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**THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.**  
 The initiative and referendum as the ordinary means of legislation involve a fundamental change in our system of government, one that should not be lightly adopted. In a great country like ours the adoption of all laws by this system would be cumbersome and impracticable. In smaller communities, where there is not such a diversity and complexity of interests, social and industrial conditions, it has worked beneficially. But we have vast diversified interests, such as our financial institutions, industrial corporations and great railway lines, difficult problems of governing our cities, the equal or greater problems growing out of our foreign commerce and agricultural communities, the delicate relations between state and federal governments, and to apply the initiative and referendum in the framing of such laws would tend to more complexity and instability in government. Laws which require careful consideration, the examination by committees, special knowledge of lawyers and students of economy, cannot be drawn and passed in this way. This duty must be delegated to representatives responsive to the direct will of the people who may devote the time necessary for such work.—Frank B. Kellogg.



**HALLOWE'EN**

**SWEET REVENGE.**

Mark Twain Proved That His Old Time Chum Was a Liar.

When the great man "arrives" the associates of his boyhood days who used to laugh at the idea of his ever "amounting to anything" retire unobtrusively to the background. But when the opportunity arises to make an example of some such skeptical old friend surely no one could rise to the occasion more effectively than did Mark Twain on the occasion described by Albert Bigelow Paine in Harper's Magazine.

He came to Keokuk to visit and was offered \$5 a week and board to remain. He accepted. In the same building was a book store in which a young man named Edward Brownell clerked. He and Sam Clemens eluded each other. Sam read at odd moments, at night, in bed, voluminously—until very late sometimes. One night Ed Brownell, passing upstairs to his room on the fourth floor, poked his head in at the door.

"What are you reading, Sam?" he asked.

"Oh, nothing much—a so called funny book. One of these days I'll write a funnier book than that myself," Brownell laughed.

"No, you won't, Sam," he said. "You are too lazy ever to write a book."

A good many years later, when the name Mark Twain had begun to stand for American humor, the owner of it gave his "Sandwich Islands" lecture in Keokuk. Speaking of the unreliability of the islanders, he said:

"The king is, I believe, the greatest liar on the face of the earth except one, and I am very sorry to locate that one right here in the city of Keokuk in the person of Ed Brownell."

**ROMANCES OF PORCELAIN.**

The Climax to Palissy's Sixteen Years of Misery.

The maker of porcelain and pottery has decidedly the most exciting and romantic trade in the world. The great factories of Sevres and Dresden were founded by Bernard Palissy. This man invented white enamel, but it took him sixteen years to make the invention—sixteen years of hunger, misery and persecution, which culminated in the episode, used in H. A. Jones' play of "The Middleman," wherein Palissy maintained his furnace fire by burning all the furniture in his house and finally opened the furnace door to find within the glaze which he had sought throughout the best years of his life.

Bottger invented hard porcelain. He was an alchemist, and one day, chancing to discover that his powdered wig was unusually heavy, he inquired the cause and found that the weight was due to the knoll with which the wig was powdered. This knoll was the substance for lack of which Bottger's investigations had for years failed.

When Elers opened a porcelain factory at Burslem, England, he employed the most stupid and illiterate workmen, so that his secret processes might not become known. But Samuel Astbury resolved to learn the Elers meth-

ods, and, after some preliminary work, he got a place in the factory, mastered all of Elers' secrets and eventually opened a plant of his own, wherein he duplicated in every detail the work of Elers.

**Terms of Venery.**

There are terms of venery which a good sportsman will still observe in his speech. Thus he finds a "cock" or a "covey" of grouse and likewise a "covey" of partridges, but a "wild" of pheasants, a "bevy" of quail, a "whisp" or a "walk" of snipe and a "fall" of woodcock. Having found them, he "springs" the grouse and the pheasants, but "flushes" the woodcock, snipe and partridges. Further, he will tell you that grouse are "challenged" and pheasants "chuckered," that partridges "jag," quails "pope," woodcocks are "fallers" and snipe are "at walk." So the bishop was strictly correct who spoke of "some who jug themselves like partridges into small coveys."—London Chronicle.

**High Priced Copy.**

During the siege of Kimberley the editor of the only daily paper there was often hard put to find enough news. One day in a clubroom he found Cecil Rhodes reading a fairly new paper from Cape Town. He borrowed it and rushed to his own office, where it soon reappeared as a special edition, selling like hot cakes. That same evening he met Rhodes, who inquired, "Where's my Cape Town paper?" "Oh, I cut it up for the printers," was the reply. "Please don't do that again," said Rhodes mildly. "That paper came through by native runners and cost me \$1,000."

**MAYBE PLANTS CAN WINK.**

A Learned Botanist Expert Says They All Have Eyes.

After long experimenting and study Professor Gottlieb Haberlandt of the Botanic Institute of Graz, in Styria, declares that plants, the word taken in its widest sense and including trees, can see.

The professor says that he has succeeded through photography and the use of the microscope in reproducing the images reflected on the visual organs of plants. The images included objects at different distances and even persons and houses. Plants may, he says, be classed with the inferior animals in this respect. His observations have been confirmed by Dr. Nuttall and Dr. Harold Wagner.

We are still so ignorant of animal, plant and insect life (because we do not understand their language) that we fancy the plant, like the insect, is not conscious of what it sees, but that is probably a discovery for the future. At present we are forced to accept the theory that they are not conscious. But that they do see Professor Haberlandt says he has satisfactorily proved. He has found the same minute eye such as belongs to bees and other insects in sycamore leaves, in the sugar maple and in the Peruvian acanthus. The eyes of plants appear different from the eyes of insects in that they have no coloring matter, though this is not yet determined. The professor is continuing his ex-

periments, and he expects to make further interesting and surprising announcements. He says that the fact that plants and trees have eyes is undoubtedly a proof that all natural life is linked in one long chain.—Chicago Tribune.

**TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE.**

Russia's Daring Scheme to Divert the Flow of Siberian Rivers.

A daring scheme is proposed in Russia for altering the flow of waters on so vast a scale that even meteorological and climatic conditions may be improved. Agricultural interests in the eastern and southern provinces suffer severely from the frequent droughts, which are ascribed partly to extensive deforestation and partly to the progressive drying up of western Asia.

The idea has been conceived of diverting the flow of certain Siberian rivers from the north to the south so that their waters would eventually find their way into those great inland seas, the Ural and the Caspian. As the surface of these would be thereby doubled or even quadrupled, there would be a great increase in the atmospheric moisture and consequent precipitation of the surrounding country, as well as larger available supplies for irrigation where desirable.

This diversion of flow is to be accomplished by building dams across the Obi and Tobol rivers at points where their banks are exceptionally high. When the water would reach the top of the banks it would stand at a far higher level than the Caspian, and considerably above the Ural. It would then only be necessary to cut a short canal through the divide which separates the northern flowing from the southern flowing rivers of western Asia to direct the fructifying waters of these mighty streams toward the two great lakes instead of allowing them to be lost in the Arctic ocean.

**Uncle Sam's Fighting Men.**

There are 20,478,084 men of fighting age in the United States, of whom 2,156,561 are in the state of New York, according to the census bureau. The figures as to the militia strength of the country have been compiled by the government from the enumeration of 1910. Immigration is increasing the fighting strength of the American republic out of proportion to the general growth of population. Thus the number of males of enlisting age, eighteen to forty-four inclusive, has increased 4,290,982, or 26.5 per cent, in the last ten years, as against a general growth of 21 per cent in the whole population in the same period.—New York World.

**UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS.**

If it be asked, What is the improper expectation which is dangerous to indulge? experience will quickly answer that it is such expectation as is dictated not by reason, but by desire, an expectation that requires the common course of things to be changed and the general rules of action to be broken.—Dr. Johnson.

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