

## With Our Readers

### Correspondence

#### The Unemployed—Send Them South

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

In the issue of *The Outlook* for January 20 is an interesting article, "Come West with Your Unemployed." From the reports received from Chicago and other Western cities it would seem that already in the West, as well as in the North and East, the care of the unemployed is a serious question. The solution offered by Secretary Hoke Smith, in a recent interview in the Washington "Post," is to send them South, and I want to second his motion. He calls attention to "the excellent opportunities offered in the South to small farmers with only a few hundred dollars capital," and tells them that good, fertile lands can be had "at from \$3 to \$10 per acre." In support of this there is now before me in one of our dailies an advertisement offering a 1,100-acre farm near town, with good dwelling, tenant-houses, gin-house, and all the equipment of a Southern farm, also well adapted to stock-raising, "for \$3,000, half cash, balance in one and two years." This is less than \$3 per acre; and a ten-horse-power engine for ginning, and the gin, are included. Small farms can be had at similar rates. So that one can get a start here wonderfully cheap, and make good and profitable crops the first year. And this in a section where schools and churches are already established. Why go to the harder climate and less profitable crops of the West, when such splendid opportunities are offered South, and a welcome far more cordial than can be had elsewhere? We want men, we need them here, and they need our lands and the marvelous advantages here offered for securing homes and a competency.

Nor will the negro be a drawback or hindrance, but a help rather, just the help needed. So send on your small farmers with a few hundred dollars capital, and they will ever bless the day their feet were turned toward this goodly land of the South. Here one can work outdoors on his farm 365 days in the year.

But there is another class who have not the "few hundred dollars capital." To these, too, the South offers the most favorable opportunities. They can get positions as tenants, find comfortable homes, go to work, and be self-supporting at once, and without any capital but their own strong arms and hearty good will. There is a style of tenantry much in vogue in this immediate section, here in southeastern Alabama and southwestern Georgia, that offers prudent, industrious persons without capital most excellent advantages. It is what we call "cropping," or "working on halves." The landlord furnishes houses, land, stock, implements, feeds the stock, and advances supplies for the tenants till the crop is made. The tenant has half of all that is made, first paying for his advances out of his half. This is a most admirable plan. The tenant's risk is small, support is certain, and almost always there is something besides to begin another year on. Good, industrious tenants are now in demand here, and homes could immediately be had on this plan.

Secretary Smith tells us that in northern Georgia "they can raise everything needed for home supplies but sugar and coffee." Here in the more southerly section the planters can raise their "sugar" too. There is hardly a more profitable crop than the sugar-cane, and it is very cheaply cultivated.

Nor need they be deterred by not knowing how to cultivate the crops. Situations can be had on farms managed and supervised by our best and most experienced farmers. So those with small capital, or even those without capital, run no risk in coming South. It will afford me pleasure to answer all letters and give any information desired on this line. We have plenty of clerks, bookkeepers. No room for these. All town positions are crowded. But plenty of room on the farm—no overcrowding there. So send us your farmers and farm

tenants. Let them come; we will help them, and they will help us build up this beautiful Southland, "beloved by heaven o'er all the world beside." So I leave off as I began: Send Your Unemployed South.

Eufaula, Ala.

W. N. REEVES.

#### The Cotton-Farm Tenant and the City Tenement-Dweller

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

Your issue of August 26, 1893, contained an article "From a Staff Correspondent" on "Southern Farms," which I laid aside for reply, but have only now been able to undertake it.

The article is fair in spirit and contains such partial truth as may be obtained by a stranger in a hasty survey of the outside of things. But his conclusion, "The poverty of the city tenement-houses is nothing to the poverty of the cotton-farm tenant," seems to me so absolutely incorrect that simple justice to truth itself requires its correction.

I shall try to write only the facts as known by long observation. Born in Georgia, formerly an owner of slaves and a planter in different parts of the State, I have ever been a careful student of the negroes' wants and their supplies; from duty while they were slaves, and from interest since.

First, in general. The daily papers in New York and Chicago have been filled with accounts of the sufferings of the poor—women crushed to death in the struggle to enter rooms where daily relief is dispensed, others found starved to death in the streets, even churches thrown open to afford shelter for the night, and press and pulpit combining their powerful agencies to provide food, shelter, and clothing absolutely necessary to save human life. It is true "times" are unusually "hard," but that condition prevails in the South also, and yet I venture the assertion that not one negro farmer in all the South has died from starvation in all these months; nay, further, not one in a thousand has suffered from hunger for twenty-four hours.

But let us come to particulars. Your correspondent figures out \$130 as the tenant's share of the crop at the end of the year, and, while these are rather minimum figures, we accept them. But bear in mind this is *cash*, his share of the cotton crop only—the cash crop. No estimate is given for anything else. But, in addition to the cotton, there will generally be planted, on the average "one-mule" farm, some 15 acres of corn, yielding 200 bushels, and 12-15 acres of oats. The tenant has his half of these also, say 100 bushels of corn and 125 of oats, available for food, or no small addition to his income if he sells.

Besides these, he generally has for his sole benefit a "sweet potato patch," yielding a winter supply of yams, and in the summer his beloved watermelon patch. He has, also, if he wishes, his vegetable garden, and in most cases raises about his lot one or more hogs—furnishing his bacon for part of the year. Many of them keep a cow, though common stock; and almost all raise fowls. The chickens and eggs go far toward buying tobacco, coffee, and sugar. Our markets are chiefly supplied by the negro farmers.

So much for what the negro tenant has, or in almost every case can have, if he wishes.

Now, consider the expenses of the city tenement-dweller, that our negro farmer saves. Rent—he pays none; his cabin is furnished him. Fuel—he buys none, but hauls it in lavish abundance from the woods around him. Add these savings to his income to make the true comparison. And, in minor points, his water is generally from a clear spring, while he has space, air, privacy, unknown in the city.

It is true his cabin is often made of logs, and many have no window. But these log "huts" or cabins can be dry, warm, and comfortable. It is the fault of his own laziness if it be not so, for materials are abundant around him, and the work requires no skill. Even though the door must stand open for light in the day—and this is by no means universal

—this is thought no hardship in the South. You will often find in his landlord's framed dwelling the door wide open, but the fires bright. Our people like that, and consumption is almost unknown. At night the humble cabin shines bright from his blazing pine knots.

It is rare that the furnishings are as meager as described by your correspondent. Plain furniture is now so cheap that few negroes' wives will be content without some store-bought piece, and even their rude carpentry is generally sufficient for making a plain bedstead. Cotton is so abundant all around them that cotton mattresses are easily within their means.

My knowledge of life in city tenement-houses comes only through the abundant literature of the day on that subject: but the negro farm tenant I have known for sixty years, and my conviction is strong that he is greatly the more comfortable, the healthier, and the happier of the two.

I will even take a higher type—the agricultural laborer—and venture the assertion that, in adaptation to and enjoyment of his environment, the negro farm tenant at the South will compare favorably with most; and this opinion is the result of personal observation both in this country and abroad. I have never forgotten the reply of a Vermont farmer to my query, "How can you make a living on this thin, stony land?" "Why," said he, "we sell everything that we can; what we can't sell we feed to the pig; and what the pig won't eat we eat ourselves!"—a grim joke, but underlying it we see a glimpse of the economy and industry necessary for a bare living to the Northern farmer. Similar methods at the South would soon elevate the tenant into the owner. Possibilities here are greatly in his favor, and many are the instances of negroes beginning as renters who now own farms running from two to five miles.

I might also take up the brighter side of life and speak of the negro tenant's recreations—his Saturdays spent in hunting with dog and gun; the coon and possum hunts at night; his religious carnivals under the guise of revivals and camp-meetings—but I forbear. The subject may not interest others as it does me. For threescore years I have lived among these simple people, and I love them. It would be a real grief to think your pictures of city tenement life could be fairly paralleled among them. How could I remain silent when they are proclaimed as even poorer?

W. F. A.

#### The East Side House

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

The East Side House (foot of Seventy-sixth Street, East River, New York) is taking its place among the societies which are aiding our citizens to provide work for those who need it and cannot get it in the usual channels. Our residents have become acquainted with many whose savings have supported them thus far, but who, to use the words of one of them to Mr. Holcombe, "cannot hold out much longer." We are in conference with the Committee already appointed, of which President Low is Chairman, and hope to be able to render them important service.

We opened our free Circulating Library on the 15th of January. It begins with 4,000 volumes. It is greatly needed. There is not in all that part of the city, east of Central Park, a single public library, of which we have any knowledge. Yet there is a population of 250,000 souls. In the new library building we can provide for seventy-five children in the kindergarten, and have already applications from that number. We have in this building an assembly-room where we propose to provide lectures and concerts.

Our experience has convinced us that this enterprise, undertaken three years ago, is an element of real value in its neighborhood, and is training the young to become better men and more useful citizens.

We do not ask money for the expenses of the Men's Club. That is self-supporting. We do not ask money for the board of the residents. That they pay themselves. We do ask money to support a settlement that is the

home of a successful workingmen's club, that provides a free circulating library, playground, and kindergarten; in a word, to maintain the plant that makes the club, library, kindergarten, and playground possible.

The new building, the books, and improvements that have been made to the old building during the year have cost over \$15,000. This has been given by those from whom we might otherwise ask aid for current expenses.

Checks should be sent to John Sabine Smith, Treasurer, 58 William Street, New York City.  
EVERETT P. WHEELER,  
President.

## Not So Rare

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

The Spectator, in *The Outlook*, has discovered a polite, cheery street-car conductor, and seems inclined to regard him as a *rara avis*—a fact that, I am sorry to say, makes me feel that he (the Spectator) is not the acute observer of human nature I have been accustomed to credit him with being. I know I am a good deal of an optimist on many points, but on this I can speak from practical experience—that the world is full, full to overflowing, with good-hearted, kindly-hearted people, whose every-day life betokens that truest and best test of politeness, courtesy to utter strangers. It matters nothing here why or how that I, for years, when by any chance I found myself separated from my friends or acquaintances, dependent (God and myself alone know how entirely) upon the courtesy and kindness of others, never (it is using a very strong term, I am aware, yet I repeat it, *never*) found myself where this innate characteristic of the true-born American did not manifest itself. The real secret of finding the so-called "politeness" brought into light and life and applied to ourselves lies within ourselves. The often-told story of General Washington, when at the height of his glory, taking off his hat to a negro slave, and when remonstrated with for the act, replying, "Do you think I would allow myself to be outdone in politeness by a negro?" has in it the very kernel of the whole matter. Real politeness never meets with anything but politeness in response. It is the boorish, not the gentle, who receive gruff, surly answers as they travel life's highway. The fustian coat and toil-stained garments quite as often cover the true gentle blood as broadcloth does—not infrequently, in these days, I might say, oftener. Neither broadcloth nor silk garments can make gentlemen or ladies. (I dislike both these last words; I prefer to say men and women.)

You wish to be treated courteously: you have only to be uniformly courteous to others. Familiarity is as wholly unnecessary as any other useless thing to possess yourself of the subtle power courtesy gives you.

At best, we are only animals of a higher species. Kick or strike your dog at every turn, he may cringe and obey you, but he will never moan out his life on your grave as many dogs have done for their dead masters. If, by some inscrutable providence, you wear "soft raiment," do not imagine that it for a moment relieves you of your duty, or will secure you true politeness from your fellow-men.

It all comes back to my first assertion: The world is full of good, kind hearts, but to get the full benefit of them you must first infuse your own heart with the same spirit.

G.

## Civil Service Reform

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

"J. J. D.'s" plan, published in *The Outlook* January 27, 1894, "to give the spoils system its death-blow," is to make elective all the offices except the President's Cabinet, foreign ministers, etc. I am curious to know what offices are embraced in the "etc." Does he mean the heads of bureaus under the Cabinet officers, the chief clerks, chiefs of division, the clerks in the classified service, and all the subordinates in the executive departments, State and National? Would he include also the officers, clerks, messengers, and pages of the National and State Capitols? Would he make the secretaries and attachés of foreign ministers

also elective? And why not allow the people to have something to say about who shall represent them abroad as well as at home?

I agree with him that the elective principle is the true theory of a popular government, so far as it can possibly be made practicable. But the exception made by "J. J. D." concedes that a line must be drawn somewhere. The difficult problem, it seems to me, would be where the line should be drawn. I am more than merely curious in this matter. In the interest of a *genuine* Civil Service Reform, and radically—yes, vindictively—opposed to the spoils system as the curse of politics, I would be glad to have "J. J. D." give a more definite and extended plan for putting the elective principle into practical execution.

I cannot agree with the unqualified assertion that "life-tenure is un-American." To the extent that it obtains in some countries it is un-American. In a limited sense I think the mass of the American people approve of life-tenure.

Neither do I believe the people interested in reform would prefer the spoils system to a life-tenure of office, though many of them doubtless heartily disapprove of the latter.

I cannot forbear adding that the five reasons given in that "one humble petition," briefly as stated, give a cogent and unanswerable argument in favor of taking the offices from the spoilsmen. *How* this can best be accomplished is a matter of honest difference of opinion.

G. S.

## Who Said It?

To the Editors of *The Outlook*:

In a recent issue of your paper I observed that the saying, "It is but three generations from shirt-sleeves," is stated as having been spoken by Colonel Henry Lee to Mr. Edward Atkinson.

If I remember aright, it will be found in that truly American book, "Triumphant Democracy," by Mr. Andrew Carnegie. The book is not at hand, or I would name page and paragraph.

The epigram struck me so forcibly when I read it several years since that I have often recalled it and quoted it, always attributing it to the canny Scotchman.

Is it one of those bright sayings that anybody would like to father, and which has been so numerously adopted that we cannot easily decide its parentage?

I would much like to know.

L. W. H.

## Notes and Queries

In *The Outlook* for January 27, "W. P. W." in referring to Dr. Abbott's article, "The Meaning of Bethlehem," states that the Resurrection is substantiated by facts outside of the Gospels. Please state what those are.

The Lord's Day is the monumental fact which witnesses to the Lord's Resurrection, apart from which it not easy to account for the consecration of Sunday in place of the Jewish Saturday-sabbath. Traces of this appear in the Gospels, but the fact is chiefly outside of them, and it is the only such one of any importance in the argument for the Resurrection.

I have a Sunday-school class of young people, and we are studying the Bible—principally as history, though we endeavor to get all the spiritual knowledge also possible out of it. Naturally, the Higher Criticism comes in for a good deal of discussion. What books would you recommend in connection with this work, explaining and making simple and understandable by ordinary students the results of both the Higher and the Lower Criticism?

E. P. S.

See similar queries in this column, January 27 and February 3. Dr. Gladden's book, "Who Wrote the Bible?" you will find specially helpful. As to the "Lower Criticism," you are probably getting it now out of your ordinary commentary.

Be so kind as to give me a list of those scriptures generally used for the purpose of proving the pre-existence of Christ as the second person in the Trinity, and the taking of man's nature in order that by the sacrifice of himself God might be reconciled to us.

T. C.

The following is not an exhaustive list, but it includes the chief texts employed: viz., John

i., 1, 14—vi., 62—viii., 58—xvii., 5, 24; 2 Cor. viii., 9; Phil. ii., 5.

In reply to many questions with regard to the Report of the Committee of Ten on Education, of which we recently spoke, we may say that it is published by the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., to which applications for copies should be made. There is no present intention of printing the Report in any other form, or of selling it.

I had in my hands awhile ago a little poem, printed, I think, in one of the Chicago daily papers, and I carelessly destroyed it. Since then the thought and one or two lines of it have been recurring to my mind every now and then. The thought was such a striking one and so vigorously and uniquely expressed that I have wished much I might find the piece again. The first line runs—

"A man said to his angel,"

and it continues with the man's complaint—things are all wrong, life such a battle, his chance of success so small that he feels nothing but hopelessness. The angel replies that it is not for him to make sure of success, but only to struggle faithfully onward even in the greatest seeming defeat. The closing lines, which have been running in my mind ever since, are these:

"Die fighting, fighting, fighting,  
Driven against the wall."

Can any one tell me where to find the poem?

C. E. O.

Can any one tell me the author of the following lines:

"How they would stare,  
Ye gods! should fickle fortune drop  
These mushroom lordlings where she picked them  
up,  
In tinker's, cobbler's, and bookbinder's shop."

A. F.

What is the source of the line—

"Obey the voice at eve, obeyed at prime?"

I notice that Lowell quotes it in one of his letters.

J. S. B.

## Books Received

- D. APPLETON & CO., NEW YORK  
Maartens, Maarten. *The Greater Glory*. \$1.50.  
Allardyce, Alexander. *Earls Court*. \$1.  
Hickson, Sydney J. *The Fauna of the Deep Sea*.  
Huxley, Thomas H. *Science and Hebrew Tradition*.  
Vol. IV. \$1.25.  
Ayres, Alfred. *The Orthoëpist*. \$1.25.  
Taylor, Bayard. *A History of Germany*. \$1.50.  
THE BIGLOW & MAIN CO., NEW YORK  
Peloubet, F. N., and H. P. Main. *Select Songs*,  
No. 2. 40 cts.  
W. B. CONKEY CO., CHICAGO  
Hanson, J. W., D.D. *The World's Congress of Religions*.  
E. P. DUTTON & CO., NEW YORK  
Beckman, Ernst. *Pax and Carlino*. \$1.  
Hepworth, George H. *They Met in Heaven*. 75 cts.  
D. C. HEATH & CO., BOSTON  
Spalding, Volney M. *Guide to the Study of Common Plants*. 85 cts.  
HARPER & BROS., NEW YORK  
Peard, Frances M. *The Swing of the Pendulum*. 50 cts.  
HENRY HOLT & CO., NEW YORK  
Bumpus, Hermon C. *A Literary Course in Invertebrate Zoology*. \$1.  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO., BOSTON  
Smith, Gertrude. *The Rousing of Mrs. Potter, and Other Stories*. \$1.25.  
Merriam, George S. *A Symphony of the Spirit*. \$1.  
Harte, Bret. *A Protégée of Jack Hamlin's, and Other Stories*. \$1.25.  
GINN & CO., BOSTON  
Cook, Albert S. *A First Book in Old English*. \$1.60.  
GEORGE W. JACOBS & CO., PHILADELPHIA  
Stone, Rev. James S., D.D. *Woods and Dales of Derbyshire*. \$3.75.  
ORANGE JUDD CO., NEW YORK  
Taft, L. R. *Greenhouse Construction*. \$1.50.  
DR. P. KAHLER & SONS, NEW YORK  
Kahler, Charles. *How to Treat Your Own Feet*.  
MACMILLAN & CO., NEW YORK  
Lamb, Charles. *Specimens of English Dramatic Poets*. 2 Vols. \$4.  
Lockyer, J. Norman. *The Dawn of Astronomy*. \$5.  
Carroll, Lewis. *Sylvie and Bruno. Concluded*. \$1.50.  
Landon, Walter Savage. *The Longer Prose Works*. Vol. II. \$1.25.  
Bryant, Sophie. *Short Studies in Character*. \$2.  
Campbell, James D. *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*. \$3.  
MERRILL & BAKER, NEW YORK  
Long, Lilly A. *Apprentices to Destiny*. \$1.  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS, NEW YORK  
Paine, Thomas. *The Writings of*. Edited by Moncure D. Conway. Vol. I. \$2.50.  
J. SELWIN TAIT & SONS, NEW YORK  
Carpenter, Mrs. W. Boyd. *Fragments in Baskets*. \$1.  
Baring-Gould, S. *Cheap Jack Zita*. \$1.25.  
Barrett, Frank. *The Woman of the Iron Bracelets*. \$1.  
Reid, John. *A Chronicle of Small Beer*. \$1.  
THOMAS WHITTAKER, NEW YORK  
Moore, Rev. Aubrey L. *God is Love, and Other Sermons*. \$1.50.  
THE WOMAN'S TEMPERANCE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, CHICAGO  
Edholm, Charlton. *Traffic in Girls, and Florence Crittenton Missions*.