

MISCELLANY

TO AN OLD VIOLIN.

For The Public.

What say the wondrous chords
That thrill the listening air?
They wake long-silenced words,
They heal a heart's despair.
O, wondrous, throbbing wires!
Ye voiced beneath his bow,
Love's hollest, best desires
In the days of long ago.

O, eager, flashing eyes!
Ye could a world enthral;
O, hand, that quiet lies—
O, tenderest heart of all!
Beneath his magic sway
The strings would whisper low
The dreams of youth's brief day—
They vanished long ago.

If 'mid the ransomed throngs
My soul dare enter in,
Dear heart, among their songs
I'll know thy violin.
Then welcome Death's dark stream,
With current deep and slow,
Thou'lt bring me back the dream
And the love of long ago.

MARY McNABB JOHNSTON.

THE LEISURE CLASS.

The leisure class is the fruitage of material prosperity. It comprises two species, namely, the smart set and the hoboes.

These species differ (genus plus differentia giving us the scholastic definition of species) both accidentally and essentially; accidentally, in that the smart set always have money to burn; essentially, in that hoboes sometimes have a sense of humor.

The smart set are the successes, the hoboes the failures, of our civilization. Our civilization is remarkable in that its successes and its failures are equally good for nothing.

However, we are not money-mad; merely money-drunken; in the morning, doubtless, we shall be sober.—Life.

DIGNITY IN THE WARD ROOM.

At this writing some ward room dignitaries on a United States cruiser are seriously inconvenienced. They are forced to eat after meal times, because an officer, newly promoted to the ward room, is black instead of white. Strictly speaking, he is brown, but to his brother officers he is a Negro for all that, so they decline to dine with him. The solitary diner is a man who, by diligence, intelligence and good behavior, has worked himself up in the service. And it is said strangely of the man that although the crime of being brown hangs heavily on his conscience, he displays no sign of unrest. He does his work faithfully, and he eats his meals regularly. And peeping through the door,

three times a day, to see if he had finished, is the thin white line of other ward room officers, each busily engaged in upholding the navy's dignity. It is a dignified picture.—Editorial in Puck.

HARD TIMES IN MANILA.

Manila is just now in the throes of financial depression, says a Manila correspondent of the North China Daily News. Business is stagnant, and the commercial outlook for the immediate future is far from reassuring. The population (American) has fallen in one year from 13,000 to 6,000, and each departing steamer carries away scores on whom fortune has frowned. Of course all of the 7,000 who have drifted away were not "wealthy and influential citizens." Camp followers, adventurers, and a weird aggregation of grafters comprised a goodly portion of the departing host. But it is also true that many visitors of sound business judgment and ample financial support have returned to the States in discouragement after a few months in the Philippine capital. Those more determined persons who have stuck to their posts will stand excellent chances of recouping when the present difficulties are past; but the question is, how long will these tribulations continue, and how many will be crowded to the wall before the hard times are over? Several of the smaller local concerns have already gone to the wall. The oldest weekly paper in the islands quietly expired last week. Local branches of the big home corporations are in sore straits, many falling grievously behind during the last few months' depression. But their credit, bolstered as it is by the strength of their home offices, will save them from the general wreck of smaller concerns. . . . Prevalent conditions are, indeed, dismaying, and at times even the more optimistic lose courage. The present is certainly an unsuitable time for immigrating to Manila, but a most propitious moment for getting out. There are better days coming, but from the very nature of the country's afflictions they may be long delayed.—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat of Aug. 20.

CLASS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY.

INTEREST.

For The Public.

Professor: This morning, gentlemen, I will speak to you upon the subject of interest. That science is most interesting, as a matter of course, which has most interest in it. The whole subject of interest pertains to the science of political economy; therefore political economy is the most interesting of all

the sciences. I regret to say that many people seem to be unaware of this fact, and neglect to read the books that treat of these subjects. There are different kinds and degrees of interest. Personal interest is usually first in everyone's thought, but the interest on capital is the kind that is most talked about. Some people think the savings banks should pay more interest than they do. Others think it is not right to be compelled to pay any interest at all. Others again have no interest in this question either way. Yet the interest on capital continues to be drawn, because it is to the interest of the capitalist to draw it. No man can ever hope to succeed unless he takes interest in his business. It is, therefore, undoubtedly right to take interest; and if it is right for one man to take interest, it must of necessity be right for the other man to pay the interest. Some contend that the interest of an employe is identical with that of his employer. Evidently this is not the case, since the rich man's thousands are usually invested in mortgages at five or six per cent., while the poor man's hundreds are in the savings bank, and are drawing three and a half or four per cent. The taxation of mortgages is an interesting question, and the amount of interest each man takes is in proportion to the amount of capital he has invested in that way. The general interest of the community is seldom of any particular interest. Interest when it reaches its highest degree is called breathless interest. The best example of breathless interest I know of is when a young man is drawing interest on millions left him by his father, and yet is too lazy to draw his own breath. The personal interest is of all kinds most important. Our truly great men apply themselves to this branch of the subject with untiring industry, and the intelligent interest they take in all matters which may affect their dividends attests the clearness of their heads, and justifies the wisdom of their course.

The Class: We thank you very much, Professor; we have been greatly pleased and instructed. If we do not now have a thorough knowledge of the subject it will not be your fault.

The Professor: Thank you.

J. H. WELLS.

East Moriches, N. Y.

THE FALL OF THE "OUTLOOK."

From an article on "The 'Outlook' and the Army," by Ernest Crosby. Published in "City and State," of Philadelphia, for August 13.

Is it not high time to remind the Outlook of the Golden Rule, which, with the Declaration of Independence, is going