

LOVED AT FIRST SIGHT.

The Romantic Story Which Will End in a Wedding at an Early Date.

There is a bit of romance in the love story of George D. Merriam, whose parents formerly lived in Laporte, Ind., and who is a relative of Gen. Henry C. Merriam, and Mary L. Crawford, one of Laporte's most popular young society women. When they first met, over two years ago, it was a case of "love at first sight." Each was under 20 and family interests forbade an engagement. The young people were put upon a term of probation. Young Merriam went west and was at Spokane when the Spanish war broke out. He wrote from there that he intended joining one of the regiments for the Philippine service. As this was the last letter Miss Crawford received from him, she naturally supposed he had gone to the Philippines.

A few months ago Miss Crawford saw an account of the death of an American soldier at Manila, whose name was G. D. Merriam. The shock prostrated her, and she became dangerously ill, but after a number of weeks she recovered, and when strong enough wrote to Merriam's parents at Spokane, Wash., conoling with them and assuring them that her love for their son would live forever. The return post brought the astounding intelligence that George D. Merriam had never been a member of the United States army or volunteers, had not been in the Philippines and was then hard at work at college, where he would be graduated at the end of the present year. Miss Crawford's embarrassment was great, for she had opened her heart unreservedly to the parents of the man she loved, but joy overcame her embarrassment, and she faced the situation bravely. Investigation revealed the fact that a false friend of Merriam had caused him to cease writing to Miss Crawford, but he speedily effected a reconciliation. It is understood by the friends of both parties that their engagement will be announced immediately after young Merriam is graduated.

BUY SPANISH SHOES.

Many American Soldiers in the Philippines Are Wearing the Foreign Made Article.

Many American soldiers in the Philippines are wearing Spanish made shoes. This strange fact was brought to light by a letter written by the French consul at Manila to his government, a copy of which has reached the war department. It says:

"Shoes form one of the chief articles of commerce at Manila since the entrance of the American troops. The large number of regulars or volunteers are forced to constantly renew their footwear. So far Spanish manufacturers have mainly profited by this trade. The few tailors now established in this city have been overwhelmed with orders which, for want of capable workmen, they have been unable to fulfill. The American army-to-day forms their chief clientele. Uniforms of white, and especially khaki, are made everywhere in proportion as troops arrive from the United States or return to Manila from the front. Suits of cloth or light wool are ordered from the few European tailors. It is difficult to find out just what the amount of importation of these cloths is, but the kind made in France is too heavy for this climate. A light woolen cloth ought to be especially manufactured for tropical countries, where the warm and moist temperature requires the use of materials extremely thin, but at the same time calculated to ward off chills."

MODERN MEXICO DEVELOPS.

Best Schemes of Internal Improvement Are Now Reported Well Under Way.

About all the machinery and equipment material for the electrical traction system adopted for an extensive system of street railroads at the City of Mexico and in the federal district is being bought in the United States. Electricity will be first applied to the suburban lines and then to the principal city lines. Electric cars are now running to Tacubaya and also to Guadalupe, just outside of which is the shrine for all Mexican Catholics. Pilgrims now go out there propelled by a modern motor.

Sir Westman Pearson, M. P., of London, who has now contracts amounting to \$100,000,000 pending in Mexico, is in the City of Mexico. He says of the Vera Cruz port works, which his firm is building, that they are practically finished. All the breakwaters have been completed for every effective purpose and a new deep water quay giving over 800 yards of shipping space will be completed in six months, allowing ships drawing over 30 feet of water a chance to discharge their cargoes alongside the pier, their freight going directly into railroad cars or warehouses.

Sir Westman says the port works will make Vera Cruz as fine an artificial harbor as any on the continent of America.

Too Soon to Judge.

The New Yorker who has talked his last will into a phonograph may suppose that he has got ahead of the lawyers, but there are experienced litigants, says the St. Louis Dispatch, who will not jump at any such conclusion.

Warm Weather Test.

When the ice trust raises its prices, says the Philadelphia Ledger, nobody will care to be the ice man who will have to face the indignant housewives.

More Than His Share.

An Indianapolis man, operated upon recently for appendicitis, was found to have two appendices.

WANT IT RELIABLE.

Effort of Census Bureau to Get Accurate Figures on Cotton Crop.

Estimates Heretofore Given Not to Be Depended Upon—Reports of Output of Gins to Be Obtained.

Present methods of ascertaining the magnitude of the cotton crop are considered unsatisfactory by the managers of the twelfth census. Two estimates made by equally good observers, but based on ocular observation of a few cotton fields in each county, reduced to an average, may be hundreds of thousands of bales apart. And it is inevitable, where there is local consumption of cotton, that a considerable part of the crop will not be reported under any system, however thorough, of counting the bales as they pass over transportation lines.

There is a preferable method of ascertaining the amount of the crop exactly, for there is one process—that of ginning—to which all cotton for any commercial or industrial use whatever must be subjected. If one could obtain from all the cotton gins of the country reports of the amount of staple they have turned out, the precise aggregate of the whole crop would be known.

It is proposed to apply this process in taking the twelfth census, the field work of which is to begin on June 1. An expert special agent has been appointed, whose sole duty will be to obtain returns from all the ginning and baling establishments in the cotton growing region. No gin is too small or insignificant to be visited by the census taker. It is a pity that such a return as is proposed cannot be made every year. But it will be well if the country can have one correct statement of the crop, and it is especially desirable that verification shall be made of a crop regarding which there has been so much controversy as that of 1899.

MYSTERIOUS LETTER FOUND.

The Singular Message Discovered in a Pocketbook in a Chicago Mail Box.

Evidence of a possible suicide were found in a mail box at La Salle and Monroe streets, Chicago, the other day, in the form of a letter signed by "T. J. Lambert, Chicago," and addressed to Postmaster Gordon. The letter was found in an old pocketbook late in the afternoon by Collector Argadine. The pocketbook is of black leather, and has evidently seen long service. It contained only the letter, which read as follows:

"This old friend of mine I cannot cast in the gutter. I have nothing to place therein. We have traveled many miles together in peace and war. At one time filled with gold and bills, we left for the Manila campaign. Sickness and disability soon used up the gold, as well as health. I find myself in this great city penniless, homeless and hungry. I can see no way but to close my career by my own hand. I write these lines, and will bid my old friend good-by. Hoping the post office will care for it as a memento of a discouraged, wasted, useless life, I shall take this and drop it in a mail box on the corner of Halsted."

It is not known how the pocketbook got to the letter box downtown. The letter is written in a nervous but legible hand, on a single sheet of note paper.

IMPORTANT TEST.

Results Will Determine the Expenditure of Half a Million Dollars by Government.

An important test of gun carriages is in progress at Sandy Hook. Upon the result will depend the expenditure of half a million dollars. The army is endeavoring to find a carriage which may be used as a mount for the new type of field gun of high power and of three-inch caliber. It is proposed to establish 16 batteries of six guns each of this type, and the problem confronting the army ordnance officers is to secure a carriage which shall remain absolutely stationary when the gun is fired with a velocity of from 1,800 to 2,000 feet. There will be four carriages presented for trial. One is a rotary recoil carriage, made by the American Ordnance company; another is the design of the Driggs-Seabury Gun and Ammunition company; a third is the Barmancier telescope carriage, made by the Vickers company of England; and the fourth is a carriage designed by Capt. Charles D. Wheeler, an army ordnance officer on duty in Washington.

RUSH WORK ON RUSSIAN ROAD

Last Link of Trans-Siberian Line Expected to Be Complete by Next August.

Minister Conger reports that the Russians are pushing work on the railroad between Moulken and Vladivostok, the eastern terminus of the Siberian railroad, and he says the belief is that Russia's two great strategic points in the far east—Port Arthur and Vladivostok, where she is said to have garrisons variously estimated at from 120,000 to 200,000 men—will be connected by rail not later than August of this year.

The schedule from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok is 19 days. It is expected that the gap in the railroad now covered by a water route will be completed in about 18 months.

Minister Conger also reports the completion of the Chinese railroad from Tien-Tsin to New-Chwang, 348 miles long.

TO USE ELECTRICITY.

Suspension Railroad Being Constructed in Germany.

Consultant Writes That He Understands It Is the First Railroad of Kind Ever Used for Carrying of Passengers.

At Barmen, Germany, an electric suspension railway is being constructed. When completed it will consist of a double-railed line eight miles long with 18 stations. It is being constructed according to the Langen patent. In a report to the state department on this subject Consul Bouchet says: "This is, I understand, the first suspension railway for the conveyance of passengers that has been built. The road commences at Barmen-Rittershausen and follows the River Kupper through the thickly populated cities of Barmen and Elberfeld."

"Beyond Elberfeld the line extends toward the west as far as Vohwinkel, leaving the river at Sonnborn and running over the public highway to Vohwinkel. The marginal gradient is 4.5 per cent. All gradients and curves are so arranged as to avoid a decrease of speed in the main lines. The iron framework over the river is supported by buttress piers of ironwork inclined toward each other; but in the public highways the structure is supported by vertical iron columns which require no more space than lantern posts."

"The cars are suspended on two rotary bogies, 26 feet in length. Each truck, or bogie, has two axles, between which an electromotor of 36 horse-power at 600 volts is arranged. The frame surrounds the rail carrier in such a manner that the wheels cannot slip off in case a fitting breaks or there is some other mishap. The current is fed by a contact shoe from a rail."

"The speed will be regulated in the same manner as in electric street cars. The traveling speed is supposed to be 25 miles per hour. It takes only from ten to fifteen seconds to start; so that, in spite of the 18 stations of the road, an average speed of 18 1/2 miles per hour will be maintained. Each car holds 30 passengers and is divided into first and second-class and smoking compartments."

"The number of cars in the makeup of a train is not limited, but at first each train will consist of one or two cars only, although the station platforms are so arranged that a four-car train can receive and unload passengers. The speed of the trains is not dependent on the number of cars, as each car has its own motor."

A PROMISING OUTLOOK.

Big Business Certain for the Tehuantepec Railroad Now Under Construction in Mexico.

Work is now going on in the reconstruction of the Tehuantepec railroad across the narrowest part of Mexico and gives assurance that the road will be as solid and of as permanent a character as the Vera Cruz railroad. As the Tehuantepec road will have a maximum grade of half per cent, compensated, it will be in a position to handle any traffic that can be secured on very economical terms. At present the Panama railroad handles 300,000 tons of freight per annum, 60 per cent, of which is destined for or arises at ports north of Panama. The bulk of this naturally belongs to Tehuantepec. In addition, however, the road will capture a large volume of the traffic at present carried by railroads to the Pacific coast from the Mississippi valley and it is confidently anticipated that this railroad will be doing as large a trade as the Panama within five years from its opening. The distance from Coahuahuac to San Francisco via Salina Cruz is 140 miles less than the distance from New Orleans to San Francisco via the Southern Pacific, and the distance across the gulf from New Orleans to Coahuahuac is only 500 miles, and within a very few years there will be daily service boats between the two ports.

AGED LOVERS WED.

They Renew Youthful Vows After a Separation of Over Half a Century.

A wedding of romantic interest occurred at Rushville, Ind., the other evening in which the happy couple, now well along in years, were sweethearts 55 years ago in Rush county. The groom, William D. Westerfield, a wealthy farmer of Manila, Rush county, is 74 years of age and the bride, Mrs. Helen J. Conway, of New York city, who came to Rushville to wed the lover of her girlhood days, is 72, but a well-preserved and good-looking woman. The ceremony was performed by Justice Poe.

William D. Westerfield and Helen Thomas were schoolmates in Walker township 65 years ago. Their childish acquaintance ripened into love, and they grew to be sweethearts as the years advanced. In the spring of 1848 they expected to marry, but unforeseen circumstances crossed their path of happiness and caused them to drift apart. Afterward both were married. Mrs. Conway's husband died two years ago and Mr. Westerfield's wife passed away one year ago.

Post Office Health Inspectors.

Required to report to their superior officers any case of scarlet fever, small-pox, typhus fever, cholera, diphtheria, measles or typhoid fever occurring in their homes.

GIRLS OUTWIT DEAN MILLER.

Meet Escorts and Go for Strolls Sunday Evenings Despite Northwestern University Rules.

The young women of Northwestern university at Evanston, Ill., have had considerable thinking to do of late, for Dean Emily Huntington Miller decreed three weeks ago that if they wished to go to church on Sunday evenings they would have to go without escorts. This rule the girls have not seen fit to obey.

There are 250 girls living at Women's hall and the college cottage and half of them attend church. Before the decree went into force from 50 to 100 young men would throng the corridors of these buildings on Sunday evening waiting for the girls. Dean Miller discovered that many of the couples never reached the church doors and she told the girls that she objected to Sunday strolls. The rule caused trouble.

The girls did not petition to have the rule broken, but went ahead and broke it. There are two fraternity houses close to the woman's building and signals with lights are used to make engagements. Every Sunday evening every fraternity and sorority whistle can be heard on the streets around the hall and cottage. The answer on the part of the girls is the flashing of their lamps in the window. If not the right individual the whistler whistles twice. This is continued until the right girl is reached and then she applies to Dean Miller for permission to attend service. This is never refused, and the young woman walks to the corner, where one of the men is met and a stroll is taken. Dean Miller remarked that the rule was a good one and, so far as she had observed, worked perfectly.

ENTERTAINS LITTLE GIRLS.

Mrs. Howard Gould Gives One Hundred Children a Treat at Her Fifth Avenue Mansion.

At her residence, #24 Fifth avenue, New York, Mrs. Howard Gould entertained 100 little girls from the lower East and West sides of the city the other afternoon. The children were gathered together by the women's branch of the New York city mission, and belong to the various mission churches of that organization. They were for the most part clean, bright, pretty little girls.

After luncheon, which consisted of soup, sandwiches, coffee, ice cream, bananas and apples, they were entertained by a Punch and Judy show and a sleight of hand performance. Music was furnished by the Italian band in costume. Each child received a summer dress, a potted plant and a box of candy. They had the freedom of the house and romped and played until five o'clock, when they were taken to their homes in busses.

MAN HUNT FOR SMART SET.

Novel Entertainment to Amuse Members of a Country Club in Virginia.

The committee of the Deep Run Hunt club, at Richmond, Va., has struck upon a unique feature to entertain the "smart set," which comprises its membership. Six savage bloodhounds from the state penitentiary farm will be added to the club pack for a man hunt.

The fugitive will be given three hours' start, and must baffle the hounds if he can. When close pursued he is expected to take to a tree until the hunters arrive and secure the dogs, otherwise he will be torn to pieces. These hounds take a practice run at the state farm every few days, and under the full appreciation of this object lesson no escapes have been attempted, as the beasts have never failed to run down the human quarry.

CHICKENS RECOGNIZE WHISTLE.

The Feathered Flock Come to Eat Scraps from Dining Cars at Monon, Ind.

A curious spectacle is afforded travelers on the Monon railroad at Monon, Ind., the junction of the main line and the Indianapolis division. Two of the through trains, carrying dining cars, meet there, and the dining cars are set out. The cooks clean their kitchens, throwing the refuse overboard, and the chickens in the neighborhood come and feed on the scraps. There is not a chicken within a half-mile that does not recognize the whistles of the engines pulling the passenger trains, and when they are sounded for the station it is the signal for the chickens to come running, flying over fences, and hustling pell mell to get on the ground for the feast.

DO NOT LIKE THE WORDING.

The Suggestion of a Joke in the Reading of the Memorial Tablet of Dr. John Hall.

There is considerable subdued, but, nevertheless, persistent discussion among the members of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church over the memorial tablet to Rev. Dr. John Hall, which was recently placed in the church. The quotation on the tablet is declared by some of his former parishioners to be a reflection on the doctor. They fear it will be taken for a joke. The tablet is of bronze, and is inscribed:

"Rev. John Hall, D. D., L. L. D. Born County Armagh, Ireland, July 21, 1822. Died County Down, Ireland, Sept. 17, 1899. For forty-nine years a Presbyterian minister. Pastor of this church from Nov. 3, 1871, to Sept. 17, 1899. There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God."

"Bob's" Opportunity. Now if "Bobs" can repeat himself, says the Chicago Record, we will know that his former triumph was not an accident.

MAY BUY AN ISLAND.

The Famous Spot in the Hudson River May Be Added to the National Domain.

Senator Depew has introduced a bill in congress authorizing the secretary of war to expend \$150,000 for the purchase of Constitution island, in the Hudson, directly opposite West Point, the scene of some of the most stirring episodes in the revolution, and later the home of one of America's most celebrated writers and philanthropists. The bill has influential support, and it is believed will become a law during the present session of congress. If the island is purchased a huge storage magazine will be erected there.

The introduction of this bill recalls the interesting history of this property. It derives its name from a fort which was erected on it during the revolution under the supervision of Gen. Kosciusko. Its crumbling remains are still visible. When the British endeavored to sail up the Hudson to the relief of Burgoyne the massive iron chain which was stretched across the Hudson near the fort prevented the passing of the fleet.

Just beyond the fort, on a wooded bluff, stands a unique old wooden structure. During the revolution, and while the American forces were campaigning in the north, Washington occupied this house for some time.

Years ago the site became the property of a well-known American named Warner. It was his intention to improve the island and build a home, but he met with business reverses. The island after his death became the property of his daughter, Miss Susan B. Warner. When her father became financially embarrassed she took up her pen, with the hope of retrieving the family's shattered fortunes. She immediately became famous as an authoress, and was enabled to largely pay off the debts of her father. When she died her pen was taken up by her sister, Anna B. Warner, who now occupies the old mansion on Constitution island.

It was the wish of both sisters that old Constitution island, when the last of the Warner family should have passed away, should become the property of some church missionary society.

GIRL A SHARP MERCHANT.

Ethel Streeter, an Ohio Miss of Ten Years, Buys and Sells Goods with Judgment.

Ethel Streeter, a ten-year-old miss of Chicago Junction, O., is probably the youngest business woman in the country. She is connected with her mother in the notion business. She has frequently been left in charge of the store, and always runs it profitably. Not long ago her mother was out of town for the day, and the young lady wrote out a check, attached a revenue stamp, not forgetting to cancel it, and insisted on a receipt for the money.

The little notion store does a thriving business. Usually the buying is done from Tiffin, where the little girl frequently goes alone to look over the samples of the dressmakers and make selections. She knows exactly what is wanted. She never carries paper or list to go by, but relies on her memory and her knowledge of the stock at home, and seldom makes an error. "Traveling men prefer her custom to that of some other people, as they say she knows exactly what she wants."

Ethel is of medium height for her age, not heavy, and has a winsome face, which is full of intelligence. Mrs. Streeter says: "People delight in dealing with the girl, and consider her a born business woman."

George Sifert, who represents a Columbus house, considers little Ethel a prodigy. He says on a number of occasions she has come to Tiffin to "stock up," has gone through his line of samples with a care, accuracy and precision which astonished him, and has bought as competently as his older customers.

CONTINENTAL GUARDS.

Members of National Museum and Smithsonian Institution to Form New Organization.

Members of the National museum and the Smithsonian institution are forming a military organization to be known as the Continental Guards of Washington. The uniform worn will be that of the Continental light infantry of 1782, consisting of white broadcloth small clothes and vest patterned after the generous garment of that time. The coat will be colonial cut, and made of light blue cloth, with blue facings, trimmed in silver buttons. Dark brown leggings will be worn, and a black cocked hat ornamented with a red, white and blue cockade will complete the picturesque uniform. It is proposed that as soon as a specified number belonging to these institutions are secured for membership to include such other persons as may wish to join the organization, the only requisite being that they are of gentlemanly and soldierly bearing and possessed of a respectable position in the world. They will march under the old continental flag with its 13 stars representing the 13 original states. It is hoped by the organizers to be in readiness to march under the old flag on Decoration day, but this failing, on the Fourth of July.

The Same Old Thing.

It is the decision of the United States supreme court that the shipper must pay for the stamp affixed to a receipt for an express package. The Chicago Tribune makes the startling discovery that this is what the shipper has been doing all the time.

IS CHARMING, BUT—

Mrs. Potter Palmer's View of the Paris Exposition.

Does Not Think French Show Comes Up to the World's Fair—France Has Learned Some Lessons from Us.

Mrs. Potter Palmer is the only member of the American general commission who has yet arrived in Paris, and also the only woman among the commissioners which the different countries of the world have sent to France. Speaking of her impressions, Mrs. Palmer said:

"Of course this is charming. We all knew it would be so in Paris. The way the different sections of the exhibition thread their way through bits of real Paris on both sides of the Seine is one of the most charming features."

"But what appeals to me and gratifies me most is the undoubted fact that Chicago has set the pace for Paris, the mother of expositions. Their whole system has been revolutionized by our world's fair, and France has realized that she must plan hers in the future on similar lines to attract the world's interest. This she has done."

"The old Palais de l'Industrie, which hitherto was considered adequate, has been torn down and splendid buildings have been erected, similar to ours. Paris has utilized the water effect as we did, and has expended money on space in a manner hitherto undreamed of."

"But, beautiful as it all is, I do not consider that they equal us. There is certainly no view comparing with our Court of Honor."

"In another way has France imitated us—namely: the way in which women are now recognized. For the first time in France a woman is on the commission. And women will have to decide on all industries in which women are directly or indirectly interested. This is a great step in advance. Numerous women's congresses will be held, beginning in June."

"The chairman of the women's congress here has just appointed Mrs. Charles Henrotin, of Chicago, the delegate at large for America to secure the participation of the American women."

AN OLD GULLOTTINE.

Reposes in Curiosity Shop in New York City—Used in Germany in Sixteenth Century.

In an old curiosity shop in the heart of New York city is an old gullottine which is said to have been used 400 persons. It was used in Hanover during the sixteenth century by Thomas, of Bremerhaven. It was the custom for the state executioner to have his own implements of execution and to carry them with him. This gruesome piece of property was purchased in Germany in 1893 by a man who expected to make a fortune out of it by selling it to a museum. He paid a large sum for the relic of barbarism, but soon found he had made an unprofitable investment, as no one would purchase it, and efforts to exhibit it for an admission fee were failures. With the gullottine are the knives of the executioner.

They bear the inscription: "As I raise the sword the poor soul goes to Heaven." On one side is the figure of a maiden with the inscription: "Proffide et Patria." And on the reverse a picture of Christ on the cross and the inscription: "Solus Deo Gloria."

In this collection are a number of thumb-screws, spider necklaces, iron bar and manacle, Spanish gaiters, wristlets, leg-snares and keys, together with other instruments of torture.

CENSUS OF THE NAVY.

Plans Made for Counting the Officers and Men in That Branch of the Service.

In order to promote the taking of the twelfth census so far as the naval population is concerned, Secretary Long has issued rules to be observed by those connected with the service. All commanders-in-chief of stations, commanding officers of vessels acting singly, and commanders of navy yards and naval stations will designate one officer as a census enumerator. The latter will have the duty of making the enumeration required on the proper schedule. This enumeration will include not only enlisted men and officers and the members of their families, but also civilian employees and all other persons from the United States attached to the ships or stations or residing within the limits of the station. The enumeration of naval hospitals will be made by the enumerator of the nearest navy yard or station. The schedule of information will be sent to the census office.

Transvaal Coins in London.

The price of the Transvaal sixpence in London is now five shillings. Kruger pennies, however, are relatively more expensive. One London dealer who is now charging 15 pence for them regretted that he parted with four dozen at a shilling each the other day.

Willing to Furnish the Coal.

It makes but little difference what nations are engaged in war, says the Ohio State Journal, so long as Uncle Sam gets the contract to furnish coal for the fighting fleets.

Old Apple Tree.

An apple tree at North Haven, Me., is 125 years old.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

Est très recommandé en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12.00 Edition hebdomadaire \$3.00.