

newspaperman knows, is now going on from end to end of the United States.

But such dubious statistics cannot cover up the plain fact that the American people, with endless supplies of alcohol available almost everywhere, are drinking more soberly than under prohibition. There was naturally some orgiastic boozing immediately after repeal, and it is still going on among the anthropoids earmarked by God to die of the jimjams, but the great majority of Americans are using their new-won liberty in a discreet and civilized way, and if reformers only let them alone they will probably do even better hereafter.

Baltimore, December 31

H. L. MENCKEN

A Retraction from Mr. Sinclair

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATION:

On November 28, 1934, there appeared in your magazine an article by myself called *The Future of Epic*. In a portion of this article I stated that "on the Sunday before election day every Negro preacher in Los Angeles received \$50 to preach a sermon against me."

I have made an investigation of this matter and I find that this statement was ill-advised, and I desire to withdraw it. I also desire that all newspapers and magazines which copied this portion of my article be good enough to print this letter. The statement is true concerning a number, but is not true concerning all preachers, and I apologize to those preachers who have suffered because of this article and who are not involved in any way.

I have had the pleasure of meeting the Reverend William A. Johnson, who is the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Los Angeles, and I have found him to be a man who does not indulge in politics in his church; he did not preach any sermon against me nor did he receive any compensation from any political group, nor has he preached any political matters in his church at any time.

Los Angeles, December 28

UPTON SINCLAIR

Who Was This Euripedes, Anyway?

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATION:

It is the end of a long day, a day spent reading freshman themes. The freshmen have been reading Greek dramas, and their papers are conscientious if somewhat bewildered summaries of such masterpieces as the "Agamemnon" of someone called Aechylus, or the "Edepus" of someone named Sophocleis. Some possibly have preferred the "Lisistrata" of one Aristodones; others the "Media" of Euripedes.

I pick up *The Nation* of December 19 and turn to the Drifter's column to learn of the course of reading pursued by poor John Stuart Mill. He too, I learn, read Euripedes, no doubt with more profit than that derived therefrom by Iowa freshmen.

The point is: Was the Drifter's "Euripedes" a printer's error? (I know he is a man of honor, and I shall believe it if he says yes.) Or does he, like the Iowa freshman, have occasional lapses from orthographical grace—less frequent no doubt—but more the less lapses?

Grinnell, Iowa, December 21

CARL NIEMEYER

[The Drifter, being a man of honor, deposes and says that he differs from Professor Niemeier's freshmen in that he does

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