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The Boy Who Tried to Name Himself.

Mr. Jeremiah Smith sat looking at his wife with an air of comical uncertainty, and his wife returned the look with an air of fixed determination.

"My dear, we must let him name himself," said Mrs. Smith.

"But, consider, my love, what a trying position for a boy! Besides he will make some horrible mistake."

"It can't be any worse than some we have made. Jeremiah's just looked at his children. Is any one of 'em satisfied with his or her name?"

"No. But for that matter, I have never forgiven my great-uncle for naming me Jeremiah. I have had a dislike for that prophet ever since."

"Yes that's just the point. When we named our oldest girl Matilda Maria we never considered how we were hurting her feelings for life. She told me only the other day that she hated her name and would rather be called Sophronia Ann any time. And as for John-Edward and Wilhelmina and Ulysses Bolivar, why, to hear them talk, you would think they had drawn their names by lot out of a dictionary."

"Well, I did have a little doubt myself, at the time, about Ulysses Bolivar. But you know we tried to make up for the want of grandeur in the last name by putting it into the first."

"Yes, and it doesn't work. No, Jeremiah, we must let this one have a fair chance. Let him name himself, say when he is eight years old, and then we shall have one child who is satisfied."

"Very well, my dear," and Mr. Smith, with a sigh partly in anticipation of coming evil, buried himself in the evening paper.

The subject of these remarks was myself. I was unconscious of their meaning at the time, owing to the fact that I was but two months old. So, in blissful ignorance of my lack of a first name, I lived peacefully the space of four years. At the end of that time I discovered the absence through the following circumstance; I was at play with another boy of my own age and he addressed me rather disrespectfully as "Bub." I resented it. "My name isn't 'Bub'!"

"What is it, then?"

This was a poser. I did not know. I ran into the house and exclaimed, "Mother, is my name 'Bub'?"

Her answer astonished me.

"I don't know, my son."

"But I want a name. I shall get lost without one!" I cried in alarm.

My mother replied, calmly, "Your father and I have decided to let you name yourself. So, when you are eight years old you may choose your own name. That will give you four years in which to make up your mind."

"But what will my name be unless I ask?"

My mother hesitated. "Well, we will call you simply 'Smith.'"

"But I don't like that," I cried.

"It is your own father's name, and you can put up with it for four years. At the end of that time, remember, you are to name yourself."

Name myself! I was a contemplative youth; I revolved in my mind all the possibilities included in this unheard-of privilege. The more I thought of it the more I liked it. I would have a name such as no other boy ever had before. It would be a name destined to hand down the family of Smith to posterity. No insignificant, one-syllabled affair, which could be turned or abbreviated into a nickname, but a sesquipedalian appellation which would strike awe into the rest of the family.

I will pass over the four years during which I was a nameless individual, distinguished from the rest of mankind only as a boy called "Smith." It was not too long. But somehow it did not please me. Besides, red-headed youth in the next yard persisted in calling me "Bib," in spite of two severe lickings administered to him by me behind our barn. And one day, in reading a newspaper, I came across the very same name belonging to a man by the name of Smith living in Dakota. So I decided to change. I slept on my resolve, and in the morning as I was going to school, my father called out, "Alexander."

"I was so intent on my new name that I failed to hear him. It was not too long. But somehow it did not please me. Besides, red-headed youth in the next yard persisted in calling me "Bib," in spite of two severe lickings administered to him by me behind our barn. And one day, in reading a newspaper, I came across the very same name belonging to a man by the name of Smith living in Dakota. So I decided to change. I slept on my resolve, and in the morning as I was going to school, my father called out, "Alexander."

"Alexander, you may split up that word when you get home. Do you hear?"

"Yes, sir; but don't call me Alexander, please. I've got another name."

"Another name!" gasped Mr. Smith.

"Why, what do you mean?"

"I have determined to call myself Richard Cesar de Lion, sir."

"Richard Cur"—my father stammered, and then sat down wholly overcome. But my mind was made up not to let Alexander Bismark another day.

Alas, my new name was as objectionable as the old! Everybody called me "Dick." Strange I had not foreseen that. And my only reason for taking the name was to revel in the distinguished title of "Cesar de Lion." But the remedy lay in myself. No restrictions had been placed upon me, and all I had to do was to keep on naming until I was satisfied.

So I had a new name nearly every week. I tried one almost as soon as I had chosen it. Another was too hard to pronounce. None pleased me. I searched histories and biographies, pored over bar names in the encyclopaedia, and made up unpronounceable names by combining the end of signs in the streets. My father and mother never knew what to call me. My brothers and sisters called me everything, from Moses to Alcibiades, and a more uncertain boy in the Smith family could not be found.

At last the crisis came. One evening when I had started the family by giving out my latest name as Methusalem Castleton, my father passed in his eating and eyed me sternly.

"My son, Alexander Von Bismark, Richard Cesar de Lion, Methusalem Castleton, and all the rest including Methusalem Castleton Smith, this thing has gone on long enough. I am tired of it. I am going to give you a name and you shall change it until you get married. It's a name borne by two-thirds of the human race and plenty good enough for you. I name you John Smith, and if you try to change it I will cut you off with a postage stamp!"

I experienced a feeling of relief, have never desired to change my name since, and am perfectly satisfied with it.—Boston Congregationalist.

A Rural Sketch.

Our neighbor, Jones, is an elderly man with fiery eyes, peaked nose and bearded chin. His hat slopes forward and his back is bent as one and the same time. His coat, like Joseph's, is of many colors, also of many rents and patches. His trousers are faded, and of uncertain antiquity, and his stockings hang in rings about his rusty shoes. About a month ago we heard a racket at Jones's farm, and, climbing the fence, soon discovered that the horse had kicked the stable door off its hinges, perhaps as a reminder that slow starvation was unpleasant, and that one meal a day was desirable.

"Now, that's just the way," said Jones, as we approached, driving his hands into his pockets and surveying the wreck. "Seems as if I never was driven so clean distracted with work." I can't possibly hang that door till tomorrow, must go to town today. Come to think of it, must go rabbit-shooting tomorrow. An next day there's a vendue over in Shipley's, an' maybe a chance to make a bargain. But I can fix that door on Saturday."

We certainly hoped he would, but it seemed hard to expect a man of such multifarious engagements to repair a broken door in less than a week. Moreover, there were other matters which he ought to attend to first. Although our neighbor had neglected to mention them, in one direction, through a broken fence, two of his cows had reached the orchard, and were sharpening their horns on a row of young trees. The farm wagons were fully exposed to the noontday sun, though a pile of boards close by would have built half-a-dozen good sheds. Water from a spring that might have filled a small fish-pond or watered a vegetable garden, ran to waste and made a marshy spot in the field. The front doorstep, as all his visitors knew by mournful experience, was liable to trip if one stepped upon it without due caution. Every fence corner had its triangular and thorny weed.

"Farming doesn't pay," said Jones, leaning mediately against the rail fence, and still gazing at the broken stable door and the horse inside, which, as it was easy to see, had been tied up so long a rope that he had been unable to step back within reach thereof. "How a poor farmer is druv," continued Jones—a remark more literally true than he supposed.

This week I saw neighbor Jones again, as I walked along our line fence, dusting the outer row of my potato field. That outer row needed more care than half the rest of the field. Jones's beetle crop was so persistent and voracious. There was the stable door, still on the ground, the marks of the horse's hoof upon it, where he had been led across it ever since. Jones set on the top fence-rail, severe, and whittling. A spade lay on the ground, rusting; a bucket, set in the path, had fallen apart in the sun.

"Hallo, Jones," I called out; "how about that stable door?"

"Well, no, no, no. I'll bet ter admit that I've been excedin' busy. I calculate ter hang that door next week, if I kin only get the time ter do it properly."

So Jones sat there, wondering why money was so unevenly distributed in the world, and why he had to work so hard, and wished he had been born a Fejee Islander, with inalienable rights to eat, sleep and loaf in delicious retirement.—New York Hour.

The Napoleon Myth in the Year 3000.

Under this title Senor Sequeira has published in the *Correio Paranaense* a philological study of the word "Napoleon," in the doctrinaire spirit of Continental scholars. It is a delicious piece of fooling, in the shape of a grave lecture, and we propose to give our readers an abstract of it. The aim of the lecturer is to prove that Napoleon I. never existed, and that his supposed career is only a sun-myth.

"According to tradition," says the Professor of the year 3000, "the hero Napoleon Bonaparte was born on an island of the Mediterranean, as son of a certain Letitia. It is recorded that he had three sisters and four brothers of whom three became kings, as well as two wives, one of whom bore him a son. He ended a great revolution; had sixteen marshals, of whom four were not active; he triumphed in the South; he was vanquished in the North; and he vanished amid the western seas after a twelve years' reign begun in the East." The Professor then goes on to point out how all this applies to the sun. With regard to the name, Napoleon is obviously a mutilation of Apollo, the sun-god, or rather the pure Greek form; for the Greeks called the sun poetically "Apollo," "Apollon," "Apollon," or "Apollon." That is to say, extirpation. From all that tradition tells, Napoleon is said to have been a great extirpator. The initial letter N is doubtless the abbreviated form of Ne ("sun"), the Greek affirmative, which pointed out that it was the true Apollo that was in question. The second name, Bonaparte, means "good part," and therefore presupposes a second, bad part. It is clear that by this was meant day and night. An ancient poet already says, speaking of the night, "Abi in malam partem." The sun, which represents the day, is therefore rightly designated as Bonaparte. Napoleon was born on a Mediterranean island; so was Apollo, at Delos, which stands in the same relation to Greece as Corsica stands to France. The Gallicizing of the Apollo myth is thus unmistakable. Pausanias relates that the God Apollo was held in high regard in Egypt; of Napoleon, too, it is averred that the Egyptians greatly revered and feared him. All this sufficiently proves that Napoleon and Apollo were one and the same mythological figure. But let us go still further. Napoleon's mother was named Letitia—that is to say, a poetical appellation for Aurora. And does not the dawn give life to the world? Besides, let us remember that Apollo's mother was called Leto (in Latin Letonia), from which form, in the nineteenth century, Letitia was evolved, probably as a substitute of the verb Leto, which means "to rejoice."

When the legend maintains that the son of Letitia had three sisters, unquestionably the three Greases were intended, who, with their friends, the Muses, were Apollo's inseparable companions. As to Napoleon's four brothers, in them we discern the four seasons. Thus, three of the brothers are said to have been kings. These are the spring, which brings the flowers; the summer, which reigns

over the seeds; and the autumn, which reigns over the fruits. And as these three seasons owe all their power to the sun, they were made into brothers. The fourth brother does not reign; he, of course, is winter. This clearly appears when we remember that this fourth brother was said to be Prince of Canino, after Napoleon's fall. Canino is derived from the word canis, which means "white hair." The snowy strands were called poetically "white hairs," as the following verse proves: "Can gelidus crevit canis in mentibus hauris." Therefore this fourth brother is merely the personified winter, which comes to prominence when the three fairer seasons are driven away by the rude winds of the North. Thus we may find an easy interpretation of the words of the myth: "At the invasion of France by the rude sons of the North, the country was covered with a white banner and Napoleon disappeared." This "white banner" is, of course, the white hair. By the winter of Napoleon the earth and moon must be understood. Plutarch calls the moon the consort of the sun, and the old Egyptians gave him the earth as spouse. The sun had no issue with the moon, but conceived with the earth, the son of Isis and Osiris. The latter represents the field of fruits and we therefore find that the son of Napoleon was born on the 20th of March, the spring equinox; for in the spring the field-fruits attain their greatest development. Further it is averred that Napoleon made an end to the hydra or revolution. This hydra, or snake, is the serpent Python, whose destruction is the heroic deed of Apollo. The second revolution, comes from the Latin *revolutus*, and indicates that the snake was curled around itself, as is indeed actually to be seen in all antique representations of the Python. Again, it is said that the great warrior had at the head of his army twelve marshals, and four others were at his disposition. It is easily perceived that these twelve marshals only represent the twelve signs of the zodiac, which, under the command of the sun, each lead a division of the innumerable starry host. The four marshals on the retired list, on the other hand, indicate the four quarters of the globe, which are thus excellently characterized as immovable amid the general movement. All these marshals are merely symbolical beings. When the legend relates that Napoleon gloriously marched through the lands of the South, to penetrate into the North and there lose his strength, this again must be read as one of the peculiarities of the sun, excellently indicated. The sun is all-powerful in the South; in the North he is weak. Out of this was evolved in the nineteenth century the fable of the campaign of Moscow.

If another proof were needed that of the Napoleon myth there is nothing that is not in the sun's course, it would be found in these words: "Napoleon reigned twelve years; his empire began in the East and ended in the West." It needs no reference to the fact that the sun rises in the east and, after an empire of twelve hours disappears in the west. The professor closes his address with these words: "If we, then, resume our considerations regarding the hero's name, his descent, his family, his marshals, his deeds, etc., we shall see that they evince with irrefragable certainty that Napoleon Bonaparte concerning whom so much has been written never existed. The error into which all scholars fell sprang from the circumstance that he did not understand allegorical mythology, and took it for real history!"—St. James's Gazette.

Representative William H. Kelley of Pennsylvania, better known as "Pig Iron Kelly," and one of the most ardent and best-known American protectionists, has written to the Philadelphia Press in earnest opposition to the renewal of the treaty.

The San Francisco Chronicle (naturally) says that President Arthur has "reciprocally on the 23rd inst." The Chronicle's Washington correspondent says that "it is not possible to ascertain the provisions of the new treaty with the Hawaiian Government, for the state department holds that it is confidential until after the senate has acted on it. In case the treaty comes to the house, publicity will be given to it, for the house never conducts any business with closed doors, though it has the right to do so if it desires. It begins to look as if the parties who are anxious to have the four treaties mentioned above [with Spain, Mexico, Canada and Hawaii] ratified have formed a combination to pass them. Even in case the necessary two-thirds vote is secured in the senate for ratification, the whole thing will fall through unless the house concurs in the action."

The San Francisco Bulletin quotes the following paragraph from President Arthur's message: "The Government of Hawaii has indicated its willingness to continue for seven years the provisions of the existing reciprocity treaty. Such continuance, in view of the relations of that country with the American system of states, should, in my judgment, be favored," and comments as follows: "The president seems also to be fully committed to the reciprocity business on the largest scale. He addresses for seven years more; regrets that Mexican reciprocity has not been carried out; informs congress that a reciprocity treaty has been concluded with Spain, with reference to Cuba and Porto Rico, and gives the public information that it had not before—namely that a reciprocity treaty had been concluded with Canada. The subject is a vast one, and more material than is now accessible will have to be furnished before an intelligent opinion can be formed in relation to it."

A London dispatch, dated November 23rd, says: "The labors of the special government commission appointed by the federal congress several months ago to inquire into the causes of the frightful increase of drunkenness in the Swiss republic, and to suggest a remedy, have resulted in decisive action by the council. It admitted that the evil investigated is to be attributed entirely to the extraordinary cheapness of French brandies and their native imitations. The cheapness of these vile and intoxicating compounds has made them within a comparatively short time the national beverage for the Swiss. The commission found French brandy bottles in the cupboards of the poorest families, and cited countless cases of once prosperous estates and families brought to absolute ruin and wreck by intemperance, thriftlessness and impotency, caused by the free and long-continued use of cheap brandy. The remedy proposed is of almost unprecedented prohibitory power. It will make the duty on imported brandies so high as to absolutely bar them from the country, and will tax all domestic manufacture of the liquor, except those expressly made for export, so heavily as to make the procurement of brandy in any form but the very rich, practically impossible in Swiss lands. The enactment of the bill will probably meet with little, if any, opposition."

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proven a false jade, (we fear the sex of the metaphor) to whom we gave heart and pulse and reputation with disastrous result. But surely this joyous New Year, in its youth and beauty, its clear-eyed candor, its ingenious trustfulness, is not to prove false. No matter if the new year of twelve months ago was just as beautiful and just as ingenious, we know, we feel, we are sure beyond a doubt that 1885 will be to us all that 1884 was not - if the old year is kind. But let none of us forget the past year's lessons. It will be well for those Hawaiians who take nothing on trust - who take every fair promise of nature and of the "signs of the times" - "with a grain of salt." It is far better that we make up our minds that sugar will be low during 1885, and retrench accordingly, than that we see roared skies through opal-tinted glasses. If the planters and merchants of the Hawaiian Islands do not learn speedily the twin lessons of economy in expenditure and prudence in investment the next few years are likely to prove the saddest in our commercial and industrial history.

Vital problems are pressing for solution: How Shall we Compete with other Sugar-producing Countries? On what Basis Shall our Currency Rest? How shall we be Governed - by autocracy, by pure Democracy, or by the Will of the Most Intelligent, or by the Property-holding Class? Shall we Allow the Entire Retail Trade of the Nation to fall into the hands of Chinese? Shall this Nation take its place with England and the United States in a persistent effort to blot out Intemperance and so build up National Morality? These are a few of the great questions. They are to be settled in only one way - by union and by hard work.

UNITED STATES.

THE EDITORIAL OPINION - Daily and Weekly Newspapers.

Since writing my last paper, in which I had something to say about Editorial Writers, I found, in the New York Hour, the following on the Decline of the Influence of Editorial Opinion. The article is so interesting that I print it in lieu of something of my own on the same topic. I fear it will not accord with the views of my daily contemporaries.

Many capable journalists have for a long time believed that editorial writing has had its day and that it will gradually cease to be an important feature in daily newspapers. In the West this opinion has led several journals of prominence to restrict greatly the space devoted to the expression of opinion; while in the more conservative East, it has led to a marked change in the character of the matter printed on the editorial page. It has become the custom of many papers to treat all public questions lightly, and to assume the attitude of being amused at any earnestness of opinion or warmth of advocacy on the part of others. It is true that during the recent political canvass some of these very writers got themselves and occasionally were bitter and earnest; but an amused attitude is their usual one, adopted deliberately, and not from any lack of means for the employment of capable writers, or from any indisposition to furnish their readers with what they desire, cost what it may. Those responsible for the policy will unhesitatingly tell any inquirer that few people read editorials nowadays, and that the lighter and more amusing such articles are the more likely they are to receive the attention of these few. The further they declare that the proper function of the newspaper is the recording of current events and the amusement of its readers, and that preaching is no proper part of the phenomenal success of these journals which habitually neglect or refuse to treat any subject seriously, and at the same time they call attention to the undeniable fact that some of the papers conspicuous for the ability displayed by their editorial writers, and for the sincerity and fairness of their treatment of public questions, have only a small circulation and a consequently restricted influence.

It may be in part answered that in too many instances an able journal runs to the other extreme, and acts on the theory that a waiting word is more anxious to learn what its editors think of events than to know what the events are. It assumes, therefore, a sort of mental strut which leads it in time to mistake ponderous solemnity for dignity, and to condemn vivacity as frivolity, and wholesome homeliness of speech as vulgarity.

Nevertheless, despite all partial explanations, the fact remains that the papers least marked by serious purpose and mental strength in their editorial utterances are largely circulated and successful; and the inference that the influence of editorial utterances is waning is a fair one. There are several ways of accounting for this. One cause is doubtless to be found in the loss of interest in public affairs on the part of people where the population has become dense, and the struggle for existence intensified. To such a people amusement becomes a necessity as a relief from mental strain and anxiety in business, and that which amuses suits them better than that which instructs or calls for thought in their hours of leisure. There is also a widespread distrust of the honesty and sincerity of newspaper writers.

Everybody knows that men of literary skill and no mean ability can readily be found who will write on either side, or both sides, of any question. No judgment as to the writer's sincerity, therefore, can be formed from the tone or matter of an article. On the other hand, men having a personal interest in misleading public opinion are known to control certain news papers, and no one is able to say with certainty that this is not true of papers not yet suspected. Whether this suspicion is well founded or not, it exists, and the knowledge that such a condition of affairs is possible naturally weakens public trust in editorial utterances.

All of this goes to sustain the "fact and fun" theory as to the true aim of journalism, and to point to the gradual abandonment of the attempt to make a daily newspaper serve the double purpose of a chronicler of events and a moulder of public opinion. The stock company control, which has done so much to diminish individual responsibility for editorial utterances, and to cause distrust as to their real purpose and design, has become a necessity of modern journalism. Nothing short of a plant representing hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the annual expenditure of enormous sums of money without regard to current receipts, will meet the requirements of modern metropolitan journalism. A new paper with no revenue must spend as much money as an old and well-established one, if it is to have even a chance to succeed. The cost of establishing or purchasing a paper is, therefore, save in exceptional cases, beyond the ability of individual enterprise. There is no escape for papers thus owned from at least the liability to secret and selfish control, and perhaps the sooner they lay aside all pretence of offering disinterested advice to the public the better. Then the people will turn to the weekly press for honest and disinterested comment on, and elucidation of, the daily reports of current events.

I have always thought that the daily newspaper is an unsound medium of opinion, because its editorials, on most topics, must be so hastily written. Given two editorial writers of equal average ability in the discussion of average topics - one of whom is employed on a daily the other on a weekly, it seems to me inevitable - granting each is conscientious - that the writer for the weekly will do better work than his equally able confere of the daily. His editorials or current topics have the advantage of deliberate preparation and revision by new light, and are like to be more nearly free from verbal inaccuracies because of the comparative freedom from haste which characterizes not only the writing and revision but the printing of weeklies - as compared with

like work done for dailies. Of course I realize that unavoidable haste is responsible for many of the imperfections of daily newspapers - especially in communities too small to support complete newspaper organizations - which mean a daily expenditure of large sums. I do not in the least disparage the value of daily newspaper work, or deny that the public demand for it has created an acknowledged public need. I merely wish to express my belief that a community which neglects its good weekly press for its daily is short sighted; and such neglect weakens an influence for good which the daily press is powerless to supply.

The introduction of the above quotation makes it impossible - within the limits I have assigned for each of these essays - to go into anything like an adequate discussion of newspaper matter. So I shall conclude this paper with a brief statement of what I think ought to be the province of the daily and of the weekly newspaper.

The term newspaper may be taken to include all papers which furnish information in excess of opinion. Some of the so-called "literary" and "scientific" papers have as sound a title to the name newspaper as has the Daily Monger, that deals with the idle tattle of the empty hour. It would take too long, and it is quite unnecessary, to go into a detailed classification of newspapers - the list would be an interesting one, though, and I may refer to it later. This community is chiefly concerned with the daily and weekly (and monthly) publications it supports. I beg leave to offer, for the consideration of every reader who does me the favor to read this article, an opinion based as much upon the judgment of the ablest journalists of my personal acquaintance as upon my own deliberate conviction.

The daily newspaper - of the sort best appreciated at the present time - is a vehicle for the record and the dissemination of daily news. If more than that, so much the better; if less, it falls off its object. Nineteen twentieths of every Anglo-Saxon community - it safely may be ventured - are interested in the daily happenings of their little world. The harmless little tattle of the streets, the incidents, the accidents, the chances and the mischances of the fleeting hour, I am not discussing whether this sort of brain food (this "mental mush" Greeley used to call it) is good for a steady intellectual diet. I acknowledge the fact that the moral and legal to furnish it as it is to sell soda water and ice cream. I do not need (in Honolulu) to discriminate between the sort of local news that may and may not properly be told.

It remains that the public demands the news of the day; and is willing to pay for it. The daily paper that best fills its mission will reflect pretty faithfully all that portion of the daily life of the community which is fairly the property of the public's curiosity. And there is no city, no large town even, where the daily newspaper, in the right hands, may not serve the public faithfully and well.

Of course there are among the exacting readers of every daily paper those who do not like personality, who call complimentary mention of private affairs "falseness flattery," and consider even the most mildly satirical mention "insulting." There are those who think their paper "stupidly trivial" if the repairing of Davy Jones' chicken house is chronicled; and others who think the sheet "lacks enterprise" if the "improvement" is not mentioned. One man wants commercial intelligence but is not interested in shipping news. His neighbor's preference is vice versa. The intelligent conductor of the daily newspaper will cater to each. Sermons and religious intelligence please one subscriber; but the subscriber whose shop or residence is next door may not care for anything religious, but be absorbingly interested in stock breeding or fish culture. Each must be considered. And so on indefinitely.

The great difficulty in most communities is not the lack of local news. But lack of tact, taste and judgment in gathering and re-telling it. The right sort of a newspaper is so systematic in the arrangement of its news that there is a graduated scale of classification, giving its adequate importance to each and every article or item. Airy lightness is at once the natural and the artistic mode of treating certain topics.

The judicious editor never permits that airy lightness to degenerate into flippancy. Dignity and earnestness ought to characterize the treatment of certain other topics, even when merely treating of them as news. The judicious editor never permits his dignity to become pomposity, or his seriousness rant. And so on to the end of a long chapter.

Those weeklies which are merely the reprint editions of their daily issues need not be here considered. They are of little value in the community where their daily issues appear; and unless edited with rare judgment - carry to distant readers a judgment of information interesting to home readers only.

The only kind of weekly newspapers which I care to consider now are those existing here, which, from the nature of the circumstances under which they are supported, combine the functions of newspapers and journals of opinion. For example: The real news needs of the other islands of this group are best met by a condensed yet explicit abstract of Honolulu happenings, and the salient feature of the news of the world for the weeks covered by the semi-monthly mail. Such an abstract requires quite as much industry and good judgment (per amount of news furnished) as the like work of similar newspapers in other lands. The news of Honolulu ought to include every important political, financial, commercial and social event; every public improvement, and every private improvement of sufficient importance to awaken public interest; social questions that have become part of public discussion; the educational and religious interests of the place. The world's news ought not to be merely political, commercial and sporting. Something of what is going on in literature, science, art, music, philosophy and criticism ought to make part of the world's news. I do not mean that any paper here could or ought to give exhaustive intelligence on any topic I have mentioned. I do not forget that some of the world's best periodical literature, in all the departments of modern thought, reaches many Hawaiian homes. But I think every four issues of a really useful English-Hawaiian weekly ought to give something of at least suggestive interest on every topic I have mentioned.

But I consider the news-supplying function of the weekly press of less importance than its function as a medium for diffusing thought among the people. I say this in no spirit of journalistic conceit. On the contrary I cheerfully acknowledge that the ideas of his readers are very often better worth recording than are the editors own. It is the general fund of ideas that the judicious editor will most often draw open. He will, if possible, make his columns a desirable vehicle for the opinions of thoughtful men and women in every walk of life. He will do the best either to make them write or talk on current topics; and there will be ample scope for the exercise of both tact and judgment in excusing, expanding and suppressing (without offense) the material so acquired.

I think he will prove in the end the most successful conductor of a weekly - in countries like this - who, in news, in the reflection of popular ideas, and in his own editorial expression, keeps most nearly perfect pace with the best intelligence of the community in which he labors.

A FRIENDLY PUFF.

We always read with especial pleasure the selected articles in the Gazette supplement. The following excerpts are particularly interesting.

The immediately seized the whip, and proceeded to encourage her dear husband with it. "Get up, you lazy brute," she remarked, fetching him a clip that made him jump, and removed a portion of his shirt and some castles. This cheered up the husband, who made the greatest effort of his life, and started off with his loaded wagon, his devoted wife walking by his side, and helping him from time to time, the usual quantities suggested being one quart of molasses a day for a steer, and two quarts for a fattening heifer. This should be mixed with cut chaff, cake, mangels, &c., and turned over a few times, leaving it for a few hours to allow the sugar to be thoroughly absorbed, and in addition a slight degree of fermentation to set up.

Various receipts have been given by well-known agriculturists and stock raisers along with an occasional punch in the ribs, or a well-directed kick when he became discouraged.

The Washington Monument was finished on the 16th instant. The following apposite comment is taken from the Sacramento Record Union of the 13th: "The Washington monument is completed. The white marble shaft towers to a greater height than any other architectural work of man. That which is most pleasing in it is the severe simplicity of the structure, and which is in keeping with the character of the hero and patriot for whose name and virtues it is to stand as a perpetual memorial. Any more ornamental structure would have failed of its object. In its simple grandeur and massive proportions, free from all effortful adornment, it comports with the lofty aims, patriotism and heroism of Washington, and is a fitting shaft to typify the grand proportions of a life devoted to the cause of human liberty. That which is least pleasing about it, is the long record of the years of its construction. Almost a century has elapsed since Washington has been dead, and only now is the Republic, won to the world by his sword and his wisdom, able to point to a monumental work at all adequate to indicate the place his memory fills in the hearts of freedom."

A dispatch dated New York, November 8th says: "The chamber of commerce committee on banking and currency to-day approved Buckner's bill, and wrote to Chairman Buckner, suggesting that his bill be made an amendment to the trade-dollar bill, which has passed the house and is now in the hands of the senate." Which means that the chamber of commerce believes there is far more silver in the United States than can circulate without driving away gold; and unless the coinage of standard silver dollars be suspended, that silver will go to a discount. A position not at all unlikely that held by our own chamber.

It is hoped that the sprightly young gentlemen who does local itemizing for the Daily Evening Hawaiian will not consider the following "insulting." The society editor of the Press is sufficiently conversant to read ten pages of Kant at a sitting.

Roach's ship-yard at Chester, Pa., has reduced wages 15 to 20 per cent.

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Roach's ship-yard at Chester, Pa., has reduced wages 15 to 20 per cent.

Editor Saturday Press - Sir: I quote from your issue of last Saturday. The italics are mine:

If this were not so busy a world, if the struggle for existence did not make it premature to breed and butter, I would like to see the million-dollar pigpen we call life, if the world had shorter working hours and longer hours for that change of work which is the best form of recreation, there would be broader scope for recreation, for the more desirably written.

And if the writer of the above article did not denounce, but combine with men whose very lives are devoted to the propagation of principles which are calculated to cause the abolition of that complained of "long hour work," or of trading system, institution and in its stead a system of "State Co-operation," then some of the dignified appendages of society, the hummers and larks in the shape of profit mongers, interest takers and rent sharks, having lost the means of "learned increment," as Henry George politely styles it, and being forced into either straining or seeking for a useful avocation, would come to the rescue of the overworked and underpaid "descriptive writer;" then "the world would have shorter working hours and longer hours for that change of work which is the best form of recreation;" then life would not be so simply "a struggle for existence" and "the bread and butter" question would not be quite "so prominent" for nature spreads the table for all of her children, and a wise, rational system of government, a system of state-cooperation under which the energies and materials which are at present wasted would be utilized properly, would provide everybody with the comforts and luxuries of life for but two or three hours of usefulness a day; as eminent social-economists prove.

This is but one of many instances, in which you have in your paper indirectly, and I presume unconsciously, pointed out fragments of reforms, which when picked and put together compose that scientific system for the advocacy of which you have so fiercely denounced me. I forgive you. I am bent for the sake of the noble cause I am engaged in. But be up and investigate Socialism. Do not waste your time in grappling with facts, and intemperance, etc. Reformers must seek for the cause of evils. Intemperance is the indirect effect of the incorrect adjustment of the economic relations of man. Change the system of adjustment, purify our economic relations and then you will have killed intemperance by removing its cause.

SHESMUND DANIEL WIEZ.

Honolulu December 22, 1884.

(The editor is unaware of having ever "fiercely denounced" Mr. Daniel Wiez. But that aside. What the editor would like to know is: How is Socialism going to prevent its own leaders - after they have topped over all existing institutions - from becoming in their turn "profit mongers," "interest thieves" and "rent sharks?")

Our Patent Law.

EDITOR SATURDAY PRESS - Sir: I am sorry to observe that such an act is in force as that which the Legislature of Hawaii has lately passed to establish a "patent system," - no doubt with a desire to benefit the community, - yet an act which has very few safeguards of planning and national interests. Some of the reasons why I for one am opposed to it, are, you will find in a volume which I take the liberty of sending you. I fear, however, its bulk will prevent its receiving a sufficiently early and realizing attention. Let me therefore say, by way of favor, that I am so thoroughly convinced that a patent system giving everybody out of the kingdom who is an inventor a right to hinder all the sugar-planters of the kingdom from adopting every improvement which the growth of science happily brings within reach of all mankind,

