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**Our American Letter.**

St. Joseph, Missouri, Sept. 18.—This is the "Show Me State," a term applied on account of the supposed wariness of the people in accepting statements without verification. In this city of "St. Joe," the famous poet, Eugene Field once worked as a newspaper man, having been city editor of the Gazette. Here he wrote some of his most exquisite lyrics, among them being "In Lovers' Lane, St. Joe." Field was a habitue of certain resorts, which are now but a memory since the advent of the 18th amendment. It was given to him in his cups that some of his best poems were written and famous statesmen, writers and publicists often kept him company, while a bottle of red wine was being consumed. Field was a great practical joker and some of his newspaper hoaxes have become

famous. One of his most renowned "fakes" The Bear Hoax, was concocted while he was on the St. Joseph Gazette. A circus was about to make the city and Field was acting as press agent for the show. He wrote a thrilling description of a bear that was almost human as regards intelligence.

The bear could dance, talk and figure according to the stories Field wrote. He related some of its most wonderful exploits until the entire country had been worked up to a fever pitch over the animal prodigy. Story after story about the bear was published, but when the day for the circus to arrive drew near, Field was in a quandary, for the truth of the matter was, the bear was merely a creature of his imagination. He found a way out of the difficulty, however, securing a huge cage he had it carried down the Missouri river to a point about ten miles below St. Joseph. The bars on one side

of the cage were torn away so as to give the impression that the bear had escaped. He then returned to the Gazette office and wrote a sensational story of the escape of the bear, elaborating on the depredations the animal was committing in the corn and tobacco lands. The public became thoroughly alarmed and police officers hunted over every part of the country in an effort to locate him. After a month or so, it was believed the bear had been killed and the farmers breathed easier. Field left the Gazette shortly afterward and soon became nationally famous through his poetry, **THE LORD AND SHAKESPEARE.**

They tell a story of a court trial in a rural community of this state. It appears that one prominent citizen had haled the other into court for slander and the case was being vigorously prosecuted. At last it went to the jury and the presiding justice began his charge. "In the language of the Saviour," said his honor, "who slashes from me my good name, etc." When he had ended the jury fled out of the court room. They soon reappeared and announced a disagreement, half of their number being in favor of the plaintiff and the remainder finding for the defendant. "Good heavens," said the attorney for the defence, "six for Shakespeare and six for the Lord."

**THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.**

All signs point to an overwhelming victory for Harding in November. The recent state election in Maine shows the trend of the voters' minds at this time. Wilsonism is doomed and with it the impossible league of nations, which has never proved acceptable to the American people. Harding has shown the public only what they have already known, that the league is unworkable and that it was never meant to be an international court for the redressing of wrongs, but a bulwark of militarism and greed. The many acts of injustice which are being committed to-day by those powers which were loudest in their denunciation of German methods have so disgusted the voters against the covenant that they will have none of it. Many domestic questions, such as profligating, also enter into the big fight next November.

**MACSWEENEY AND IRELAND.**

The hunger strike of Lord Mayor MacSweeney in Brixton jail has focused attention upon the Irish cause and never had Ireland more sympathizers in America than it has to-day. MacSweeney, offering himself on the altar of freedom, using the only weapon left him, has aroused the admiration of all Americans. Whether he is acting wisely or not has nothing to do with the case. His sincerity is proved and Ireland's wrongs are once again in the limelight by his sacrifice. The nations that wept over the plight of Belgium under the German heel, are

silent in the case of Ireland. Can a just man arise and say that what was wrong in the case of Belgium is right in the matter of dealing with Ireland? Where is the British Statesman who will speak out without fear and ask that Ireland be set free and given back her inalienable right to rule herself. All our fine speeches about the "rights of small nations" are simply hypocrisy unless we make the phrase apply to Ireland.

**THE BOMB EXPLOSION.**

The attempt to blow up the offices of J. P. Morgan in Wall Street, New York, by a bomb, which killed nearly forty people shows that the specter of Bolshevism is hovering over the land. There is little danger of such doctrines ever being accepted by Americans, however. There is something so utterly vile and loathsome about the teachings of Trotsky and Lenin that they will always be repulsive to American minds. The mentally unbalanced, however, are in danger of being swayed by the devilish doctrines, and therein lies peril to society. The profiteer and the capitalistic hog who grow wealthy out of the necessities of the people are aiding these half-baked theorists to an unmeasurable degree. They are the awful examples which the "Reds" point to, in order to convince the people that socialism is the cure for industrial evils. When the country gets rid of the anarchist and the capitalistic exploiter, unrest will be banished and such outrages as that which happened in New York become but a hideous memory. But the cause of it all, the profiteer, must be abolished first.

W. M. DOOLEY.

**Harding's Stand  
on Irish Problem.**

Not a Question for Official America to Deal With.

Marion, O., Sept. 24.—Setting forth his views on the Irish problem for the first time since his nomination, Senator Harding, Republican candidate, declared in a public statement yesterday that it was not "a question for official America," and would be classed as "internal and domestic" under the League of Nations covenant.

Without referring directly to Democratic promises to bring the Irish question to the attention of the League, the Republican nominee said that the United States already had "meddled abroad excessively without invitation" and asserted that official consideration by the United States Government was quite another thing from an expression of sympathy. The statement in which the senator discussed the Irish question directly for the first time since his nomination, follows:

"There are two phases of the so-called Irish question in America. Individual sentiment is one thing, and it is recognized that there is a widespread sympathy here for the cause of Irish autonomy. We voted an expression of that sympathy in the Senate at the time the peace delegates were conferring in Paris.

"Official consideration is quite another thing. It is not a question for official America. America has already meddled abroad excessively without invitation.

"I have said, as I truly believe, that under the provisions of the League of Nations, the Irish question is internal and domestic, and I recall distinctly that at the hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the American advocates of Irish independence bitterly opposed the League as the door to Ireland, but committed us to the use of force to maintain territorial integrity as it exists to-day."

**The Baseball Scandal.**

(From the Boston Transcript.)  
Investigation by the Grand Jury in Chicago of charges of crookedness in connection with big league baseball, has already produced evidence that certain players accepted money and played to lose games, according to a statement made by Assistant State's Attorney Repligie, who is in charge of the proceeding. Concerning the specific charges, Mr. Repligie is quoted as stating: "The last world's series between the Chicago White Sox and the Cincinnati Reds was not on the square. From five to seven players on the White Sox are involved." The opinion of a prosecuting attorney based on statements made in a grand jury room is not to be accepted as settling the case. Ball players, like all other persons when they are accused of wrong-doing, are entitled to their day in court, and are to be given the benefit of the presumption of innocence until that presumption is overcome by evidence sufficient to remove reasonable doubt. The public should withhold judgment at the present stage of the proceedings. Scandal in professional baseball is of general public interest not only to the people who form the army of the "fans" but to others who, while taking a less intense interest in the national game, nevertheless have felt pride in it as a clean and manly sport. It is also to be considered as a business enterprise in which millions of dollars have been invested and which would be seriously injured by anything that decreased public confidence in its honesty. If the charges should be proved, stern

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measures should be taken to remove the stigma placed upon the sport and as far as possible to restore public confidence in it. But it is to be borne in mind that, as the matter stands, the accused players are entitled to the presumption of innocence.

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