

art and learning die, but leave us still our old nobility! We have been led to these observations by reading lately about what took place at Biltmore, N. C. upon the occasion of the birth of the heir to the vast wealth of the Vanderbilt-Cecil families. To quote a few lines taken from the press: "The tenantry of the baronial estate awaited in the lower hall in true English style, the advent of the heir. * * The announcement of the birth was the occasion for a demonstration by the children of the tenants. At the right moment they loosed lusty cheers in the direction of the room where the infant lay and where its mother also was born 24 years ago." Now isn't this in the best manner of the true type of well-proved staple English literary output? And this is what we meant when we indicated above that our American tenantry, having become dedicated to the nice observances and duties owing to the Lord of the Manor, will prove good material to our younger novelists and will ultimately be enshrined in our literature with all the glamor and constructive effect heaped upon them by generations of novelists in the old country who have so profoundly touched the heart of Nellie, the sewing machine girl, with their romantic tales of the peerage and of the stately homes of England.

Denver

AN amendment to the city charter will be voted here on May 19. The ballot title will be:

"For a Single Tax Amendment to the Charter of the City and County of Denver to secure Lower Rents by Exempting new dwelling houses from the city tax at once, and by reducing the city tax ten per cent. each year on personal property and improvements."

The secretary of the campaign committee for this amendment is our old friend Barney Haughey. When this measure was last presented it received 12,171 votes with 31,448 opposed.

In an address issued to the voters Mr. Haughey says:

"If you vote against this bill you can keep right on paying high rents, but stop growling.

If your neighbors don't understand it show them how similar laws are working in Pittsburgh and New York.

If that does not make the matter clear to them we must elect school directors who will see that the science of taxation is taught in the public schools."

L. T. TABER, of Barnesville, Ohio, master-elect of the National Grange, says Ohio must have a state income tax and also derive revenue by taxing what he calls the "privilege" of using the highways. Whether he wants to introduce tollgates again, or not, he did not say; but his two proposed taxes would increase Ohio's source of revenue to an even 100. He also says that real estate "pays 90 per cent. of the taxes." The highest any Ohio real estate board has heretofore claimed is 65 per cent. and that is absurd enough.

Mrs. Von Twilliger of the Oranges Replies to Mrs. Van Allen, of Manhattan

By JOSEPH DANA MILLER

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DEAR ALICIA:

Your welcome letter received. I was overjoyed to hear from you. But I never could quite understand, my dear Alicia, your attitude toward the working classes. It is so unsympathetic. I am sure that much can be said in extenuation of the poor people who have to work.

Now with me, I am up to my ears in reform work. I am really quite a radical. I have even done something to advance the Mothers' Pension Measure, and have been elected president of the Orange Club to get a bill through the legislature. I have even skirted, as one may say, the more radical and as you perhaps would call it, the dangerous Minimum Wage Law. I almost feel that my enemies might call me the Emma Goldman of the Oranges. I am really quite emphatic and pronounced. I feel like a Joan of Arc.

But you, with your lack of passionate sympathy for the working classes, cannot expect to be in accord with me in my levelling work, as you might term it. You never were democratic and universal—in spite of your brilliancy—and I know you will forgive me for saying this, Alicia.

I know, of course, why the poor are poor. They have so many things to buy, and they need so much, and there is so much illness among them. And then there are other reasons.

I think we should be grateful for the poor. I was thinking the other day of what a world this would be were there no poor. Then no one would take care of our streets and sewers. The distasteful work of the world would have to remain undone. And then the dirt and filth would be frightful.

As I say, I am interested in the Minimum Wage. You know this is the proposal for a law which would fix wages at a certain point, after carefully calculating just what is enough. I am sure that settles the wage question—don't you think so? Certainly the lawmakers can judge what should be paid to the workers—working girls, for instance, after estimating the cost of necessities and allowing a little for moving pictures, face powder and little luxuries like that. It is a simple matter to estimate such needs, and to equalize and apportion it all. I am amazed that people never thought of it before.

Myra—you know my niece Myra—thinks that the Minimum Wage Law might tempt employers to keep wages down to a certain level, and she wanted to know—she is really quite dense at times—why we should not have a Maximum Wage Law. She says the maximum rather