

with an unwonted sense of security. They reminded one of those old times, so dear to occasional newspaper correspondents who on the slightest provocation rush into print with reminiscences of New York of the forties or fifties, when Broadway was crowded with omnibuses, and, when the sleighing was good, with long omnibus sleighs, and the air was merry with the jingle of bells, and the street reflected the happy faces of those who rode on runners. These ancient horse cars served another purpose: they afforded unlimited satisfaction to visitors from the West and South who gloated over these evidences of the slowness of New York, and when they went home told their neighbors tales of the primitive character of the conveniences of life in the metropolis. It is a pity that some one did not think decades ago of preserving a section of the old city where people, tired of the contemporary tumult and rush, could go for quiet and meditation; where no sound should break the silence but the leisurely jingle of the horse car or the bell of the scissors-grinder. It is now too late; and the approaching disappearance of the horse car indicates further obliteration of the ancient landmarks.

THE HUMAN SIDE OF SENATORS

The New York "Sun" reports some interesting orders of United States Senators for articles for their personal use paid for by the Government. A study of this list will furnish valuable biographic data for the historian of the future. The orders on local druggists indicate a wide range of needs, from cologne and silk-hat brushes to court plaster and hair tonic. One Senator appears to have been profoundly moved by the associations of St. Patrick's Day; for on that festive occasion he sent nearly one hundred messages by telegraph, a record which he hardly surpassed when the fight on the tariff was at its fiercest. Another Senator of picturesque taste appears to have been a constant and interested reader of a journal of fashion, and several Senators expended Government money in photographs, pen-knives, scissors, and even for the rental of sewing-machines. These are small matters concerning men of great position; but they are interesting as showing how thoroughly human are the needs of so august a per-

son as a member of the United States Senate. There is a fine chance here for some organ of gossip to tabulate the needs of individual Senators as the basis for psychological analyses of character; the application of realistic methods to the study of the political temperament.

COMPROMISE OR JUSTICE

Last week, at Washington, the American Society for the Judicial Settlement of International Disputes held a Conference. Among the speakers were President Taft, Secretary Knox, Senator Root, Justice Brown, President Eliot, Governor-elect Baldwin, Professor Gregory, Joseph H. Choate, and Andrew Carnegie. The Society was organized to hasten the establishment of an International Court of Justice. The Outlook has repeatedly called attention to the fact that the present so-called "Permanent Court of Arbitration" at The Hague is, strictly speaking, neither permanent nor a court. A proper Court of Justice has not come into being because the Powers are not agreed as to the method of selecting the judges. In order to bring this about, public opinion must be created, and, when the court itself does come into being, public sentiment must be created to compel the nations to resort to the court whenever international controversies arise. Hence the reason for the Society's existence. In this spirit, the Conference at Washington last week accomplished two things. It aided Mr. Root, Mr. Knox, and others who are bending their energies towards the realization of a proper court, and it also contributed to the strengthening of public sentiment. The scope of questions to be submitted at The Hague bids fair to be considerably enlarged, should the nations follow the ideal set forth by President Taft in his speech before the Conference, that *all* questions, even those of international honor, be brought within the limits of arbitration treaties. As Mr. Carnegie pointed out, we have already three examples of such agreements between nations, namely, Argentina and Chile, Norway and Sweden, Belgium and Holland. Moreover, since the establishment of the permanent Court of Arbitration by the First Hague Conference in 1899, no less than one hundred and thirty-

three general treaties of arbitration, relating to possible future disputes, have been negotiated. More drastic arbitration treaties would doubtless be entered into if, in addition to an International Court of Arbitration whose decisions are based on compromise, there should be an International Court whose decisions would be based solely upon justice.

A CHRISTMAS IN MID-AFRICA

Nairobi, the capital of British East Africa, is in my eyes a very attractive little town. As it lies almost on the equator, it is never cold; but the table-land stretching between the coast and the vast lakes of Central Africa is so high that the nights are rarely unpleasantly hot, and are often cool enough to make a man sleep soundly under blankets. In the middle of the town, in the business part, the stores and other buildings stand close together; but the town is scattered over a wide stretch of territory, and the dwelling-houses stand, each by itself, bowered in trees and the gardens filled with bright-hued flowers. The bougainvillea vines make great splashes of color. Rickshaws and pony carts go through the streets, past long files of scantily clad burden-bearing natives, men and women, past creaking bullock carts, past white men on horseback, past native policemen, past other natives whose half-European clothes show them to be gun-bearers, or *sais*; slender Somalis, with clean-cut features, saunter by; the Indians are everywhere, for most of the lesser and some of the bigger merchants, and most of the minor officials, come from Hindustan. Of the natives most are wild heathens; but some of them, and all the Somalis, and most of the Indians, are Moslems. There are many Goanese who have kept the faith of their remote Portuguese ancestors; and there are Parsees, who, of all the Asiatics, come nearest to being accepted by the whites as being measurably on the same level with themselves—and who would be entirely so accepted if they possessed martial virtue in addition to their other good qualities.

Among the white population there are representatives of almost every European race; but of course the great majority are

English. Among them are many men and women who have seen and done many things of interest; who have carried on the work of the world in many strange places, who have met queer emergencies with cool heads, and have performed difficult and sometimes dangerous tasks with good sense and good humor; and who, in addition, are well read and care for music or art or science, or have some of the other interests which add so much to the joy of living even for men of action. I soon found that there were a number of households which to me seemed at least as attractive as any to be found in the great capitals of civilization.

There were several houses where I was made welcome, both within and without Nairobi. I shall always remember them; and of one of them I now write. The book-shelves were filled with just the books one loves to read—especially in the intervals of a rough hunting trip, when dainty refinement in a book gives the same kind of pleasure that under such circumstances is yielded by many other kinds of daintiness and refinement. The master of the house was a Cambridge man, who promptly gave me a letter to the Provost of King's College, Cambridge, when he found that I held in high esteem the Provost's "Short Stories of an Antiquary." That the mistress of the house has the gift of seeing, and the further gift of portraying what is seen, can be told by whoever reads Janet Allardyce's "African Sketches and Impressions" in the November "Scribner's."

Furthermore, there were two dear little girls, of eight and ten, who, as Christmas drew nigh, made me realize how homesick I was for my own family. They were such nice children! They had such quiet, pretty manners, and such true little hearts. When I called, if their father and mother were delayed, they always came in to entertain me. They might solemnly present me the kitty, so that I should not feel lonely; or else a delightful small parrot, which climbed unconcernedly over me, or walked around the floor and gently nipped the ends of my trousers if it thought I was not showing it proper attention. They told me about many things; especially about the small brother who was at school in England. The Nairobi shops