

not assume to bind their successors in office or the Congress of the United States.

When we turn our eyes from the East Indies to the West, we find a similar situation, and one which is already producing anxiety in Great Britain. We have admitted the products of Porto Rico free of duty, while we impose taxes on those of the neighboring islands. These islands produce sugar, which comes mostly to the United States in exchange for our agricultural and manufactured goods. As Porto Rico is a small island, and its production of sugar is relatively limited, the harm that can be inflicted upon our trade with the English and French Antilles, by preferential treatment in favor of Porto Rico, is perhaps not appreciable. But the case is very different with Cuba. The latter is capable of producing all the sugar that the United States now consumes, so that, in course of time, if we should establish and continue reciprocal trade with Cuba and not offer the same treatment to those islands, our imports from the latter would cease. In that case the island governments would probably retaliate by giving preferential rates to Canada, which would be able to supply most of the agricultural products, meats, and fish wanted by them, and to England, which would then supply even a larger proportion of their manufactured goods than she now sends to them. It was in view of this contingency that treaties of reciprocity with those countries were framed and sent to the Senate during President McKinley's Administration. The reason why these treaties were shelved is well known. They should be ratified simultaneously with the proposed treaty with Cuba.

It is not too soon for the commercial bodies of the United States to look seriously at the questions outlined in Congressman Douglas's speech. If we do not observe the open-door policy as regards our new possessions, we cannot expect that other nations will observe it in their dealings with us. We must bear in mind that Great Britain has power to put serious obstacles in the way of our trade with Australia, India, Egypt, South Africa, and many other continents and islands. In China, too, her coöperation with us is necessary in order to keep open the door which Russia is all the time trying to close. Everything points to the need of fair play on our part if we wish to reap the advantages in foreign trade to which our resources, skill, and capital entitle us. We cannot demand the open door unless we maintain it. Our motto should be *do ut des*.

THE RICH AND THE OLD-BOOK MARKET.

The prices at the Lefferts sale recently held in this city were of a kind to

sadden the collector whose memory runs back over a score of years. It required two columns in the newspapers merely to record the titles of the books (some sixty out of four hundred sold) which brought more than fifty dollars at the first night of the sale. No one could quarrel with the record price of \$700 for Bunyan's 'Holy War,' 1682, for this little volume, like most of the Bunyans, was almost thumbed out of existence by the pious, during the evangelist's lifetime. Some of the really scarce items were even cheap; the 'Songes and Sonnettes' of the Earl of Surrey, 1567, was absurdly low at \$1,100, being of the highest rarity. It is not these larger prices, but the fact that book after book in the recent sale brought quite as many dollars as it was worth shillings a few years ago, that gives the collector pause. Why should books often of no especial rarity bring in the auction room twice and three times the prices at which they may still be bought in foreign book-shops, simply because they are sold in New York?

To the confirmed collector there is more than mere chagrin involved in this matter. He regrets less the happier days when he still cut a modest figure at the sales than he deplores the lack of discrimination which pays for books more than they are worth. An Oriental merchant is deeply offended at the ignorant Occidental who pays him his first price. Such an abridgment of the transaction not only is a discourtesy to himself, but argues a lack of interest in his goods. Similarly the wealthy collector who writes to his agent, "Buy No. —," shows an attitude towards books which is precisely that of a housekeeper *de luxe*, who writes down on her December tablets, "Strawberries for luncheon to-day."

If the booksellers about town would submit their marked sales-catalogues for inspection, the number of unlimited or discretionary orders which are registered thereon would plunge all true collectors into still deeper gloom than is caused by the bare facts of the sales. Now it should not be necessary to say that, whatever his wealth, the true collector is never regardless of price. To get the coveted object only at its fair price is his simple duty, to get it far below the price is his most refined pleasure and ultimate triumph. To all these sweetest emotions of the collector, the man who lodges discretionary orders and unlimited bids is oblivious. What wonder, then, that the collector eschews him?—admits him to be a conqueror, a very Tamerlane of the auctions, but insists that he is, after all, a barbarian.

Naturally, dealers look with complacency upon their many clients who bring unlimited zeal and money with very little knowledge to their collecting; for the millionaire to whom a library of rarities is, like a steam yacht, merely an

appanage of great wealth, will scrutinize more closely his builders' contracts than his booksellers' bills. But it is a question if this half speculative increase in book values is really in anybody's interest. In the stock market it would be called roundly "dangerous inflation." The dealers are tempted to follow the example of the more careless bidders, to pay more than books are worth or are sure to bring again. Then the fact that book-buying becomes a matter of lavish expenditure attaches it too closely to the general course of prosperity. It certainly is an indignity that books, as has happened, should fail to bring their real value, like wines of the rarer vintages, simply because stocks are sluggish.

But there is a still finer point of ethics involved. Suppose several agents find themselves at a book auction, each with an unlimited bid for a book of no great rarity. The case is not an imaginary one; under these conditions the strangest things have happened. Mr. Bullen's charming "Muses Library" has, while still in print, sold for several times its published price, and the commoner issues of the Roycroft Press have been carried up out of all reason. This is a case where the literal execution of an unlimited order comes perilously near to playing upon a customer's ignorance. In a sense, the agent is bound only to execute the order; in another sense he has a duty, a somewhat delicate one, to enlighten the bibliographical darkness in which a valuable patron is well content to live.

True collectors must extract what comfort they may from a sufficiently painful situation. Many of these books which are captured in humiliating fashion, by the brute force of money, afterwards gain reinstatement through passing to the public libraries, where they serve the general good. Then the more optimistic indulge the hope that these millionaire collectors are not wholly ineducable. Many in the past and many in the present have the finesse of the genuine collector, and merely add to knowledge of books and diligence in searching for them that proper audacity; grounded upon both knowledge and wealth, which every one must applaud. Meanwhile it is the duty of all whom it may concern to bring home to *parvenu* collectors the errors of their ways. To send in an unlimited bid on an object of average rarity is not merely an immoral act. In the eyes of the *cognoscenti* it is much worse than that; it is a capital impropriety—a gross breach of the finer traditions of collecting.

Correspondence.

"THE STATES."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: When referring to this country, our English cousins generally employ one of

two designations—"America" or "the States." The former lacks precision, and savors of arrogance, in restricting to part of one continent a name which belongs to two continents. The latter, though such was not formerly the case, is now applied to no other country than our own, and is at once concise and precise. Moreover, so convenient is it that we Americans, when travelling among British subjects, readily fall to using it. And yet the American who should employ it at home would, by his fellow-countrymen, be looked upon as guilty of using a foreign phrase, of affectation, and of Anglomania. If, however, it can be shown that the expression was first employed not in England, but among ourselves, then the objection to its use by us, based on its supposed British origin, falls to the ground.

That the word "State," in the sense of "body politic," was in common use in this country throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries could be abundantly proved, were it necessary. For a few years even before the Declaration of Independence, though no single colony was individually called a State, the colonies collectively were occasionally referred to as "the American States" or "the States of America." When, therefore, on July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies ceased to be colonies and were formed into a union of States, it was inevitable that each should individually be called a State, and that collectively they should be called "the United States of America," or "the States of America," or "the American States," or "the United States," or simply "the States." This last term, it need scarcely be pointed out, had long been employed to designate the States of Holland. Thus there was nothing novel in the term itself; indeed, in the correspondence of Franklin and of others, where "the States" are spoken of, it is often only by the context that one can tell whether the reference is to the United States of Holland or to the United States of America.

The following extracts illustrate the three phases through which the term under discussion has gone among ourselves: first, it was applied to the United States collectively; secondly, after the acquisition of Louisiana, it was used to designate the States in distinction from the Territories; and, thirdly, it was again applied to the United States as a whole, but merely as a reflection of British use. The last of the extracts seems to indicate that the term has entered upon a new phase.

"It is true that the king being the head of the American states, and at the same time under the control of the two houses of parliament here [England], a virtual control arises to them from thence over his conduct in America." 1773, June 11, A. Lee, in *Life* (1829), i. 231.

"The following is a Copy of an infamous Thing handed about here last Tuesday Evening, and now reprinted to satisfy the Curiosity of the Public. As it is replete with consummate Impudence, the most abominable Lies, and stuffed with daring Expressions of Tyranny, as well as Rebellion against the established, constitutional Authority, both of GREAT-BRITAIN and of the AMERICAN STATES, no one will hesitate in pronouncing it to be the genuine Production of that perfidious, petty Tyrant, Thomas Gage." 1775, June 8-15, *New England Chronicle*, No. 359, p. 2v1.

"The resolutions being read aloud to the army, the following toasts were given, . . . 1. The American Independent States. . . . The Union Flag of the American states waved upon the capitol [at Williamsburg] during the

whole of this ceremony." 1776, May 17, in *Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry* (1818), p. 195.

"Sir:—The Congress having yesterday been pleased to promote you to the rank of Brigadier-General in the Army of the American States, I do myself the pleasure to enclose your commission, and wish you happy." 1776, Aug. 10, President of Congress to A. St. Clair, in *St. Clair Papers*, i. 372.

"St. Patrick's day, multitudes of Irishmen in the streets with green in their hats. Went into the city [London] & called at the NE Coffee house, where I heard that the states had elected Genl. Washington, Lord protector." 1777, March 17, E. Oxnard, in *N. E. Hist. & Gen. Register*, xxvi. 225.

"I am just now also transiently told that he [Franklin] had been received in the public character of a plenipotentiary from the American States." 1777, March 20, A. Hamilton, *Works* (1886), vii. 478.

"The Congress of the United States of America have seen with concern in the public newspapers an edict of the late King of Portugal, dated at the Palace of Ajuda the 4th of July, 1776, wherein the States are spoken of in terms of contumely." 1777, April 26, B. Franklin, *Works* (1888), vi. 91.

"Billy and Sam C— and Bob Schaw will be obliged to leave Carolina for not taking the oaths to the states, and so must several Scotch, for the like crime." 1777, June 21, James Murray, *Letters* (1901), p. 266.

"The Committee . . . are also to take the Names of all Refugees & other disaffected Persons & take the Names of all Towns & States, from whence such persons come, who are justly suspected of being inimical to the States of America." 1777, March, *Boston Records*, xviii. 277.

"Mr. John Pidgeon . . . brings fresh news of our Success against y^e Enemy in recovering y^e Fort on Hudson's River, which they had lately taken from y^e States, & fortified more Strongly, which is called Soney Point, near King's Ferry." 1779, July 21, Rev. E. Parkman, *Diary* (1899), p. 148.

"I immediately wrote to the Inhabitants in general, Informing them where I was and what I determined to do desiring the Friends to the States to keep close to their Houses and those in the British Interest to repair to the fort and fight for their King." 1779, Nov. 9, G. R. Clark, *Campaign in the Illinois* (1869), p. 68.

"Capt. Derby, in a large ship of his brother's, is now at Nanz, to return in a month; which is encouraging to all not under the ban of the States." 1783, Feb. 14, S. Curwen, *Journal & Letters* (1864), p. 404.

"But I hope your forgiveness for saying that the assiduity of the British Commanders to restrain the Indians from hostilities still wanted the visit which by your command I have made to them, to satisfy the Indians that they had nothing to fear from the enmity of the States." 1783, Aug. 18, E. Douglass, in *Penn. Archives*, x. 90.

"In a visit I lately made by the North river to the lakes, in the necessity I was under of returning thro' Canada to the States, I was informed of some of the measures adopted by the British Government in that province." 1784, Oct. 30, J. Monroe, *Writings* (1898), i. 39.

"They feel the consequences of trade and commerce with America too sensibly to pursue such mistaken policy as that which lost not only this commerce but the subjection of the States." 1784, Nov. 26, J. Tyler, in *William & Mary Coll. Quart.*, i. 37.

"The Spaniards, the French, the English, and the States of America, have had many and painful proofs of their address and prowess in this method [of Indian warfare]." 1794, S. Williams, *Hist. Vermont*, p. 148.

"Washington [County] . . . ought to be extended to the St. Croix, or what the natives called the Magacadava, but the English have crowded in on the states as far as the Cobscook," 1795, J. Sullivan, *Hist. Maine*, p. 396.

"Colonel Allen and Major Lunno met at the same place [Isle aux Noix, Canada], and the

Major requested Colonel Allen to put down in writing the most important matters for the consideration of the Commander in Chief . . . Colonel Allen declined writing anything on the subject, lest his writings should be exposed (which would be dangerous to him in the States, and destroy his influence there)." 1798, I. Allen, *Hist. Vermont*, p. 165.

"Our principal communication from Lower Canada to the States, is by way of Lake Champlain and St. Johns." 1799, *A Tour through Upper & Lower Canada*. By a Citizen of the U. S., p. 5.

"Yesterday captain Lewis while hunting killed a bird not common in the states: it is like a magpie and is a bird of prey." 1804, P. Gass, *Journal* (1807), p. 40.

"Caught a curious little animal on the prairie, which my Frenchman termed a prairie mole, but it is very different from the mole of the States." 1804, Z. M. Pike, *Sources of the Mississippi* (1810), p. 31.

"In the states, those who follow the plough, are scattered over the country; while the mechanics, and retailers of merchandise, gather in a cluster. Hence the difference in the appearance of the towns or villages of this country, from those of the states." 1814, H. M. Brackenridge, *Views of Louisiana*, p. 119.

"She had seen [at New Madrid, Missouri] families of fashion and opulence, from 'the states,' as they call them, and from old Franco settled there." 1826, T. Flint, *Recollections of the Last Ten Years*, p. 228.

"After the death of Pe-shau-ba, I wished to have made another attempt to come to the States; but Waw-zhe-kah-maish-koon prevented me." 1830, J. Tanner, *Narr. of Captivity*, p. 177.

"The inhabitants were uneducated French people, who . . . expressed much surprise when I told them the ground they lived upon was in dispute between Great Britain and 'the States.'" 1838, J. T. Hodge, in C. T. Jackson's *Second Report on the Geol. of the Public Lands*, p. 62.

"Molly proved unfaithful to her first husband, and eloped with her two children, in order to enjoy the society of Joe in the States." 1841, G. Powers, *Hist. Sketches of Coos*, p. 182.

"The banks of the Purgatory, where this stream debouches, begin to assume something of a mountain aspect, different from scenery in the States." 1846, Lt. W. H. Emory, *Notes of a Mil. Reconnaissance* (1848), p. 17.

"I thought of 'caching' everything, and walking into the States; but what was to be done with the sick man?" 1847, Lt. J. W. Abert, *ibid.*, p. 534.

"In spite of this, however, and in spite of narrow and dirty streets, the city [Montreal] has a finished air, which distinguishes it from all towns of equal size in the States." 1854, B. Taylor, *At Home & Abroad* (1860), p. 169.

"The newspapers in 'the States,' the title by which the islanders [of Porto Rico] distinguish the home country from its new possessions, have just recorded certain experiments made in Connecticut." 1902, Feb. 6, *Nation*, lxxiv. 107v2.

The history of the term thus proves to be curious. First used by ourselves, frequently employed for a few years, it gradually fell into disuse in this country, was adopted in England, and is now so completely obsolete in the land of its birth as to be regarded by us as of British origin. It is, then, a question not of introducing a foreign term, but of readopting one of our own discarded expressions.

ALBERT MATTHEWS.

Boston, April 1, 1902.

"AS FIT AS A FIDDLE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The colloquial phrase "as fit as a fiddle" (= in good "form," or condition)

seems to be quoted in Dr. Murray's New English Dictionary only from the years 1882 and 1889. For an earlier use—apparently with a different meaning—see Beaumont and Fletcher, "Women Pleased," iv. 3:

Bart. Am I come fit, Penurio?

Pen. As fit as a fiddle;

My master's now abroad about his business.

W. P. M.

HAVERFORD, PA., April 24, 1902.

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: May I rectify a misunderstanding which seems to be involved in one or two of the statements (in the report of the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences) on page 323 of your last issue? The theory of compressible atoms is not advanced to explain the law of gas volumes discovered by Gay-Lussac and Humboldt; that law is already adequately covered by older hypotheses. The new theory is rather suggested in order to explain plausibly the anomalies exhibited by the structure and contraction of *solids* and *liquids*, as well as the inexactness of the equation of Van der Waals.—Yours faithfully,

THEODORE W. RICHARDS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,
April 28, 1902.

Notes.

Prominent among Doubleday, Page & Co.'s forthcoming publications is Dr. John Henry Clewell's "The History of Wachovia"—an account of the Moravian Church in North Carolina during a century and a half, 1752-1902.

Volumes v. and vi. of Captain Brinkley's monumental work on Japan and China (Boston: The J. B. Millet Co.) will be issued next month, completing the numbers allotted to history, literature, manners, and customs. Volumes vii. and viii. will treat pictorial and ceramic art respectively. The remaining four will be devoted to China. The set will be complete with the year.

A new edition of Clive Holland's "My Japanese Wife," with illustrations by Genjiro Yeto, is in the press of the F. A. Stokes Company, who also announce for the fall an important collection of "Bismarck Letters," in two volumes.

T. Y. Crowell & Co. will offer to vegetarians and others interested Mr. Sidney Beard's "Guide-Book to Natural, Hygienic and Humane Diet."

We receive, through the courtesy of Messrs. M. Knoedler & Co., the catalogue, in folio, of the "Collection Edmond Huybrechts," which is to be sold at auction in Antwerp, May 12-15. The volume is sumptuous even for its expensive kind, and abounds in heliogravure reproductions of the rarer pictures. These we cannot enumerate at this time, but it may be remarked in passing that the older Dutch and Flemish schools are fully represented—by Rubens, Van Dyck, the elder Brueghel, two admirable Terburg portraits, and a Wouvermans snow scene, among others; the modern Belgian schools claim Baron Leys (fifteen examples), and an interesting series of Van Beerses and Alfred Stevens. The chiefs of the Barbizon school—Troyon, Rousseau, Corot, and Diaz—are well represented,

while a fine Géricault may be named among the older pictures of the French school. Scattering pictures, Italian and Spanish, many of indefinite attribution, complete the assortment. A tiny panel, "The Virgin with Angels," by the rarest of old French masters, Jean Fouquet, is the gem of the collection. One could wish that some turn of good fortune might bring it to the Metropolitan Museum. It is of the loveliest quality. The catalogue may be obtained through the Knoedlers or other of the prominent local dealers.

A wife's devotion and inexperience excuse the bulk and disorder of "Men and Memories: Personal Reminiscences," by John Russell Young, edited by May D. Russell Young (New York: F. Tennyson Neely). The book is unreadable connectedly, and the late Mr. Young's journalistic style had no charm to make literature of his collected articles. That on Lincoln, designed to form part of an original work having some coherency and plan, exemplifies the merits and defects of the writer. As reporter of the Gettysburg speech, he has something really significant to tell us of the total want of effect produced in the brief delivery from a single sheet of paper. One who has patience may find a similar reward in running through these scrappy jottings about Forney, Bayard Taylor, Grant, Edwin Forrest, Whitman, Bennett, Greeley, Raymond, Jennings, Curtis, Phillips, Lowell, Dickens, Henry George, etc., etc. Not a few letters to Mr. Young from notabilities are to be encountered in this medley.

Mr. David W. Hoyt, Providence, R. I., sends us Parts vi. and vii. of his "Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Mass., with some Related Families of Adjoining Towns and of York County, Maine," which usher in his second volume. They are mostly derived from eighteenth-century records of Salisbury and Amesbury churches now in private hands. The compiler-publisher is continuing the work at a loss, and its prolongation and size must depend on the support of those interested.

An attempt to establish a Kentish connection of the New Jersey Woodruffs is made in a brochure of thirty-eight pages by Francis E. Woodruff of Morristown. Copies are for sale by the New Jersey Historical Society, in Newark.

From the Unit Library, Limited (London and New York), come the first four numbers of its new series of reprints: "The Vicar of Wakefield," Sterne's "Sentimental Journey," Darwin's "Origin of Species," and Emerson's "English Traits." These books are of a size for the pocket, and are neatly bound in red paper, cloth, or leather, according to price. The paper is poor, and the letter-press only tolerable. The editors, however, offer the inducement of an excellent choice of texts, fidelity to good editions, and brief bibliographical notes. The originality of the enterprise lies in the fact that these reprints are sold according to number of pages—that is, roughly, by cost of production. The "unit" is twenty-five pages, for which, and every fraction thereof, 1/2d. is paid. Covers are paid for separately, 1d. for paper, 5d. for cloth, 1s. for leather. This makes the first issues cost, in paper: "The Vicar," 5 1/2d.; "The Sentimental Journey," 4d.; the "Origin of Species," 11d.; "English Traits," 5d. It will be seen that these prices compare favorably with that of "Morley's Universal Library,"

or of the Cassells' still cheaper series of pocket reprints in paper, while the Unit Library engages that all texts chosen shall be reproduced in their integrity. The "unit" plan, it may be said, in passing, is merely a refinement upon that of the admirable "Reclam-Bibliothek." To follow the present issues are Hamilton's Memoirs of Count Gramont, Goethe's "Faust" (Anster's translation), Burney's "Buccaneers of America," Browning's "Poems" (1833-'58). The quality of the proof-reading remains to be determined.

As already announced, the second "Year Book of the Pennsylvania Society of New York" does more than report the second annual festival of that body. It abridges a number of articles of the twelvemonth which relate to Pennsylvania, like Mr. S. W. Pennypacker's comparison of the Quaker to the Puritan commonwealth, to the disadvantage of Massachusetts; and has papers on Revolutionary parks, monuments, and memorials, 1901; memorial portraits, 1901; historic anniversaries and celebrations; historical buildings, etc., as well as reviews of new Pennsylvania books, a long list. The illustrations are numerous, diversified, and often curious in the extreme—from a sketch-map of Fort Duquesne to a view of Valley Forge, and from Pennsylvania Quaker silhouettes to the map of a preliminary survey for Mason and Dixon's line. The "Year Book" may be had of the Secretary, Mr. Barr Ferree.

The fifteenth bound volume of Mr. Charles F. Lummis's *Land of Sunshine*, the last to bear that name, which passes into *Out West*, reaches us from Los Angeles, Cal. The usual rich variety is spread before us, and on the material and social side we select for mention papers on how to colonize the Pacific Coast, on Rochdale Coöperation in California, on State and national irrigation policies and the struggle for water. The editor contributes two more authentic translations of sources of early Western history, of which Perea's report on New Mexico, in 1632-33, will be included in the sumptuous edition of Benavides's Memorial now in press under Mr. Lummis's direction.

Decided interest attaches to the January-March number of the *American Journal of Archaeology* (Macmillan) by reason of Prof. R. B. Richardson's description, with illustrations, of the series of colossal statues at Corinth uncovered by the American School at Athens, of which he is the director. Neither the statuary nor the architectural ornamentation, being Roman work of the second century A.D., is intrinsically beautiful, but there is considerable novelty in adaptation and in the pseudo-Caryatid construction.

"Who Burned Columbia?" is asked and answered, with probability if not conclusively, by Mr. James Ford Rhodes in the *American Historical Review* for April. The origin of fires, whether accidental or incendiary, is too frequently indeterminable in ordinary times to make the debatability of a war-time conflagration unnatural. Southern authorities early and fiercely fixed the sole blame on Sherman, as having deliberately ordered the wiping out of Columbia. This would make the story of the event a peace tract. Mr. Rhodes's inclination is to make of it rather a temperance tract. A jail delivery of Union prisoners as well as convicts threw upon the town, deprived of all civic control, elements bent on reprisal or