"LET YOUR HAIR DOWN"

CHRISTMAS and New Year cards were received by the Journal and the editor from a large number of Chamber member-firms and individual friends, here and in the United States, including Ambassador and Mrs. Myron D. Cowen, the Hornbostels, Mary Ann Seman, now in the United States, former secretary-stenographer to Mrs. Williser Secretary-stenographer to Mrs. Willisers

mont, Mr. and Mrs. Salvador P. Lopez, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Welhaven, "with renewed thanks for your excellent Journal", and many others too numerous to mention. Also there were calendars and calendar-pads, automatic pencils, and, best of all, a few boxes of cigars and bottles of whisky. Herbert and Janet Walker brought the editor a small bottle of

what is a rarety, here at least, the drink called mead, with which he had only a literary acquaintance up to about one minute after he received the bottle. Mead is a fermented drink made of honey and is mentioned in all the great classics of Europe from Homer on. It is still made commercially in England. The liquor sent to the editor was made by the Walkers themselves some years ago and tasted (it's all gone by this time) like a fine dry sherry. This surprised him, he said, as he had always imagined mead was a thickish, foamy drink, probably too sweet. Ah, well, live and learn! And how pleasantly! "That's the kind of object lesson I still gladly take," he added.

One wouldn't think, perhaps, that the Journal is of any special interest to churchmen, but we had a letter recently from a clergyman in the Mountain Province who renewed his own subscription and that of a gentleman in New York City, the Assistant Treasurer of the National Council of the Episcopal Church, who, he informed us, "has written me a number of times expressing his appreciation of the Journal and for the information concerning conditions in the Philippines which it gives him".

We much regret that Mr. Luis J. Reyes resigned as editor of the Journal's "Lumber" column, effective this month. Mr. Reyes, presently Philippine representative of Penrod, Jurden & Clark Company, formerly of the Bureau of Forestry and the author of a standard work on Philippine woods, has conducted a most informative column for around two and a half years, and we are sure that all *Journal* readers will miss his presence in the "Business View" pages. However, Mr. Reyes him-self recommended and introduced to the editor, as his possible successor. Attorney Pacifico de Ocampo. Secretary-Treasurer of the Philippine Lumber Producers Association, Inc., and Mr. de Ocampo, expres-sing his willingness to undertake the task, the editor, with relief and gratitude, all but fell on his neck. One happy circumstance in the new arrangement is that the office of the Lumber Producers Association is right in the same building that the Chamber offices are in,-in fact, one floor, and directly, below. That will make for easy contacts.

We published a note about Mr. Kenneth B. Day's resignation as President of the Philippine Refining Co., Inc., and his dropping of his



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Journal "Copra and Coconut Oil" column as he plans to spend much of his time in the United States after this, though he remains with the Company as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He will be missed too, -- the editor says that, although he has no direct personal interest in copra or coconut oil, he always enjoyed reading over Mr. Day's "copy" for the fine New England English. In this case, the Journal, very happily, has Mr. H. Dean Hellis to fall back on, newly elected Vice-President of the Philip-pine Refining Company. Mr. Hellis has in times past conducted the column in Mr. Day's absence, so he will not be a new hand at the work.

During the past month, however, circumstances combined to make it difficult for Mr. Hellis to take over the column for this issue of the Journal. He has promised to make up for this in the next issue.

Readers will find the "Mining" column missing also and this is because Mr. N. N. Lim had not sent in his "copy" and was still out of town when this issue of the Journal went to press.

"BUANKETY-blank-blank-blank!" We were startled and looked at the

He was waving a letter in his hand and his face was red up to the roots of his. . . well, up and over and down the nape of his neck. "What burns me up," he shouted, "what with looking for good stuff for the 'Hair-

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It goes straight to the desks of leading government and business executives every month Down' column, and a hard job it is. but getting it sometimes, as in a letter such as this, to have it end with a post-script like this, look at this, at the end, scribbled in on the last available quarter-inch of space, see for yourself, blankety-blankblank-blank...

We saw in good plain handwriting, and with every word underlined:-

"No part available for the Hair-Down column."

"There ought to be a law," groaned the editor. "There is a law, in fact, but it does not go far enough. The law says that the receiver of a letter

is the owner and that the writer has no right to demand its return. Yes. the receiver or owner may keep it, or tear it up, or sell it for the autograph, but publishing it is another matter, especially if it were construable as slanderous or libelous or likely to expose the writer to public contempt or hatred. Publishing a letter may also be adjudged to be a violation of privacy, at least, so I understand the blankety-blank legal 'dope' on the matter. So when a correspondent definitely warns against the publication of his letter, he has the receiver, even if he is an editor, by the short hairs. . .

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"Very short hairs, in your case," said we. "How did you ever come to call that Journal column the 'Hair-Down' column?"

"Go ahead, enjoy your own pitiful and pathetic so-called sense of humor, but here is a letter worth printing, with nothing dangerous in it to writer or recipient... or rather, the editor went on with a grim, almost a ferocious look, "here was a letter that was worth printing,"—and viciously he tore it up. With teeth clenched, he hissed: "That at least I can do!"

The editor has been quite perked up of late about the way his small book, "A few poems and essays",



published last month, has been received. Only a few formal reviews of it have so far appeared in the press, but these were favorable. Most of the local critics have not as yet spoken,-perhaps, joshed the editor, they are somewhat in doubt that the poems are poems because they can understand them! Then he told us about a Manila banker who had told him he would try to read the book, though he generally did not read poetry because he could not understand it; the editor then said he would give him a peso for every line in his book that he could not understand. Up to now the banker has not presented any claim. "Why don't you make that a general offer?" we suggested. "It might help the sales."

"I would be perfectly willing to," answered the editor, "except for the fact that there would be such great difficulty in checking the claims for bona fides and veracity. You know the trouble the United States-Philippines War Damage Commission had in respect to that. Where would I get the necessary personnel? No, you see, I could trust the banker; besides, he wouldn't take any money from me; I don't think he would."

"You're on top of the world, this morning," we said. "Guess you haven't seen this." We fished a small clipping out of our drawer and read the following to him aloud:

"And the venerable A.V.H. Hartendorp, now practically a relic, perhaps a precious one, already has a collection of essays and verse..."

"You're spoofing me," said the editor, red-faced.

"That's the deliberate statement of one Amando D. Manalo, in a short column in *This Week* (Manila Chronicle) of December 16, on the subject of books available or soon to be available suitable as gifts..."

"Relic!" groaned the editor.
"Venerable," we said, laughing heartily.

"Perhaps, --but only perhaps, a precious one," we added, slowly drawing the line out, making each golden word count, as the editor winced at each syllable.

"And here's something else, farther down in the column: 'Hartendorp's book is beautifully printed,' we accented the 'printed'."

"Never mind that," said the editor. "He didn't mean it the way you read it... But relic... even a venerable relic, no, no... it must be that he just does not know me... He must be one of the younger postwar fellows... probably has seen me only from a distance or mistook some old codger for me. Yeh, that must be it."

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