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RESIDENCE NOT ENOUGH.

We are requested by one of our sub-
scribers in Wyoming to answer the fol-
lowing question:

"Is it not a law of the United States
that if a person who is an alien, has
lived in a Territory of the United
States for a number of years prior to
its becoming a State and is living in
said Territory when it becomes a State,
does not that constitute or make him a
citizen of the United States, without
taking out citizen's papers? I need not
mention the value of your paper as an
authority, for its great worth is too
well known wherever read. "J. S."

We answer, no. In order to become a
citizen of the United States, an alien
must comply with the terms of the na-
turalization laws, which require a re-
sidence of five years within the United
States and his admission to the rights
and privileges of citizenship by the de-
cree of a competent court. There is no
need for us to go into particulars of
the legal methods for the naturalization
of aliens, for it has been explained re-
peatedly, but the fact that an alien has
resided any length of time in a Terri-
tory of the United States, without ob-
taining a certificate of citizenship, does
not constitute him a citizen, nor is he
made one by the entrance of that Terri-
tory into the Union as a State.

In some parts of the country persons
who have declared their intention of
becoming citizens before a proper court
or officer, two years at least prior to
their admission as citizens, are per-
mitted to vote at certain elections. But
usually it is required before that privi-
lege is exercised that he shall be a
citizen of the United States, as provided
in the laws of Congress. They are made
rigid and exclusive by the language of
the first paragraph of introductory
clause in the naturalization law, which
begins section 2165 of the Revised Sta-
tutes of the United States, and says:

"An alien may be admitted to become
a citizen of the United States in the
following manner and not otherwise."

One of the provisions of the law
forms section 2170, and is in this lan-
guage:

"No alien shall be admitted to become
a citizen who has not for the continued
term of five years next preceding his
admission resided in the United States."

The mere fact that he has resided for
five years in the United States does not
make him a citizen. He must obtain a
certificate of naturalization from a
court having jurisdiction, on complying
with the terms of the statute, by show-
ing to the court that he is qualified
for citizenship and by taking the oath
of allegiance and abjuring fidelity to
any other nation or sovereignty. This,
we suppose, will answer the question
propounded, and we hope to the satis-
faction of our correspondent.

ALASKA TO SIBERIA.

It is almost incredible that the Rus-
sian government should find time to
pay attention to such matters as the
construction of a railroad across the
Bering strait. But that seems to be
the fact. According to a dispatch from
Berlin, the scheme of Baron Lohse de
Lobel, the French engineer, for the
building of a railroad from Siberia to
Alaska has been approved and the
Russian government has named a com-
mission to formulate contract regula-
tions.

The plan to connect Siberia and Alas-
ka by means of a railroad has been
talked about for many years, as has the
proposition to build a tunnel under the
English channel. But, though the
enterprise is physically possible, the
question is whether it would pay. Could
that line compete with the much shorter
ocean route? Certainly not under
present circumstances. But the north-
western part of this continent and the
northeastern part of Asia are rapidly
developing. Alaska is sure to grow in
importance, and the surrounding re-
gions will develop in proportion. Some
time, therefore, the proposition to build
a railroad from Siberia to Alaska by
bridging and by tunneling under Bering
Strait may be carried out, though it
would cost from \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,-
000.

The scheme is said to be engineered
from Paris this time, and it is hoped
that capitalists of France, Russia and
the United States will join in carrying
it out. But the Panama canal was
engineered from there, too, and unless
there is more solid business ability and
integrity, behind this plan, it is sure to
fail.

HEREDITY AND CHARACTER.

An army officer is said to have pro-
pounded a new theory, according to
which the doctrine of heredity is re-
garded as a fallacy. It has long been
maintained that character depends on
ancestors as well as environment. From
Moses, who taught that the son was
born in the likeness of the father, and
that the consequences of ancestral
evil-doing may, under certain cir-
cumstances, be traced to the third and

fourth generation, down to later writ-
ers on that important subject—say Ibsen
who in his "Gjengangerne," or
"Ghosts," shows how ancestors re-ap-
pear in their offspring, there is al-
most universal conviction that heredi-
ty is a potent factor in the formation
of character. But this, the army officer
referred to says is all wrong. The
likeness between father and son, often
very remarkable, he declares to be due
to the fact that the son is likely to
have very similar environments, par-
ticularly in the home, as those which
surrounded the father in his early
years.

It must be admitted that some people
are perhaps ascribing too much to heredi-
ty. They blame ancestors for faults
for which they, themselves, bear the
entire responsibility, because they have
not honestly striven to overcome them.
Thus, some seek to excuse moral de-
pravity by blaming it to inborn propen-
sities. If they are given to "kleep-
tomania," or have a strong desire for
liquor, they hope to mitigate their guilt
by ascribing their particular vice to in-
herited tendencies. This is, of course,
wrong. There is no moral deformity,
inherited or acquired, that cannot be
overcome, provided the right remedies
are applied, as prescribed by the great
Physician. There is, therefore, no
necessity for the attempts made, to dis-
credit the doctrine of heredity. That
law is beneficial, since good is in-
herited, as well as its opposite.

No one doubts that environment is
developing peculiarities of character,
but not against the will power of the
individual. If that is exercised in the
right direction, it will overcome the
difficulties of both heredity and en-
vironment.

THE ISLE OF PINES.

Every question has two sides, and the
Isle of Pines controversy is no excep-
tion to that rule. We have presented
the reasons given why that island
should be considered Cuban territory.
In the current number of Public Opin-
ion the other view is set forth, and it
is always interesting, and profitable, to
give both sides a hearing.

The American residents of the island
claim that the War Department in 1899
officially stated that the Isle of Pines
was "a part of our territory," showing
that the department of the government
especially charged with the control of
insular possessions interpreted the
treaty with Spain as conferring owner-
ship of the Isle of Pines upon the United
States. They also allege that the so-called
Platt amendment provided
"That the Isle of Pines shall be om-
itted from the proposed constitutional
boundaries of Cuba, the title thereto
left to future adjustment by treaty,"
and that when Cuba was turned over
to the government of its people in May,
1902, the military governor was in-
structed by the secretary of war to
continue "the present American mili-
tary government of the Isle of Pines as
the de facto government." They add
that hundreds of Americans acting up-
on the assurance of the war depart-
ment, as well as upon the uniform
policy of the government up to May,
1902, settled in the Isle of Pines, estab-
lished homes there, on what they be-
lieved to be American soil, and invested
hundreds of thousands of dollars in agri-
cultural and industrial development.

If this is incontrovertible, they have
a strong case, but the Secretary of
War has declared that the island be-
longs to Cuba, and that decision can-
not have been rendered except after a
most thorough consideration of all the
facts in the case.

As a general rule, the expansion of
this country in every direction must be
regarded as a blessing to those who
thereby come in under the protecting
folds of the flag that symbolizes all
that makes for human freedom, and
human rights. But we should not, even
for the sake of doing good, trample up-
on the rights of others, which are as
sacred to them, as ours are to us. If
we follow that principle in our dealings
with other countries, the weak not ex-
pected, we will never be very far from
doing right. And that is, after all, our
best policy.

Senator Tillman's cutting remarks
cut no ice or canal.

The czar is standing firm but he isn't
doing another thing.

In a small way there is no greater
nuisance than an elocutionist.

The Strawberry valley irrigation
project "goes," goes forward and not
backward.

It looks as though "E duabus unum"
would be the motto of Arizona and New
Mexico when admitted into the Union.

The South Carolina senior senator
calls Secretary Taft a "king." He's
wrong. He's the President's right bow-
er.

E. H. Harriman insists that business
motives shall be C. P. This is intro-
ducing the true scientific spirit into
business methods.

The Armstrong life insurance inves-
tigation committee has proceeded on
the theory, "Seek, and ye shall find." And
it always has.

Everything points to the near ad-
vent of a reign of terror in Russia. It
now looks as though, if it should come,
it would dwarf the French affair.

Bourke Cochran says that Rocke-
feller's fortune is a monument to crime.
How many, many men have tried to
erect such a monument and failed.

Why didn't Castro do gracefully what
he was finally compelled to do ungrace-
fully in the Franco-Venezuelan embroil-
ment? He has made secure his reputa-
tion for perverseness and not for firm-
ness.

The appellate division of the supreme
court of New York has handed down a
decision holding that a man cannot be
deprived of his vote even though some
one else has already voted fraudulently
in his name. That is common sense and
should be good law. The right to vote

is one of the dearest rights of an Ameri-
can citizen and under no circumstances
should he be deprived of it by fraud.

A field piece belonging to the United
States was found at Port Arthur after
the Japanese captured that stronghold
and has been returned to the govern-
ment by Japan. The possession of an
American field piece by the Russians
proves that it is the men behind the gun
that make it effective. Had Americans
instead of Russians been behind it, it
would have a different story to tell.

According to a New York dispatch,
Sarah Bernhardt is to play in a tent in
Texas. The story is to the effect that
because the theatrical trust controls
nearly all the theaters in Texas, it is
proposed to have Sarah Bernhardt use
a circus tent during her tour of that
state, as it will be impossible for her to
give performances in the theaters under
the trust rule. This is carrying trust
rule a little too far.

PERMISSION GRANTED.

Harper's Weekly.
The following incident is related of
Nat Goodwin, the actor. Not long ago
Goodwin was standing on the corner of
Broadway and Thirteenth street,
where three car lines converge, when a
seedy-looking individual, apparently
from the country, approached him ques-
tioningly. "I want to go to the Brook-
lyn bridge," he said, looking in per-
plexity at the cars rushing in six dif-
ferent directions. "Very well," said
Goodwin, "you can go this way, but
never ask me again."

INSURANCE IN GERMANY.

Frank A. Vanderlip in North American
Review.
Accident insurance, as developed in
Germany, has been something more
than merely the providing of an inden-
nity. It has been, in fact, an insurance
against accidents. This definite plac-
ing of the responsibility for accidents
has led to much study by employers
and employees of regulations providing
for safeguards. Such study has ac-
complished remarkable results in the
reduction of the frequency of acci-
dents, and has become a great economic fac-
tor in removing the danger from the
industrial calling. Under the influence
of this study, the frequency of acci-
dents has been reduced one-half. Viewed
from an economic standpoint alone,
the saving which has resulted in the
national economy has been a vast sum.
We are strikingly careless of life in
America.

HAVE TREES NO RIGHTS.

The Hartford Courant.
A news item that what was probably
the largest tree in Henry county, in
Indiana, had been felled preparatory
to turning it into lumber moves the
Indianapolis News to indignant protest.
"Have trees no rights?" it asks. "Are
they to be defenselessly slaughtered at
the behest of cold commercialism?
Have the people of Henry county no
pride in treasures that cannot be re-
placed?" This protest is timely and
the rebuke deserved. The largest tree
in any locality should be permitted to
stand as long as it can hold its head
against the storm.

KROPOTKIN GOES BACK.

Providence Journal.
One indication of a new regime in
Russia is the return to that country of
one of its most illustrious exiles, Prince
Kropotkin, who left England where he
has been living, to go to the home
from which he was so long banished.
His services at the present crisis will
be immediately beneficial if he is per-
mitted to offer them. Prince Kropot-
kin is a man of the most illustrious
lineage, with wealth and high position,
holding at one time a post in the house
of the czar. Becoming interested in
social conditions, he went among the
working classes under an assumed
name, endeavoring to persuade them to
form unions for the purpose of better-
ing their lot. In this way he gained
great influence. Of course when his
identity was discovered the government
promptly imprisoned him without trial
in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul.
His escape and flight nearly 37
years ago created a great sensation.

NEW WAY TO MAKE FRIENDS.

Baltimore Herald.

At the court-martial at the Naval
Academy it is testified that men har-
boring the most bitter animosity to-
ward each other become inseparable com-
rades after a personal combat in which
one or both of them are maimed into a
semblance of overworked dough. A man
with a grudge meets a man whom he
begrudges, and straightway they
launch out with their fists. Blood flows,
noses are broken, ears are uppercut
and slices are dug out of the features
and, finally, the two mangled forms
fall in a heap of wildly contorting arms
and legs on the ground. Friends—
all of that disposition have friends—
step up and untangle the ferocious
gladiators. They stagger to their feet
and with streams of blood coursing
down their lacerated and swollen faces,
split out their loosened teeth, and
grinning grimly, grasp hands as they
pledge eternal and undying devotion to
each other. Could anyone paint a more
beautiful picture of the possibilities of
human love?

THE DOMESTIC PROBLEM.

Boston Transcript.

It is difficult to know whether one
should weep or rejoice with the club-
woman who, writing to her club in
New York, holding a meeting for the
purpose of discussing the domestic
problem, sent word that she
lives on nuts and fruit. It can't be
thought, be called solving the servant
problem to adopt such a diet, even if
Lord and Lady Charles Beresford do
favor it. To most minds it would seem
that recourse to such a form of living
was equal to an acknowledgment that
the domestic problem had won the day
that no further wrestling with it
would be attempted. Or if their con-
clusion is unsatisfactory you might
say the fruitarian person became such
in a choice-the-least-evil spirit. Pos-
sibly this woman lives on nuts and
fruits because she prefers them to
flesh foods; some people really do. And
if that is the case and she has through-
out an indulgence of a preference avoided
trouble that confront other housekeep-
ers, we congratulate her.

A CLEVER CULPRIT.

Harper's Magazine.
Little Edmund, aged 4, is noted for
his ability to slip out of a critical sit-
uation with an ease and celerity that
would be noticeable in a "grown-up."
He had developed a great fondness for
running away, and had been threaten-
ed with a hard whipping if he left the
yard again without permission. The
next Sunday afternoon his father dis-
covered his racing off down the street,
gazing furtive glances backward, and
taking with him "little sister," a tiny
toddlers of 2. The father started in hot
pursuit. Edmund looked back and saw
his father coming. Increasing his pace
he made a frantic effort to distance
pursuit, but realizing in a moment that

his father was gaining rapidly and es-
cape impossible, he whispered a quick
command to his little sister, who tod-
dled on alone. Then, turning around to
face the approaching enemy, he called:
"Never mind, papa! You can go home
and rest. I'll catch little sister for
you."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Health Culture for December opens
with an illustrated paper by Mrs. Au-
gusta Prescott entitled, "How to Rest
Awfully," the reading of which should
help many nervous and tired women of
all classes. It shows them how to save
their strength. And along the same line
is "The Faulty Manner of Moving the
Body, As the Cause of Disease," by
Dr. Landon. "Exercises for Brain-
workers," by the same writer, is full
of practical suggestions. The magazine
is profusely illustrated—The Health
Culture Co., 153 W. 23rd St., N. Y. City.

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