

ROCKEFELLER HONORS FRIEND

What His Sunday School of the Risco and Success of a Former Classmate of His.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Edward M. Shepard and George Foster Peabody addressed the members of the Young Men's Bible class of the Fifth Avenue Church, New York city, the other evening. Mr. Rockefeller, to illustrate the influence for good of one man over another, told of the rise of a classmate from a factory boy to a professorship in a university and of the influence this man's career had on his own life. Mr. Rockefeller said: "To earn money with which to educate himself he worked for a traveling show company for two years as a stage carpenter. We did not think he was much of a fellow until he developed great ability in history. He wished to continue his studies in history at another university, and I loaned him \$200. Later he became a professor in history at that institution, and not long ago received the first prize for a historical work from the American Historical Society. He paid the interest on that loan right along and once in awhile he paid a little on the principal. Then he wrote to me that he was about to be married, and as a wedding present I sent him the notes loaned. He would not accept them, declaring that the debt was an honor one and that he preferred to pay it. I have the greatest respect for that man. What he did others can do."

TO SETTLE IN MEXICO.

Gen. Snymann and Ten Other Boers Start for Chihuahua, Where Colony Is to Be Established.

Gen. W. D. Snymann and ten other Boer officers started for Mexico the other night, with the intention of establishing a Boer colony at Chihuahua. This movement, according to Gen. Snymann, is due to an interview which a reporter of the New York Tribune had with Gen. Snymann at the close of the South African war, in which the general said that he could not return to South Africa, as he was from Cape Colony, and would be subject to severe punishment, and that he with other Boers from that section might organize a colony here. The interviewer was seen by the agent of the Boers in Mexico, and as a result they were asked to go to Mexico and settle. E. C. Creel, the Mexican banker, came to New York a few days ago, and has talked the matter over with Gen. Snymann and the other Boers, the result being the determination to settle in Chihuahua. Gen. Snymann, soon after his arrival here, had his son take the examinations for admission to college, which he passed. He and his son, who is about 16 years old, fought in the Boer army. He was acquainted with President Steyn. His family, which consisted of a wife and several children, he was obliged to leave behind him in South Africa when he came to this country. This will enable them to become united once more.

TO HAVE STABLE HERE.

Mrs. Langtry, It Is Said, Will Have a String of Race Horses on American Turf This Year.

Mrs. Langtry will have a stable of race horses on the American turf this year, and the colors of "Mr. Jersey," her nom de plume on the English turf, will be carried in races at Sheepshead Bay, Saratoga and Morris Park. Alf Hayman, who is authority for the statement, says she may bring to America her unbeaten filly Smilax, who, under Danny Maher's riding, won every mount she started in last year—five in all—her money winnings amounting to more than \$5,000. Smilax is a filly of Mrs. Langtry's own breeding, being by Milford, a horse raced by her several years ago. Mrs. Langtry will have the advice of such judges as James Rowe, who trains for Messrs. Keene, and of John Madden, who handled Mr. Whitney's horses a large portion of last year, as well as Alzano, the two-year-old, who won at his first essay in the American colors of Mr. Roslyn, the racing name of Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and Mrs. E. B. Duryea. The newcomer on the local turf expects to see her colors carried well in the van of such horses as she may purchase. Her intention is to have about four racers, which will be sufficient to interest her without being too onerous.

ENGLISH BIRTHS DECLINING.

Latest Figures Show Present Rate to Be Lowest Since the Registration Began.

The London correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean cables months ago instanced from the census returns the fact that England was tending to become like France, stationary in the matter of population, and to have among its residents a greater number of other nationalities than formerly. The registrar for London has now issued figures which tend markedly to confirm this condition in regard to the capital. The birth rate per 1,000 of population was 29, which is the lowest rate since the registration began. On the other hand, the death rate was 17.1 per 1,000, which is the lowest since 1840. It is expected that the marriage rate will continue to decline. It was 17.6 per 1,000 last year. This is ascribed to the fact that young people who live in comfortable apartments delay marrying until they are able to obtain better accommodations.

PROPHECY FULFILLED.

What Morse Foretold in 1843 Has More Than Been Realized in the Electrical World.

The Electrical Review in its last issue publishes the diary kept by Samuel F. B. Morse during his earliest work on the Baltimore and Washington telegraph line in the year 1843. The book was discovered in the library of Thomas A. Edison, at Orange, N. J. Under date of August 10, 1843, Mr. Morse describes certain tests he had made and makes the following interesting prophecy: "The practical inference from this law is that a telegraphic communication on my plan may, with certainty, be established across the Atlantic. Starting as this may seem now, the time will come when this project will be realized." Commenting on this prophecy, the Electrical Review says: "To-day there is no ocean unspanned by a telegraphic cable. We have completed the first Pacific cable and have made a good start on the second, and Marconi has established communication across the Atlantic without wires. It is difficult to realize that this diary was written less than 60 years ago."

HIGH SPEED IN ENGLAND.

Inventor Behr Expects to Attain 110 Miles an Hour on His Monorail Railway.

The present year will witness some interesting developments in locomotion, both by sea and land. Next June F. B. Behr hopes a portion of his Manchester-Liverpool monorail electric express railway will be opened and that cars will be running at the rate of 110 miles an hour. Mr. Behr will introduce a bill at the next session for a London-Brighton monorail road, which will take Londoners down to the sea in half an hour. Many big railway companies are electrifying portions of their lines. By the close of 1903 trains will be running by electricity. There are also to be some novelties in ocean travel. In May the first turbine-driven cross-channel steamer will commence running between Dover and Calais. In August another turbine vessel will be placed on the New Haven-Dieppe service. In April the most powerfully engine lined in the world will start running, viz., the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm Der Zweite.

NEW PLATINUM MINES.

Valuable Deposits of This Rare Metal Are Being Worked in Russia.

Vast deposits of platinum have been discovered by a party of diggers on the River Gusseva, a tributary of the Issa, in western Siberia. The news quickly got abroad and swarms of miners started for the new camp. Within a month 25,000 men were on the spot digging like demons, and before the police could get to the camp more than \$1,500,000 worth of platinum, it is estimated, got clear away, no one knew how nor where. Matters are now being regulated by the police, but the miners do not like the regulations, and most of them are leaving, preferring to return home rather than submit to gathering wealth slowly. A few of the wiser ones remain, thinking that they will be able to "regulate" the police. It is believed that the new Gusseva mines could supply the whole world with this valuable metal.

MEDAL FOR BRAVE WOMAN.

The Wife of Colonel Turner, United States Consul General in Canada, Saves Man from Bear.

Two months ago Mrs. Turner, wife of the United States consul general at Ottawa, Ont., saved the life of Game Warden Cormier, who had been seized by a savage bear at Aymer, Que. She rushed at the bear, grabbing it by the fur and diverting its attention from the warden, enabling him to kill the beast. Cormier was badly injured, but is now convalescent. The attention of the Royal Canadian Humane society was called to Mrs. Turner's act, and by unanimous vote she has been awarded the association's medal for bravery. Col. and Mrs. Turner were called to government house. In the presence of a distinguished company Mrs. Turner received the medal from the hands of the countess of Minto. Lady Minto spoke highly of Mrs. Turner's action and warmly complimented her on her gallant act.

PARROT A GEM THIEF.

Mischievous Bird Secretly Valuable Stones Which Are Found After Being Given Up as Forever Lost.

While a bric-a-brac shop formerly kept by Samuel Fisher, of Hoboken, was being dismantled a chamois bag containing \$5,100 worth of jewels was found among the rubbish on a remote shelf. The gems, which are the property of Fisher's stepdaughter, were missed shortly after her marriage and a reward of \$1,000 was offered for their recovery. The stepdaughter's husband, Samuel Healey, said that he believed they had been secreted in the shop by a parrot owned by his wife.

Too Cold to Seed Coal.

A Chicago man climbed the summit of Mount Aetna the other day. He reports that he found no suffering there on account of a lack of fuel.

Time to Hury It.

Somebody has published a book of ping-pong poems. This, says the Chicago Record-Herald, might properly take the form of an obituary.

EXECUTION OF AN ELEPHANT.

Topsy, the Man-Killer, Put Out of the Topy with Cyanide of Potassium and Powerful Electric Shock.

Topsy, the "original baby elephant," who was brought to this country by Adam Forepaugh 28 years ago, and was exhibited by him all over the country, was executed by electricity at Luna park, Coney island, the other day, 8,600 volts being passed through her body for a period of ten seconds. The employees put a temporary board flooring on the ground under her, and electricians extended the wires. When it came to attaching the electrodes to Topsy's feet there was more trouble and delay. One was attached to the right forefoot without much trouble, and the other had been wired to her left hind foot, when she took it into her head that she didn't like the feeling. She kicked off the one on the front foot, and when that was wired on again she repeated the operation with her hind foot. When all was ready Manager Murray held out a carrot to Topsy. She ate it, and another and another, and even twisted her trunk playfully as she took them. In each carrot there was a heavy dose of cyanide of potassium, and in all the elephant ate 460 grains, the show people said. As soon as she swallowed the last one, and before the poison had time to act, somebody shouted, "have the current turned on." Suddenly a flash and a small flame sprang from the electrodes. Topsy was just curling her trunk when the current hit her. The trunk straightened out suddenly and stiffened out, pointing straight to the ground. Her body strained forward as if she was trying to move, but she made no sound; her body was not convulsed, and to all appearances there was no pain. She fell on her side motionless. She was dead.

Topsy developed a bad temper two years ago and killed two keepers in Texas. Last spring in Brooklyn she killed another man.

SHOULD KISS AT HOME.

Custom of Greeting Brides in Church Has the Disapproval of a St. Louis Pastor.

In the opinion of Rev. Father Henry C. Bronsgeest, S. J., pastor of St. Xavier's Catholic church, St. Louis, there is entirely too much kissing of brides and other effusiveness at church weddings. Before an audience which filled the finest and most fashionable Catholic church in the city, Father Bronsgeest uttered his denunciation. A dozen or more brides of the last season, including several who are members of families highly prominent socially, were in the audience.

"There is too much hand-shaking and kissing of brides," said the reverend father. "After the ceremony at the church, the proper place for this, if it must be indulged in, is at home. The church was not built for that purpose."

Father Bronsgeest also took occasion to criticize the custom of brides entering the church with uncovered heads, declaring that it is expressly forbidden in the first epistle of St. Paul.

NEW TEST OF STRENGTH.

An Instructor of Harvard University to Substitute Other Qualities for Brute Force.

Dr. Dudley A. Sargent, physical director of Harvard university, will introduce within a few days a new strength test system which in conception and practice promises to revolutionize the whole trend of athletics. The main principle of his new science is to substitute quickness and endurance for mere brute force. For many years physical directors have realized that too much attention has been paid to the development of mere brawn and muscle to the neglect of those finer qualities which distinguish the real athlete from possessors of mere animal strength. Until Dr. Sargent has put his new science into use at the reopening of Harvard he will not make public the detail of his plans.

TO PUBLISH HER MEMOIRS.

Sarah Bernhardt Labors Four Years on Story of Her Life and Work Will Occupy Three Volumes.

Mme. Bernhardt announces that she has been writing her memoirs of the last four years, and that they will be published in English, German, Italian and French. She says she has received offers from reviews and magazines, but will not close with them. The memoirs will be in three volumes, illustrated, and will contain her experiences of real theatrical life. The actress works on her book in the country, and had valuable help from newspapers, some of whose stories she is setting right.

To Check Loss of Population. The latest proposal for falling off of population in France comes from Col. Touette of the general staff. He proposes that children and grandchildren shall have equal succession rights, so that a man with many children will receive a larger share than his brother, who may have none or few. An only child would be allowed to receive only one-half of his father's estate, the other half going to the next heirs.

Writing Versus Financiering. Bret Hartie left an estate valued at \$1,800—almost as much as a captain of industry can earn in 20 minutes, says the Chicago Record-Herald, when conditions are ordinarily favorable.

EARTH SHAPE OF PEAR.

English Mathematician Offers New Theory of the World's Configuration.

J. H. Jeans, one of the greatest mathematicians that Cambridge university has produced in recent years, contributed a paper at the last meeting of the Royal society, in which he made novel suggestions in regard to the figure of the earth. He said there was probably a time when the rigidity of the planet was so small that the configuration was pear-shaped. The transition from a pear-shaped jelly to a steel-like spheroid had taken place through a series of ruptures. Nevertheless traces of the pear-shaped configuration were still discernible. England, he said, is the center of a hemisphere which is practically all land. This hemisphere represents the blunt end of a pear. It is along the boundary of this hemisphere that earthquake attempts at the readjustment of form are and were most frequent.

"Tracing a circle about the globe," he said, "at a greater distance from England as the center, we pass over a region of the very deep seas of the Pacific, southern Atlantic and Indian oceans. Along this circle there is a waist of pear. Finally, at the antipodes of England, Australia is the remains of the pear stalk."

If one accepts these views the existence of a large tract of land about the south pole becomes more doubtful than ever.

SEES DANGER IN FAST AUTO.

The Medical Press of London Discovers 100-Mile-an-Hour Colliator.

The Medical Press of London foresees a new and awful danger from the promised automobile, which may succeed the ordinary train, carrying passengers at the rate of 100 miles an hour. Each automobile must carry a large supply of highly inflammable liquid, which at present railways will carry only under the most stringent restrictions. What will happen when the automobile sustains a collision? An instantaneous, gigantic conflagration involving the whole of the wreck. But there is one consolation. "The passage of the petroleum vapor into the lungs," says the Press, "would probably determine insensibility forthwith. This consolation reminds one of the statement made by the theatrical manager who tried to soothe an audience, panic-stricken at a fire, by assuring them that there was a reservoir on the roof that would drown them all at once."

FINDS GOLD, BUT JOY KILLS.

Black Hills Prospector Makes a Strike After Years of Search and It Proves Too Much for Him.

David Thompson, one of the best-known prospectors in the Black hills, over which country he had hunted gold for 17 years, the other day struck a ledge of fabulous richness and died of joy a few moments later. The doctors found death was due to the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain.

Thompson came to the hills 17 years ago from the east with all the enthusiasm of an old miner. He roamed the hills and prospected over every part of the country, but made no strike of any value. While at work near Deadwood he finally uncovered a vein of rich ore which is described as showing a fabulous wealth of free gold. The discovery led to his death.

NEW JOURNAL FOR GERMANY.

Syndicate Formed to Start a Newspaper in Berlin with Emperor William's Approval.

A syndicate is being formed at Berlin for the purpose of founding a German national newspaper. Prince Fuerstenberg, a relative of Emperor William and an exceedingly rich man, is at the head of the movement. It is proposed to make the paper the mouthpiece of German official opinion. Though there are many excellent newspapers in Germany none of them have wielded much influence. This is due in part to the contempt in which Bismarck held all publications. The new paper will be patterned somewhat after the London Times. The plan has the approval of the kaiser.

AMERICAN WOMAN IN GREEN.

Mrs. Guy Chetwynd Causes Stir in London Ball by Her Very Striking Costume.

A great stir was caused at Mr. Ronald's New Year's party in London by the arrival of Mrs. Guy Chetwynd (formerly Mrs. Rosaline Secor, of New York,) in a beautiful gown of green with a hat to match, trimmed with paradise plumes, while the dress was ablaze with diamonds and the clasp in her hat was a superb diamond ornament. Around her throat she wore a double string of exquisite pearls. Her cloak was of chinchilla. She went with the countess of Ronney, who introduced her all around. There was no singing, but the soft, instrumental music permitted conversation, and the gramophone was delightful to all.

A Thrilling Tale. Mascagni is writing a book in which he intends to relate his experiences with American constables. The troubles of Sindbad the Sailor, says the Chicago Record-Herald, will pale into insignificance in comparison with the Italian composer's hardships.

LIKE MODERN HOTELS.

Parisians Have Changed Their Methods of Dining—Restaurants No Longer Popular.

The closing of the famous Maison Dorée at Paris recalls the fact that, while in London the fashion of dining at restaurants is on the increase, the tendency in the French capital is toward the development of the attractions of public hotels and private mansions. The miles of magnificent new houses in the Faubourg quarter and around the avenue branching away from the Place de l'Etoile, all possessing fine kitchens, are occupied by wealthy people, whose chefs in every case could, and probably do, serve up dinners fully equal to anything ever provided in a boulevard restaurant at fancy prices. This is for the resident, but visitors to Paris now find in the modern hotels all their most luxurious tastes and inclinations gratified, so that it is no longer necessary, as heretofore, to leave one's hotel and seek out a restaurant. Enormous prices may have been paid for dinners in former times, but the guests were limited in number, and the restaurants also. To-day a vastly larger sum is spent in Paris on good cooking, and better value given, while the clever caterers have multiplied in all directions.

FIRE AT HIS REFLECTION.

Utah Miner on His Way East for First Time Creates Panic in Pullman Car Barber Shop.

A Utah miner created a sensation on Union Pacific train No. 2 the other night shortly after leaving Sidney, Wyo. In conversation with passengers he said he lived 116 miles from the nearest railroad, and had not seen a train of cars for 12 years. He was en route east to visit relatives, whom he had not seen since childhood. He had made a fortune in mining in Utah, he said, and he proposed to have a hot time in the east.

The Utah man partook freely of champagne and other beverages during the trip, and felt fine. Shortly after leaving Sidney he went into the buffet car to get shaved. Getting into the chair he looked at his reflection in the mirror a moment and then drew a six-shooter and fired two shots at his image.

The bullets went through the side of the car and did no further damage. The passengers were badly frightened, for they feared they were in the presence of a madman. When asked why he fired the shots, the Utah man replied that he was "just thinking." He had between \$1,000 and \$2,000 in bills on his person.

POPULAR GIRL TURNS JOKE.

Young Woman Finds Brant Had Been as to Which Would Be Her Escort and Invites All.

Seven carriages drove up to the home of Miss Carrie Berger at 1245 Madison avenue, New York city, at seven o'clock the other night, and a young man hopped out of each, prepared to take Miss Berger to the theater. Each young man had received this note from her: "I have two tickets for the theater on Saturday evening. I would like you to be a brother to me and act as my escort. Please do not tell any of the boys."

Each young man was nonplussed when he saw six others at the house. Then Miss Berger explained. She had heard that the young men had made a bet among themselves as to which one would first have the honor of taking her to a theater in 1903. Miss Berger decided to outwit them and take them all to a theater herself. She had a big automobile waiting, and, with some girl companions, they went to a Harlem theater. After the theater there was a supper at Miss Berger's house.

TO PATROL ATLANTIC COAST.

One of the Most Important Developments of New System of Naval Mobilization.

One of the most important developments of the new system of naval mobilization adopted by the navy department is the establishment of a coast division of the north Atlantic squadron. Its duty will be to patrol the Atlantic coast. Rear Admiral J. H. Sands, now in command of the League island navy yard, will be given the command, with the battleship Texas as his flagship, the squadron including the monitors Puritan, Amphitrite, Miantonomah, Terror, Arkansas and the monitors Nevada and Florida as soon as they are commissioned, together with the torpedo-boat destroyers Decatur and Chauncey, half a dozen torpedo-boats comprising a torpedo-boat flotilla and the submarine Holland and submarines Adder and Moccasin when they are commissioned.

Fewer Deaths from Cancer. Statistics printed by the London county council of the mortality from cancer in London during 1902 show that there was a slight decrease in the death rate, the percentage being 93 per 1,000, as compared with 95 in the previous year. The proportion, however, has been more than doubled within 50 years, the rate being 1851 and 1880 being 42. Even in the year 1891 it was only 78. Comparatively few cases were fatal before the year 1855. The heaviest mortality was between 1855 and 1865.

A Long Stairway. The stairway leading to the tower of the Philadelphia city hall contains 598 steps and is said to be the tallest continuous stairway in the world.

ROBBERY BY 'PHONE.

Ingenious Scheme by Which Valuable Jewelry Is Obtained.

Sharper in England Succeeds in Getting Away with \$10,000 Worth of Gems Sent Supposedly for Inspection to Customer.

The ingenuity with which the countess of Selkirk was deprived of \$15,000 worth of jewels recently has been surpassed by certain individuals who have secured a \$10,000 haul of jewelry from Messrs. Oldfield, a large firm at Old Post Office place, Liverpool. The telegraph and telephone figure prominently in this remarkable story, which commenced about a fortnight ago, when Mr. Brocklebank, the head of a great shipping concern in Liverpool, came with his wife to the Inns of Court hotel, Holborn.

A great friend of the Liverpool merchant was Laing Miller, a wealthy South African shipowner. While the Brocklebanks were in London, a man, who said he was Mr. Miller, set up telephonic communication with the servants at Mr. Brocklebank's house at Liverpool, and ascertained that the family were away. He dispatched a telegram, in the name of Mrs. Brocklebank, to Messrs. Oldfield, requesting them to forward to her Liverpool residence a varied selection of jewelry, to be distributed as Christmas presents. He also telephoned to the house, again, warning the servants that a parcel would arrive, and he (the pseudo Mr. Miller) had been commissioned by Mr. Brocklebank to call for it and take it to London.

As the Brocklebanks were old customers, Messrs. Oldfield complied with the wired request. The servants, knowing Mr. Laing Miller by name, and not by sight, had no suspicions when, soon after the arrival of the parcel of \$10,000 worth of jewelry, they handed it over to a well-dressed, clean-shaven, gentlemanly individual.

This happened on a recent Tuesday. Nothing more has been seen of the sham Mr. Miller, and the fraud was only discovered when Messrs. Oldfield sent to Mr. Brocklebank's house another quantity of jewelry, in case the first did not afford a sufficient scope of selection.

The servants telephoned their master to know what to do in the matter, and then the clever plan stood revealed. The last diamond robbery where the telephone played the principal part occurred in Ely place, Hatton garden, some few months ago, when a packet of diamonds valued at \$15,000 was stolen from the table of a diamond dealer.

HID FORTUNE IN BARN.

Kansas Man Who Distrusted Banks Reveals Secret Depository of His Wealth on His Death Bed.

Charles P. Robinson, aged 69 years, died at his home at Ottawa, Kan., of consumption. Robinson's death was the cause of the circulation of a singular story. When consumption fastened itself upon Robinson and his physician assured him that his death was only a question of weeks, he sent for some friends and had unearthed his accumulation of gold and greenbacks. A fortune of some \$7,600 was dug out of the manger of the Robinson barn and was deposited in one of the city banks. The money was in gold and currency, and as it was shaken out of the fruit jars in which it was packed it smelled strongly of must and damp. That Robinson had some wealth was generally understood, but that he had any supply of cash was scarcely suspected. Robinson's accumulations were the result of a saving policy thoroughly practiced. He began it when he went to Ottawa, 35 years ago. Not a stick of wood dropped from a passing wagon into the street, escaped his attention. He was a kindly old man, an old soldier, and had a good war record.

His distrust of banks was one of his chief characteristics. How long he had been hoarding money about his place is not known, but it is presumed that he had it buried in various places for a good many years.

TO SEEK FLEET OF XERXES.

Effort to Be Made to Locate the Ships of the Great General So as to Secure the Art Treasures.

The treasures that lie at the bottom of the sea are now more easily obtainable by the invention of an instrument known as the hydroscope. This contrivance, says an Athens correspondent, is shortly to be put into operation in order to find the lost fleet of Xerxes, which has reined on the sea's bed undisturbed for about 2,300 years.

Search is also to be made for the ship chartered by Pompey to carry Roman art treasures to Athens, and wrecked in the archipelago 1,950 years ago.

To Test Big French Locomotive. Arrangements have been made by the Great Western railway for the experimental adoption of one of the celebrated four-cylinder compound locomotives of the Northern railway of France, says a New York Tribune dispatch from London. These compound engines, it is asserted, are far ahead of the best types of English design.

A Queer Discrepancy. According to a statement issued by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company, covering a stated length of time, 19,357 more people went to Manhattan from Brooklyn than from Manhattan to Brooklyn.