THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor

The Inconsiderate Male

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—In last night's paper one of your correspondents very ably answered the man whom you named "Anti-Woman Respecter." If I remember correctly, this man said he would not offer his seat to a woman in the car. I would like to have a line to tell this man and all others how I feel on this subject.

One day last summer I was in a car where the passengers were mostly men and a few Boy Scouts. An old man leading a blind woman got on the car. The men passengers were so busy reading their papers (so they might avoid seeing anything in skirts that might perhaps require a seat) that they didn't see the poor sightless one's predicament. The car started and she grasped at the old man, with that wistful, trustful smile of the blind.

I had drops in my eyes, having been to an oculist, and I felt keenly for this woman, who was entirely at the mercy of her fellow men. The car jolted her first this way and then that. A young girl laden down with bundles gave up her seat to the blind woman. One can't help but wonder what is taking place in the make-up of men, especially young, robust men, when they have so little consideration for women.

In the young there is that buoyancy which likes to overcome difficulties and encourages them to try out their metal. What has diluted this iron in our boys and men, making them so "flabby" that they crowd into the seats before women, indifferent even to the blind? MORE BLOOD AND IRON.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

Women and Courtesy

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I have read much in your paper about the courtesy of men to women in the street cars. One of your correspondents notes that she actually saw a man arise in one of the "L" trains and give a lady a seat. Let me say to her that I also had my eyes opened today when four perfectly healthy young matrons busily engaged in conversation about what one of them had on in the afternoon, entirely ignored the fact that a crippled old man of at least seventy years of age was desperately hanging on a strap in front of which they were seated. One of the troubles of the feminine mind, as applied to courtesy, is that they construe it to be something always tendered to them without any corresponding obligations on their part. I think if the men would complain of the discourtesy and inconsideration of women on the street cars as the women do about the men, very shortly they would find that the shoe fits both feet. W. L. D.

Philadelphia, January 14, 1921.

To Relieve Traffic Congestion

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Re your communication signed "A Commuter," I would like to suggest a remedy for relieving congestion on crowded cars, thus doing away with the frequency of the agitation and reflections of a "Don Quixote" reference to our want of courtesy to the "fair sex."

If many of these ladies, who are also commuters, of both elevated and surface lines, accompanied by children, some with two or more under fare age, would develop a little courtesy and take at least one of these children on their laps, and the car companies could incorporate a little "Article X" into their rules and regulations that these children, who are not paying fares, but are occupying seats, give them up, to both sexes who are paying for this convenience, it would increase the seating capacity greatly. Recently I was in a car in which there was a woman with three children, for two at least of which I am sure she did not pay a fare, and there were all seated while several old ladies, and men as well, were compelled to stand. C. P. A.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

A Lack of Patriotism

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Every now and then I read in the papers of the body of a soldier arriving in this city from France, taken to his former home and from there buried with little or no attention paid to the event on the part of the public for whose cause he died. I think this shows a great lack of patriotism and disrespect to my "buddies" who made the great sacrifice, and the people of this city should blush for shame.

I can tell you the ex-soldiers are deeply cut by this slight. You can treat us living soldiers with indifference if you see fit, but united one and all we demand that our dead "buddies" be treated with the honor and respect due their memories.

Several years ago when a few of our navy boys were killed at Vera Cruz the city gave them a magnificent public burial, and individual monuments have been erected to their memories in different sections of the city. Of course, it is not possible to do this with all of them, but I do feel that when the body of a soldier arrives from France the city should take some recognition as a tribute of appreciation by appointing a committee to receive the body and provide a suitable civic funeral, no matter how unpretentious. Why not allow every hero that arrives to lie in state in Independence Hall for at least one day, that those who might care to do so could go and view the casket containing a Philadelphia boy who gave his all for his country and for his home? It would be a great lesson of patriotism to our young people.

SAM T. LANDIS.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

Best Way to Get Even

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—"S. E. M." wishes to know how to get even with "Mrs. S. S. M." for having his friends present him with books at Christmas. The best way, in my estimation, is by giving her a real fine bookcase and a good set of book-ends to hold the handsome set together on the living room table.

Don't you know, "S. E. M.," that books give an air of refinement to your home that nothing else will give? Then, if you will get over your prejudice sufficiently and have enough time to spare after helping your dear girl with those dishes, you may find a real gold mine of pleasure in those books.

But, above all things, don't try to be spiteful to your wife; it is a boomerang. It comes back after striking the target to the one who sends it, bringing only unhappiness in its track. MRS. [illegible]

Holmesburg, Pa., January 10, 1921.

Care for Ex-Service Men

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Recent reports have [illegible] over 100,000 cases of [illegible] the ex-service men that are not getting the proper care. By proper care is meant [illegible] to hospitals for treatment [illegible] for compensation.

Doctors who have made [illegible] this disease say that [illegible] go to a western mountain state [illegible] but that it is possible [illegible] Pennsylvania and many of the other eastern states, but it is not possible [illegible] sufficient hospitals [illegible] not be out in the [illegible]

If Congress [illegible] wish, why should [illegible] amalgamate [illegible] house? There seems [illegible] ex-service men to get [illegible] to go into [illegible] co-operate [illegible] now, drive to the [illegible] who opposes the soldier [illegible] less of what office he [illegible]

Philadelphia, January [illegible], 1921.

Need Level Sidewalks

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I think there must be a law [illegible] statute-law that makes it [illegible] for property owners to [illegible] ments. If there is such a law it is being abused. Everywhere [illegible] pavements filled with holes where the [illegible] of asphalt [illegible] the bricks are loose and when [illegible] the frost comes out [illegible] shower bath from the pavement [illegible]

The police officers in every district should report the condition of the pavements to the bureau of highways, and the [illegible] should notify the owners of the properties that they must repair their pavements. All holes in the streets are kept in repair in order not to damage automobiles and vehicles, and the same should be true of the pavements in order not to endanger the health of the people or soil their clothes. In some neighborhoods I have found many cases in which the water stays in little pools after each rain. The result is, wet feet—bad for the health.

[illegible] the pavements in good condition [illegible] not require much work and much expense. And if men now out of employment [illegible] prepare themselves and call on property owners of any street that seems to need sidewalk attention, and make it plain that they will do the work for a reasonable price (quoting the same), they could probably get a job on nearly every block in the city, thus, in a degree, relieving unemployment and helping to make a better city.

CHARLES H. HARE.

Philadelphia, January 10, 1921.

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.

Evening School for Foreigners

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—All immigrants to this country should be made to learn our language and our constitution, and if this were done I think we would have very much less difficulty in handling them. Why would it not be a good scheme to allow immigrants to arrive and keep them on one year's probation, and if at the expiration of that time they were not able to at least have a conversational knowledge of our language they should be returned to the country from which they came? They should also be compelled to study our constitution and take a brief examination on the subject.

At first thought this might be looked upon as impossible, for these men cannot go to school when they come here, but instead must earn a living. If they have to work during the day, it would pay the country to have night schools for such as these, where they would be taught to talk and write our language and be instructed in the meaning of our constitution. I am sure readers of your valuable paper will agree with me that if this were done there would be a much better chance of their becoming, eventually, valuable citizens.

R. T. HARMER.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

Whither Are We Drifting?

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—With bandit hold-ups, robberies of stores and residences, excessive high cost of living and rentals, dishonesty in high places and increases in taxes of all kinds, what does the future foretell?

The decrease in wages is daily entailing increased suffering among the poorer classes. Many of the larger stores have been paying their employes barely sufficient living wages. Homes must be rented and maintained on these miserable pittances. The winter of discontent is upon us, for thousands of people are barely able to eke out an existence. We are in the rapids, gradually drifting over the falls. Can any one foretell the dismal result of this helpless state? Be optimistic if you can, but will it feed your children? Will it secure a comfortable home and meet the exorbitant demands of your landlord?

We are not, like Job's friends, to give voluntary and superfluous advice to curse God and die, but wherewithal shall we obtain sufficient means to live? Will Congress give us measures of relief on the coal question through legislation to control prices of the mines?

These interrogations deserve some answer from our rulers. We are loyal, but are they loyal to us?

WILLIAM H. SAILOR.

Philadelphia, January 14, 1921.

Questions Answered

Ireland's Big Wind

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—When I was a little boy my grandfather used to tell me about the big wind in Ireland. When was this "big blow" that the venerable gent claimed he had witnessed and how much damage was done? W. L. W.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

The "big wind" in Ireland occurred on the nights of January 6 and 7, 1839. This was a hurricane that strewed the entire western coast of Ireland with wrecks. In the cities of Limerick and Dublin more than 200 houses were blown down, twenty people were killed and more than 100 people were drowned.

Air Service Altitude

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—When an official altitude record is given in the air service is it meant that it is so many feet above the starting point or above sea level? W. L. D.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

The air service says that an official altitude record is reckoned from sea level.

Notification Regarding Remains

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—When the government sends home from France the remains of a soldier when are the relatives notified? F. L. T.

Philadelphia, January 14, 1921.

The War Department says that the relatives of a deceased soldier whose remains are to be brought over from France are notified by the cemeterial branch of the War Department at the time the body leaves France as to the date when it may be expected to arrive in this country. The cemeterial branch is notified of all such departures by cable.

Harding's Middle Name

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—How is President-elect Harding's middle name pronounced and what does it mean? O. L. E.

Philadelphia, January 14, 1921.

Gamaliel is pronounced ga-may-lee-el and is a Hebrew word meaning "God rewarder of [illegible]"

To Become Citizen

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Please answer the following questions:

1. [illegible] born in the United States of [illegible] parents required to take out naturalization papers if he wants to become a citizen?

2. A [illegible] born in England [illegible] parents who are United States citizens, are [illegible] Is the child a citizen of the United States? [illegible] E.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

1. A [illegible] born in the United States, regardless of the nationality of the parents, is a natural-born citizen of the United States and therefore no naturalization papers are necessary.

2. It depends on subsequent facts. If the parents are only temporarily abroad and eventually return to this country with the child, he is a citizen of the United States.

A Query for Readers

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

[illegible]

Author of Phrase

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

[illegible]

H. B. LESSON.

Philadelphia, January 6, 1921.

Bernhardt Was Born in Paris

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will you please inform me as to the nationality of Sarah Bernhardt and that of [illegible] Gaston Glass?

HELEN BYRNES.

Philadelphia, January 13, 1921.

Sarah Bernhardt was born in Paris and was educated at Versailles. Paris has always been her home. She is of mixed French and Dutch parentage and of Jewish descent. She was, however, baptized at the age of twelve and brought up in a convent. We cannot give you the information you desire regarding Gaston Glass.

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.

Poems and Songs Desired

A Southey Poem

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am glad to be able, again, to supply your correspondent with desired information.

"A. E. P." inquires in tonight's LEDGER for the poem beginning, "You are old, Father William." This poem, which was written by Robert Southey, is entitled "The Old Man's Comforts, and How He Gained Them." It will be found in the "Riverside Poets," Robert Southey, Volume II, page 171.

The first lines will suggest "Alice in Wonderland," for no doubt the parody by Lewis Carroll, (the Rev. Charles R. Dodgson), is now more widely known than the original poem.

CALEB BALDERSTINE.

Philadelphia, January 6, 1921.

A Poem Contributed

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Knowing the interest of your paper in Mr. Hoover's European relief fund, I am inclosing some verses in the hope that you may use them.

The American Red Cross representative on Mr. Hoover's council has told me that the sentiment they embody is ideal for this work. With this approval I am venturing to send them to you.

ELSIE WALKER MYERS.

Germantown, January 6, 1921.

DON'T LET THEM ASK IN VAIN

Can you not hear the Master say:
"A stranger was I—did ye turn me away?
Naked I was, and hungry to eat;
Ye clothed me then and gave me meat.
Will ye not do it now?"

Those little ones, looking over the sea
With their hungering eyes, so pleadingly,
Can hear Him say, as they rise from their knees—
"Inasmuch as ye do it for one of these,
Ye do it unto me."

Could you bear to look in your Master's face,
When at last you stand in that holy place,
And see in His eyes the look of pain,
When you tell Him His little ones asked it in vain
Of you, one of you, and of me?

ELSIE WALKER MYERS.

Two Poems Requested

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—Will you kindly print in the Forum the poem called "Such Beautiful Hands"—"They are neither white nor small," etc.? Also the poem beginning "Sometime when all life's lessons have been learned." Thanking you, very sincerely,

(Mrs.) A. HAINES.

Philadelphia, January 9, 1921.

We do not have the first poem requested. Here is

SOMETIME

Sometime, when all life's lessons have been learned
And sun and stars forever more have set,
The things which our weak judgments here have spurned,
The things o'er which we grieved with lashes wet,
Will flash before us out of life's dark night,
As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue;
And we shall see how all God's plans were right,
And how what seemed reproof was love most true.

And we shall see how, while we frown and sigh,
God's plans go on as best for you and me;
How, when we called, He heeded not our cry,
Because His wisdom to the end could see.
And even as prudent parents disallow
Too much of sweet to craving babyhood,
So God, perhaps, is keeping from us now
Life's sweetest things because it seemeth good.

And if sometimes, commingled with life's wine,
We find the wormwood, and rebel and shrink,
Be sure a wiser hand than yours or mine
Pours out this portion for our lips to drink.
And if some friend we love is lying low,
Where human kisses cannot reach his face,
Oh, do not blame the loving Father so,
But wear your sorrow with obedient grace.

And you shall shortly know that lengthened breath
Is not the sweetest gift God sends His friends,
And that sometimes the sable pall of death
Conceals the fairest boon His love can send.
If we could push ajar the gates of life
And stand within, and all God's working see,
We could interpret all this doubt and strife,
And for each mystery could find a key.

But not today. Then be content, poor heart;
God's plans, like lilies pure and white, unfold;
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart—
Time will reveal the chalices of gold.
And if, through patient toil, we reach the land,
Where tired feet, with sandals loose, may rest,
When we shall clearly know and understand,
I think we will say, "God knew the best."

An Irish Song

To the Editor of the Evening Public Ledger:

Sir—I am anxious to secure an Irish song which is very old and which contains the line "Dermot, darling, oh! come back to me." MARY L. McDEVITT.

Philadelphia, January 4, 1921.

This Irish song is called

THE ANGEL'S WHISPER

A baby was sleeping, its mother was weeping,
For her husband was far on the wild raging sea;
And the tempest was swelling round the fisherman's dwelling,
And she cried, "Dermot, darling, oh! come back to me."

Her beads while she numbered the baby still slumbered,
And smiled in her face as she bended her knee;
"Oh! blest be that warning, my child, thy sleep adorning,
For I know that the angels are whispering with thee.

"And while they are keeping bright watch o'er thy sleeping,
Oh! pray to them softly, my baby, with me;
And say thou wouldst rather they'd watch o'er thy father,
For I know that the angels are whispering with thee."

The dawn of the morning saw Dermot returning,
And the wife wept with joy her babe's father to see;
And closely caressing her child with a blessing,
Said, "I knew that the angels were whispering with thee."

Frank B[illegible] [illegible] the poem "[illegible]" to [illegible] but it was returned marked "Unknown." Please send us correct address.

"H. P. W.," Riverside, N. J., asks for the poem "The Night Before Probation."

"W. E. S." would like to get the poem that begins like this:
"I've seen the [illegible] of spring [illegible] deft.
And here [illegible]"

Sarah [illegible] desires the words of the song "Somebody's Dream," [illegible] and a poem with a title something like this: "Only Once in a Lifetime Does True Love Come to Any Heart."

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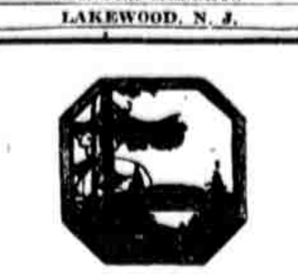

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Invitation Tournament for Women . . . Feb. 28th to Mar. 2d
Championship at Volusia . . . Mar. 14th to 19th
Address R. L. Johnston—Hotel Ormond
At Palm Beach—Palm Beach Golf Club, Palm Beach Country Club
Lake Worth Tournament, Jan. 24 to 28—3 sixteens
South Florida Championship, Feb. 7 to 11—5 sixteens
Women's Championship, Feb. 14 to 18—2 sixteens
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Address H. E. Bemis—Hotel Royal Poinciana
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