reason why these unfortunate people across the seas should not enjoy the same rights we do here in America. Besides, the British government would see that their passports were not used if they chose to go back. So long and thanks!

Wouldn't it be a little more consistent if such writers who see such beauties in the British method of ruling Ireland, should go over there and get a taste of it, rather than conditions be deportation to those who assert that it is not free and that there are no rights there?

Wilson, the Democrat—he who holds to the American attitude of preferring republican rule to that prefers the method which I have seen demonstrated over a racial barrier of homogeneous English over another race of homogeneous Celts? Is it right to call names and cause as Bolshevists, protectionists or anarchists those who say freedom is inalienable and that all people are free?

A LAWYER.

Philadelphia, December 29, 1920.

Violent Anti-Woman Respecter

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please publish the following letter in the Forum, in answer to a letter signed by Edward M. Shaw, which appeared in the Evening Public Ledger.

Mr. Shaw your article was positively great on "The Doffing of the Hat." I agree with you in everything you said. Instead of many thinking you a radical, I believe they will agree with you, as I do. Women most certainly are getting themselves [illegible]. You are correct in stating that many of them aren't a subordinate over the man, only that they have the wrong idea altogether, and better get back on the right track again. Women are positively making fools of a should-be business life and in men's place and here's why they lack long deserved courtesy and respect.

Women are voting now something they did not even dreamed of years ago. As they have taken the vote and taken many men's place and have put themselves on an even basis with men, they therefore should be treated like men. No special courtesy is due them any more. They have brought on their own undoing.

There are many fair minded women who deserve credit, for they have been outdone by the individuals of the opposite sex.

Mr. Shaw, speaking of the doffing of hats to the ladies. I [illegible] with you that it should not be done. I really never tried it, as I always felt like a fool until I read the article in question about it. I have been in society many times, but it I have been in society many times, but it I should ever be in society I should assume my rights and not be afraid to do it. I don't ask for favors, I would do unto them. It's a wise man who knows respect. That's the last place [illegible] your hat to a woman. [illegible]

No, I don't [illegible] to [illegible] your hat to a woman, [illegible] street and [illegible] the tip of a hat [illegible] Women can be [illegible] as she thinks [illegible] Women [illegible] longer [illegible] the [illegible] a thing of the past [illegible] the seat for a man [illegible] seat [illegible] I [illegible] women [illegible] these days [illegible] understand which [illegible] a crowded car, and I presume the time [illegible] for the standing on the [illegible] off [illegible] of taxes [illegible] that [illegible]

Our mothers and grandmothers had some sense. I can assure you, as they worked and stayed where they belonged—in the home, not on the street and in the office. If any one were deserving of respect and courtesy, it was them.

J. R. KRATZ.

Philadelphia, December 22, 1920.

Questions Answered

World War Queries, Etc.

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—To settle an argument, would you please answer in your People's Forum the following questions:

1. How near did the Germans reach Paris in the recent world war?

2. How many miles did the Russians get near to Berlin?

3. If possible, give me an outline of the Dardanelles, the length and width in miles and the principal forts that were captured by the Franco-British fleet? A. W. D.

Philadelphia, December 16, 1920.

1. The advance guard of the German-Austrian army reached a point within twelve miles of Paris before they were compelled to retreat.

2. Most of the fighting between the Russian and German armies was along the border. The Russians never advanced very far into German territory, although they fought the kaiser in his own country near Konigsbury and in Austria at Lemberg and near Przemysl.

3. The Dardanelles is a strait uniting the sea of Marmora with the Aegean. It extends for a distance of forty-seven miles with an average breadth of from three to four miles. The Allies were unable to destroy many forts of any consequence along the strait and for that reason were unable to reach Constantinople by sea. They attempted to reach it by land, but this expedition also was a failure.

Ex-Emperor and His Mother

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have heard at different times the story that the Empress Frederick, the mother of the ex-emperor of the Germans, and who was Princess Victoria, the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria of England, some time after her widowhood married again, and that her second husband was her hairdresser, and that Empress Frederick's doing so was one of the chief causes of her estrangement from her son. I have just read the "Life of the Empress Frederick," but no mention is made of this second marriage. What's the fact? W. L. R.

Philadelphia, December 28, 1920.

The estrangement between the ex-emperor and his mother was due to the ambitions of William II and to the antagonism aroused in the German court by the English influence represented by the Empress Frederick. The bitterness of the controversy led to attacks on the empress, some of which took the form of stories like the one referred to in the above question.

Land Laws in the Orient

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—There are laws in both Japan and China prohibiting foreigners from owning land. China has made many concessions, however, and foreigners may own land in various parts of the country. Japan passed a law in 1901 granting the privilege to aliens of owning land under certain conditions, but owing to some technicality the law has not been made effective and at the present time foreigners do not own land in that country. This is in answer to a recent question.

C. C. DEMS.

Philadelphia, December 21, 1920.

Meaning of "Mark Twain"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Was Samuel M. Clemens' pseudonym "Mark Twain" a fancy, or has it any real meaning?

W. W. E.

Philadelphia, December 23, 1920.

"Mark Twain" is an expression taken from the vocabulary of pilots and means "safe water."

Call for Volunteers

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Did the United States issue any calls for a volunteer army before men were drafted into service in the late war? C. B.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23, 1920.

All army recruiting stations were open, posters were placed urging men to enlist, and prominent citizens gave talks urging volunteering so that every man had a chance to volunteer his services in the army, navy or marine corps between the dates of April, 1917, when we entered the war, and June 5, of that year, when the first registration draft was called.

The White Capitol Dome

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—On a recent visit to Washington I noticed that the dome of the capitol was white. I was under the impression that the same was gilded when I saw it about twelve years ago. If it has been changed, why was it done?

N. W. H.

Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 1920.

The dome of the capitol has always been white. You probably confuse it with the dome of the Congressional Library close by, which is covered with gold leaf.

Complete Census Returns

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—When will the complete returns of the last census be ready for distribution?

Philadelphia, Dec. 23, 1920. W. R. T.

The Census Bureau says that the complete results will not be available for about two years.

Bible Translations

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Into how many languages has the Bible been translated? Are there any countries in which the Gospel has not been preached?

Philadelphia, Dec. 23, 1920. W. L. C.

The latest report of the British Bible Society states that the Bible has been translated by the society into 450 different languages and dialects. The American Association also has compiled 150 translations. At the present time there are many parts of Thibet, India, China, Africa and Australia where the Gospel has not yet been preached.

War-Risk Insurance Policies

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—What was the total number of war-risk insurance policies issued during the war and the number that have lapsed through nonpayment of premiums? W. L. T.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23, 1920.

There are 4,640,049 policies in force, totaling $40,331,040,000. The Bureau of War Risk Insurance has not compiled figures showing how many policies have lapsed.

Referred to Readers

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Can you or any of your readers tell me where I can obtain a copy of a prose story which I think is entitled "When the Moon rose"? I do not know the author, but it is a Revolutionary War story and tells of a girl named Judith who saved her lover from being hanged by the British.

H. A. W.

Hamilton Square, N. J., Dec. 23, 1920.

Poems and Songs Desired

Poems Requested

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—While reading the People's Forum of this date I received the knowledge that you have the words of the poem called "The Makins." I would be very thankful to you if you would send me a copy. Also if you would publish or send me the poems called "I've Done My Bit With the A. E. F." and "The Battle of the Marne."

JOSEPH T. O'NEILL.

Philadelphia, December 21, 1920.

Was have mailed "The Makins" and would appreciate it if a reader could supply the other two.

Old Verses Wanted

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—A very old lady wishes me to ask for some verses which she heard as a child. The first verse runs as follows:

"My chaise the village inn did gain
Just as the setting sun's last ray
Touched with refulgent gold the vane
Of the old church across the way."

As she remembers the poem it tells how the narrator sees two children apparently quarreling over a piece of bread. She reproves them of greediness, but discovers that each is arguing that the piece belongs to the other, and one of them clinches his argument by saying that while he had had some bread that morning the other has tasted nothing since the day before. Of course, an appropriate moral is drawn and all ends well.

S. L. R.

Philadelphia, December 23, 1920.

"The Foolish Little Maiden"

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am anxious to secure a poem entitled "The New Bonnet," beginning, "A foolish little maiden bought a foolish little bonnet."

GRACE T. CARR.

Philadelphia, December 28, 1920.

THE NEW BONNET

A foolish little maiden bought a foolish little bonnet,
With a ribbon and a feather and a bit of lace upon it;
And that the other maidens of the little town might know it,
She thought she'd go to meeting the next Sunday, just to show it.

But, though the little bonnet was scarce larger than a dime,
The getting of it settled proved to be a work of time;
So when it was fairly tied, all the bells had stopped their ringing,
And when she came to meeting,
Sure enough, the folks were singing.

So this foolish little maid stood and waited at the door,
And she shook her ruffles out behind and smoothed them down before.
"Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" sang the choir above her head—
"Hardly knew you! Hardly knew you!" were the words she thought they said.

This made the little maid feel so very, very cross,
That she gave her little mouth a twist, her head a little toss;
For she thought the very hymn they sang was all about her bonnet,
With the ribbon and the feather and the bit of lace upon it.

And she would not wait to listen to the sermon or the prayer,
But pattered down the silent street and hurried up the stair,
Till she reached her little bureau, and in a handbox on it
Had hidden safe from critic's eye her foolish little bonnet.

Which proves, my little maidens, that each of you will find
In every Sabbath service but an echo of your mind;
And that little head that's filled with silly little airs,
Will never get a blessing from sermon or from prayers.

Poem Supplied

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Find enclosed the words of the song, the chorus of which begins: "She's more to be pitied than censured," requested by "P. W. G." of Greenville, Del., in your People's Forum of Tuesday, December 7, 1920.

JOSEPH A. NOBLE, JR.

Philadelphia, December 7, 1920.

"A MAN WAS THE CAUSE OF IT ALL"

In a little low room in the Bowery,
At a table was seated one day;
A lot of young fellows conversing,
To them life seemed happy and gay;
At the very next table was seated
A girl they had driven to shame;
The fellows all jeered at her weakness,
Till they heard an old woman exclaim.

Chorus

She is more to be pitied than censured, she is more to be helped than despised;
For she's only a lassie who ventured on life's stormy path ill-advised;
Do not scorn her with words fierce and bitter, do not laugh at her shame and downfall,
For a moment just stop and consider, that a man was the cause of it all.

In a little brown church 'round the corner, all the neighbors had gathered one day,
While the parson was preaching a sermon o'er a soul who had just passed away.
'Twas the same wayward girl from the Bowery, who a life of adventure had led,
Did the parson then jeer at her downfall? No.
He begged of God's mercy and said:

Little Poem on Death

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have been looking for a long time to find a poem entitled "Dying," by Louisa K. Long. I have been tempted to write several times to the People's Forum, since it has been established in your paper, but have felt it would be a vain plea. But I see so many odd things that I thought maybe you could help me find this:

KATHERINE E. DAY.

Philadelphia, December 26, 1920.

DYING

By Louisa K. Long

Passing out of the shadow
Into a purer light;
Stepping behind the curtain,
Getting a clearer sight.

Laying aside the burden,
This weary mortal coil;
Down with the world's vexations—
Down with its tears and toil.

Tired of all earth's playthings,
Heartsick and ready to sleep;
Ready to bid our friends farewell,
Wondering why they weep.

Passing out of the shadow
Into eternal day—
Why do we call it dying,
This sweet going away?

"D. C. L." asks: "Can any one give the whole of this?

"How far to heaven?"
Not very far, my friend;
One single step will all the journey end."

"M. V. C." wants to know whether any one can give her any information about the Indian legend of "Glosscap," supposed to inhabit "Blomiden" on either the North or South Mountains in Nova Scotia.

"W. I. E." wants to know the author of the following lines, which are quoted from memory:

"Ever near us, though unseen
The dear immortal spirits tread;
All this boundless universe is life,
There is no death."

The People's Forum will appear daily in the Evening Public Ledger, and also in the Sunday Public Ledger. Letters discussing timely topics will be printed, as well as requested poems, and questions of general interest will be answered.

Scranton Club Wins Eisteddfod

Dr. Parry's Glee Club, of Scranton, was the winner of the $500 cash prize awarded for the star feature of the eleventh annual Eisteddfod held in Lu Lu Temple, under the auspices of the Young People's Society of the Welsh Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. The prize-winning feature was a choral contest for male choruses. There were four other competitors, the Falls of Schuylkill Male Chorus, Cantorian Male Chorus of this city, St. George's Glee Club of Trenton and the Orpheus Male Chorus of Slatington.

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8 CHILDREN SAVED IN FIRE

Four Men Overcome Fighting Market Street Blaze

Eight children were rescued when fire swept a property at 3924 Market street early yesterday. Four firemen were overcome by smoke and by ammonia fumes, after a tank in the basement exploded.

The property, a three-story brick building, is a combined store and residence, occupied by Michael J. Callahan, a florist. Between 4 and 5 o'clock Mrs. Callahan was awakened by the coughing of one of the children.

Her cries awakened her husband and also her sister, Mrs. Oscar Kimenour, of 5532 Wyalusing avenue, who, with her children, John, Grace, Joseph and Helen, ranging in age from four to ten years, was spending the night at the Callahan home. All were on the second floor, as were the four Callahan children, Adelaide, Margaret, John and Michael, ranging in age from seven to ten years.

The flames, due to defective wiring, originated in the basement and ran to the second and third floors.

Mr. Callahan said the damage exceeded $10,000. He was insured.

The firemen overcome by smoke were C. H. Koskins, James Wood, George Lambert and Jay Guinano.

Man Ill on Street; May Be Gas

Joseph Serge, an ex-soldier, twenty-eight years old, became ill at Fortieth street and Lancaster avenue this morning. He was removed to the Presbyterian Hospital in the patrol of the Thirty-ninth street and Lancaster avenue police station. It is believed he may be suffering from the after effects of gas poisoning.

BLAMES ARGENTINE COURTS

Officials Here Bitter on Escape of Fugitive Bricker

Philadelphia officials, headed by Major Samuel O. Wynne, chief of the county detectives, blame laxity of Argentine officials for the escape of Dr. William H. Bricker, the notorious malpractitioner, last Friday.

Major Wynne declared clumsy court proceedings in Argentina hampered extradition of Dr. Bricker, and intimated his intention of spending every cent of the $21,000 in forfeited bail—forfeited when the physician fled this country—to bring about his recapture.

"We have just been advised by the newspapers that Dr. Bricker has escaped from the authorities of the republic of Argentina," Major Wynne said yesterday. "It does not surprise us.

"It would have surprised us if he had not escaped, prior to the final decision of the court to extradite him. It was all well timed, as he is said to have excused himself from his guard and left last Friday, just the day before the arrival of Secretary of State Colby. The escape of one of the most notorious criminals this country has ever had will make the welcome of Secretary Colby by the Argentine authorities seem quite sincere."

Man Hurt by Auto Near His Home

Thomas Miller, 4801 Ridge avenue, was knocked down near his home this morning by one of the Swift & Co. trucks driven by Joseph T. Woodward, 208 Grove avenue. He was taken to the Memorial Hospital, where it was discovered that he had a badly cut scalp. Woodward was arrested.

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