

CARDINAL GIBBONS



Cardinal James Gibbons has been head of the Baltimore diocese since 1886. The above picture is from his latest photograph.

AUTHOR, AGED 83

MASSACHUSETTS OCTOGENARIAN MAKES BOW AS WRITER.

Wealthy Retired Business Man Evolves Three Ponderous Dramas as Result of a Challenge from His Wife.

Worcester, Mass.—Thomas C. Rice, a wealthy retired business man of Worcester, in his eighty-third year, sitting in the quiet of his home at No. 214 West street, has evolved three ponderous and thoughtful plays as the result of a challenge from his wife. Two of them are Biblical plays, and one is founded on a Hindu legend.

Since his retirement from active business life several years ago, Mr. Rice has had a bent for literary work, has been an omnivorous reader, and among other things delved extensively into Scriptural pages.

Mrs. Rice, who is a bright woman, quite conversant with the Bible and literary withal, was anxious to see if her husband could put together something out of the knowledge he had gained that would come day after before the footlights. So she issued the deed and Mr. Rice immediately buckled on his armor and started in at the playwright's business.

"I don't know how I ever did it," said Mr. Rice. "When the idea was first proposed I would as soon thought of building a ladder to the moon. But something goaded me on. I almost think it was an inspiration. It might have been due to a sort of telepathy between Mrs. Rice and myself, or what the boys might call now a brain storm, but whatever it was, one thing is certain. I turned out the plays with some satisfaction to myself, even if they never so prove to others.

"If nothing is ever done with the plays I shall never regret the knowledge I have gained from the deep study of the subjects involved."

One of the first stories Mr. Rice dramatized was that of Abraham, of which he makes four acts and puts into the narrative some 15 characters, only one of which is a woman.

There is told the story of David's son, his determination to revenge his father's wrongs, which brings him into disfavor, and later his attempts to atone. At his death, however, the father discloses that all along he has been his favorite child, and his lament over the boy's body in the well-remembered exclamation of "Oh, Absalom, my son, my son!" is made to serve as a vehicle for an intense dramatic climax.

Mr. Rice perhaps makes still more pretentious his dramatic version of the Hebrew book of Esther, in which there appear 13 leading characters.

Mr. Rice has also constructed a play of quite a pretentious character, founded on a Hindu legend.

This play is in three acts and contains six characters, the king of Katsava, his daughter, the blind and handsome king of Chalya, his son, the sage and Yama, the god of death. The same of the play is "Savitra's Choice."

350 Brooch in Crow's Nest.

Albion, Pa.—Because a flock of crows was robbing his cornfield, John W. Eckert, president of the Albion town, who owns a large farm near this city, ordered the nests of the birds to be destroyed. His hired man found a thimble, a spoon of thread, a pair of shoes, a mounted spectacle, and a \$30 brooch in one of the nests.

The articles had all mysteriously disappeared from President Eckert's farmhouse during the spring.

Must Wear Mustache for Life.

Waltham, Pa.—Mr. Abram Schaefer, who resides near Elizabethtown, made a vow in 1834 that if James Buchanan should be elected president he would never part with his mustache. Mr. Schaefer was at that time 101 years old. As Buchanan was elected the West Druggist man has not had a day's hair in the last 52 years.

HAS COPY OF FAMOUS TABLET.

Explorer Dares Death to Get Record of China's Religion.

New York.—Bringing a copy of the famous Nestorian tablet, discovered in the seventeenth century by Christian monks in China, Fritz von Holm, a Danish explorer, arrived here on the British steamer Kennebec from the far east.

Mr. von Holm's project in copying the priceless Nestorian block in the Chinese temple at Sian-Fu was a daring one. For 16 months he and his assistants worked to make a two-ton copy of the tablet. On one occasion they were threatened with death and torture, and were chased away from their work by religious fanatics in the temple. Mr. von Holm and his assistants resumed their work, however, when the objectors believed they had given up their project.

The copy, when completed, was crated and moved to Hankow, where it was held until released by the British ambassador. Then it was shipped to Shanghai, where it was placed aboard the Kennebec and brought to New York.

More than 2,000 figures of dragons, ancient figures, and mystic hieroglyphics adorn the copy. On it are also the Nestorian odes and eulogy to the religion and the names of 75 priests of Syria, who are believed to have been connected in some way with the missionaries at the time the relic was carved out of a great stone of the temple.

Mr. von Holm says the original tablet was transferred to the forest of tablets after its discovery by the Jesuit missionaries in the seventeenth century, and that it testifies to the Nestorian religion in China as far back as 663.

ONCE RICH; MUST WORK NOW.

Mrs. D. Le Roy Dresser Seeking Position and a Divorce.

St. Louis Falls, S. D.—From wife of the president of the shipbuilding trust and of the Trust Company of the Republic in New York city, and a life of luxury, Mrs. Daniel Le Roy Dresser has come to St. Louis Falls to obtain a divorce and fit herself for a position as stenographer.

Shortly after her arrival in St. Louis Falls, May 1, Mrs. Dresser applied for admission to the St. Louis Falls Business college and has been in constant attendance there ever since, taking typewriting and shorthand.

"She is one of my most apt pupils," said Prof. G. C. Christopherson. "I have been surprised by the quickness with which she has taken up her work."

Mrs. Dresser is quoted as saying that she is not taking this course for amusement; that she has two children to support.

Mrs. Dresser attempted to obtain a decree of separation from her husband in New York in 1907, but did not press the case. Her husband failed trying to float the securities of the American Shipbuilding company.

Builds Home on Church Model. Los Angeles, Cal.—After having been educated for the life of a nun, spending many years as organist of St. Patrick's church in Chicago and passing a long time in Palestine, Miss A. Martine has built a unique home at Santa Monica where she is passing the evening of her life in solitude. Fashioned after a village church, her cottage is frequently mistaken for a house of worship. It has belfry, gable, the windows and the entrance of a church, and was built upon designs drawn by its eccentric owner.

Blind Man Plants Two Acres of Corn. Winsted, Conn.—Cyril E. North, aged and almost blind, has just finished planting two acres of corn. He had sticks whitewashed and placed where each hill of corn was to be planted. Being just able to discern the whitewash, he went from one stick to the other in the long rows planting the corn. He will also sow the corn when it is up, being guided by the same white sticks.

RICH GOLD STRIKE

BISHOP BRINGS NEWS OF BIG FIND IN ALASKA.

Episcopal Prelate Washed Out \$500 Pans Himself and Says Others Yield as High as \$1,800—Metal of Best Quality.

Seattle, Wash.—P. T. Rowe, bishop of the Episcopal church for the territory of Alaska, who has just arrived in the city from the north, brings the first detailed authentic information regarding the big gold strike on Nolan creek, at the head of the Koyukuk river. Bishop Rowe was in the Nolan creek camp when the strike was made and washed out \$500 pans on the Olson claim with his own hands and saw pans washed out that ran as high as \$1,800. Nolan creek is only about 200 miles from the Arctic ocean and there were only 125 men in the camp when Bishop Rowe left for the outside. The strike was made at a depth of about 150 feet and about \$19,000 has been washed by crude operations, and it is estimated that the clean-up at the end of this summer will reach \$1,000,000.

The big strike was made as the result of an agreement between a number of miners who have been in the Koyukuk district since 1898," said Bishop Rowe. "All of these miners have been working out sufficient gold for grub stakes during the last ten years, but have never attempted to go to bedrock before.

"Owing to the fact that the country is wild and a long way from any settlements, the miners have simply passed up good ground in the search for the big strike. Whenever they needed a grub stake they would work some of this ground for several months and take out enough to provide supplies for two years and then continue to prospect for richer claims.

"Last winter a number of the miners at Nolan Creek agreed to give 300 feet each of their claims to the man who would sink to bedrock or to the pay streak on his claim. This proposition was accepted by a man by the name of Olson and his partners. He was a lucky Swede and struck the pay at a depth of 150 feet. I saw pans washed out on this strike that produced as high as \$1,800, and I washed out pans myself that ran as high as \$600.

"The gold is the highest quality of any gold that has been taken out of Alaska, running from \$19.40 to \$19.50 per ounce. There is undoubtedly plenty of the yellow metal in the Koyukuk country, as it has been demonstrated for years that all of the streams carry gold that could be worked at big profits with machinery, but the prospectors of that country have continued to hunt for the richer ground.

"The news of the big strike preceded us to the outside and there will be a big rush into the Koyukuk country this summer. All of the owners of claims on Nolan creek are sinking shafts to bedrock and reports of further rich strikes may be received at any time."

HOW TO TREAT YOUR WIFE.

Hints to Husbands by Well-Known New Jersey Preacher.

Jersey City, N. J.—In a special sermon to husbands on "How to Treat Your Wife," Rev. John L. Scudder gave the following rules, which, he said, would make the honeymoon a continuous life performance:

"Never play the tyrant.

"Treat your wife as an equal.

"Give your wife part of your attention. Don't spend all your evenings at the club.

"Give her a regular allowance of money to call her own. Next to whiskey nothing causes so much trouble in the household as money.

"Scatter sunshine in the house. Always cultivate cheerfulness.

"Make yourself handy about the house, and do not expect everything to be done for you.

"Mend the sewing machine and put new wire on the screen door when she asks, instead of putting.

"Overlook little weaknesses your wife may have.

"Allow her to have her own way and always the last word.

"Be jovial and lenient.

"Keep up your courtship as long as you live."

THIEF TRAP CAUGHT HIS WIFE.

Farmer Forget All About It Until It Was Too Late.

Taunton, Mass.—Horse thieves have been bothering the farmers of Raynham, and so Theodore A. Leonard, who owns a sawmill, set a trap to catch them. He left his buggy in an inviting position with a horse near by, and then unscrewed the nuts from the axles.

"They will get in the buggy and drive like thunder. Then, when the wheels come off, there will be something doing," he said.

"Guess I'll go to meeting at the church, Theo," said Mrs. Leonard next morning.

"All right," said Theodore, as he harnessed the gray mare to the buggy. Mrs. Leonard drove away, and when the wheels came off she was thrown, sustaining severe injuries, and the gray mare kicked in the buggy before running away.

Leonard recalled his thief trap when his wife and the remnants of his carriage were brought home.

MEDAL FOUND; VETERAN HAPPY.

Was Lost on Civil War Battlefield Years Ago.

Minneapolis, Minn.—An identification medal, which was lost on the battlefield of Bolivar Heights, Va. September 13, 1862, has just been returned to its original possessor, Amos Hales.

It was found on the battlefield 22 years ago by a nephew of W. G. Gompf, an insurance agent of Hartford, Conn., but it is 46 years since Mr. Hales saw it. Its return came about through a visit of Fred Hales, son of the civil war veteran, who heard of the finding of the medal when he was at Rochester, N. Y., last summer.

The medal is of bronze and is about the size of a half dollar. On its face is a profile of Abraham Lincoln, and the inscription: "Abraham Lincoln, President U. S. War 1861." On the reverse of the medal is inscribed: "Amos Hales, Company C, Twenty-first New York Volunteers, Port Hope, C. W."

Mr. Hales was one of the many Canadians who crossed the border to fight for the freedom of the slaves. The letters "C. W." he says, mean Canadian West, which has since become Ontario.

He fought through the entire war in the Twenty-first New York Volunteers cavalry. The circumstances of losing the medal are not clear to him, but he recalls it was missing after the battle at Bolivar Heights, which was fought just across the Potomac river from Harper's Ferry. Mr. Hales is wearing the medal as a watch-charm, and holds it as one of his dearest possessions.

MRS. LONGWORTH'S NEW FEAT.

Vaults Fence to Greet Husband and Carry His Suit Case.

Washington.—That Mrs. Nicholas Longworth's athletic skill has not deserted her since her assumption of matrimony is shown in a novel manner.

Recently wayfarers in the vicinity of the Longworth residence noticed a hansom cab drive up to the legislator's house. In a second Mr. Longworth hearing a suit case emerged from the vehicle. Evidently Mrs. Longworth had been on the lookout for his arrival, for before caddy had received his hire, the president's daughter had made her way down the stairs and out into the garden, which is inclosed by an iron fence four feet high.

Without stopping to unlatch the gate, Mrs. Longworth placed two hands on the fence, and, lightly vaulting it, was at her husband's side. Grasping the suit case in one hand and seizing him by the arm with the other she walked along gaily chatting and she started to carry the suit case into the house before the servants had time to make their appearance and relieve her of her self-imposed burden.

SOCIETY WOMEN IN BALLOONS.

British Social Leaders Ascend in Flyers at International Race.

London.—Hurlingham, the erstwhile center of amusements such as pigeon shooting and polo, has now taken the lead in ballooning. Society's latest recreation, and the other day was the scene of an international aeronautic contest in which 12 British, 13 French, three German, two Belgian and one Swiss balloon competed. The destination was Maidenhead, more than 23 miles away.

The most interesting feature of the contest was the number of women who made the ascension and the great eagerness shown by society leaders to secure places in the cars.

At the start of the race the Belgian balloon Emulation de Nord struck a tree in the grounds. The pilot cleared the obstruction, but his car took with it two huge branches of the tree.

The winner proved to be the English balloon Valkyrie, which made the descent easily about 300 yards from the winning post. Griffith Brewer's Lotus, also a British representative, finished second.

FOOTPADS ROB A MINE.

Unique Place to Carry Out Their Supposed Murder.

Pittston, Pa.—John Downs and Martin Givray, employed as night pump runners at the Butler mine of the Hillside Coal company here, had a thrilling experience the other night. Five masked highwaymen, knowing that the workmen had received their pay, that day, and expecting a good haul, made their way through one of the mine openings and with drawn revolvers demanded spoils.

Mine cave-ins and explosions are common occurrences to the mine workers, but underground highwaymen are something novel. Downs and Givray had sent their money home to their wives, however, and the underground robbers got only \$3.50 for their unique methods. The two men tried to escape, but were brought to bay by shots from the weapons of their assailants.

Dawd dropped to the ground and "played possum," and the robbers, believing they had killed him, quickly searched his pockets.

Find Pipes 100 Years Old.

Bethlehem, Pa.—While workmen were raising the old log cabin Lincoln Republican clubhouse, they came across a lot of old-fashioned clay pipes. Many years ago the clubhouse was the site of a famous pipe factory, and the pipes found are supposed to be 100 years old.

MESQUITE NEW FUEL

MILLIONS OF CORDS AWAIT AX IN LOWER CALIFORNIA.

Hardest of Known Woods May Displace Coal and Other Heat Generators in the Industries of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Wonderful development of the fuel supply of Los Angeles has begun with the advance of the Inter-California railway through Lower California, on the way from Calexico to Yuma. By the opening up of thousands of acres covered with mesquite sufficient wood is declared to be readily at hand to provide for the growing needs of southern California for at least half a century to come. Even if the oil, coal and gas supply should be shut off to-morrow, enthusiasts insist that the mesquite from Lower California would fill the void.

This new line of the Southern Pacific, which begins at Calexico, the terminus of the Imperial Valley branch, and runs almost due east on the way to Yuma, also will open up a vast area of rich agricultural and mineral lands, all tributary to Los Angeles.

The road has been completed to Teolocate, a station about 25 miles east of Calexico and within ten miles of the junction with the main line of the Southern Pacific, just west of the Colorado river and Yuma.

When better facilities are provided for handling the mesquite wood, shipments to Los Angeles will be more frequent, and it is not at all unlikely that this fuel will displace coal and various kinds of wood, together with much gas and oil now used for the generation of heat. It is believed mesquite will be used largely at manufacturing plants that now expend immense sums yearly for coal.

"There are millions of cords of mesquite in Lower California, tributary to the Inter-California railway," said B. W. Clark of the firm of Clark Brothers, who handle all sorts of fuel.

It would seem that the supply is well-nigh inexhaustible. The export of several trainloads a day would make hardly an impression on it.

Mesquite probably is the hardest wood grown in many ways resembling mahogany. It takes an excellent polish, and I know some of it has been used in making tips for billiard cues, also for other purposes.

"Some of the trees grow to a height of 60 feet, and their spread is enormous, casting a fine shade in the best country. The beans of the mesquite are eaten by cattle, which thrive on them, and when the Indians are pressed for other food they grind the beans for flour, which is not half bad."

"But it is as a fuel that the mesquite finds its most important place. It can be cut and laid down in Los Angeles at a price that will make it a formidable competitor of other classes of fuel. It is harder and faster burning than oak for stove furnaces and fireplaces. It holds its fire longer and gives out more heat units than any other wood of which I know, making a beautiful fire and burning out clean, leaving no ashes to mention.

"The consumption of mesquite in Los Angeles is increasing rapidly and in a short time it probably will heat the city to the demand."

There are many places in Lower California where mesquite in large quantities is dug from the ground. From great experts say the waste and sands are responsible. The trunk of the tree forms a barrier for sand blown about by the wind, and eventually the entire tree is buried. Under such conditions, the wood becomes well seasoned, and, when once it is dug out, it is in excellent condition for use as fuel.

Cut in stove lengths, mesquite sells in Los Angeles at \$12 a cord. It is much cheaper, of course, by carload lots, and many users buy it in large quantities at prices that make it a lively competitor of other fuels.

ANCIENT COURTS SEVERE.

Old-Time Records Unearthed Show Strange Punishments.

Dover, Del.—When some of Delaware's ancient court records were found in the office of the Kent county prothonotary, some dating as far back as 1699, the writing was found to be as legible as the day it was written. Among them were records of convictions of men and women for peculiar offenses, the sentences frequently being unusually severe.

One prisoner was convicted for marrying two couples in one day; a spectator in the court was sent to jail for smoking a pipe in the courtroom; a convict was arraigned for not having a Roman "T" on the front of his shirt to designate that he had been imprisoned for theft, and a servant who had left her master without his consent was sentenced to 110 days in the county jail.

Girls Accept Minister's Offer. New Cumberland, Pa.—To raise money at the dedication of the new Methodist church here Rev. Dr. John Krantz of Iowa, announced he would perform the marriage ceremony free for any girl who would give five dollars to the church. Thirty pretty young women promptly accepted the offer.

Now they're making leap-year proposals, offering the unusual introduction of a free marriage ceremony. It is predicted that many others will follow.

ALLIGATORS ARE AMIABLE.

Government Scientist Says Saurian is Lovable Creature.

Washington.—The Smithsonian Institution has just issued an account of a series of observations of the American alligator conducted under its supervision by Prof. Albert M. Reeser. The observations were made in the Everglades, the smaller swamps and lakes of central Florida, and the Okefenokee swamp in southern Georgia.

Prof. Reeser indicates that in spite of its hoarse bellow and the legends of its voraciousness handed down by the American negroes of long ago, the alligator is really a docile animal. In fact, it is said that in some southern sea-coast towns gators have been domesticated.

It has been a popular belief that pickaninny meat is a favorite diet of the alligator, but that it is not true, for a little negro boy can chase a gator anywhere. When a gator stretched out on a log sunning itself, out of one eye that it keeps open even while asleep, the approach of a little negro with a stick it takes a dive and stays under water until the shadow passes.

The American alligator is pronounced to be not as bad as it has been made out to be in story books, but, in fact, a meek and lowly freak of the water and marshy places. It is gradually becoming extinct, disappearing before the onward march of civilization, and especially because of the mad rush for its hide to make hand satchels, shoes, etc.

Prof. Reeser was aided in his hunt for alligator eggs by a Miami half breed down in Florida, who is known as the gator swamp merchant and is called Alligator Bill. It is said that when Bill is through coddling a gator the animal will follow him around like a dog.

HOMELESS BREAKFAST FOOD.

Shipped Around World and Back Because No One Wants It.

Seattle, Wash.—Upon a dock at Victoria there reposes 300 tons of pre-frozen, ready to serve breakfast food, which landed in Victoria a few days ago. It makes the trip of the battleship fleet through the straits look cheap.

Breakfast food has been a discount in Victoria ever since the arrival of the steamer Eir from the west coast of South America for Tacoma. Weighing little, the cereal filled a large part of the space in the Eir's hold. Since it has reposed on the Victoria wharf many a hungry Jim Dumps among the water front idlers has been converted into a Sunny Jim.

The homeless breakfast food was shipped in the first place from Montreal to England by men who hoped to find a market for it there. The English branch of their house failed to dispose of it, and it was sent round the Horn, with the idea of disposing of it to the battleship fleet. Uncle Sam's ships, however, had all the breakfast food they needed, and as a last resort the Montreal concern, which had no several thousand dollars in the venture, shipped the pre-digested cereal north on the Eir and unloaded it in Victoria, thus saving paying duty through entry into the United States.

RICHES ON STATE GROUNDS.

Finest Clay in Town Found on Guard Rifle Range.

Des Moines Ia.—The new National Guard camp ground, north of Des Moines, which the state bought recently has turned out to be almost as good as a gold mine.

Discovery has been made of a bank of blue clay that is said to be about the finest that has ever been seen in Iowa. Value has not been put on the deposit, for it has not been fully surveyed. The graders ran upon it while grading down one of the hills. It was found to be a solid hill of clay. It was so hard that it would not yield to shovel or pick, and the workmen had to take to dynamite to loosen it so that it could be handled at the point under grade. The depth and extent of the bank can only be guessed.

That it is of very great value is not doubted. It will be inspected by practical brick, tile, and pottery men soon, and an estimate made of it as soon as the extent of it is disclosed.

More than 100 horses and the equivalent of men are at work on the improvements of the camp ground. Gen. Thrift of the guard has returned from Chicago, where he made a large saving on investment of government funds in equipping the rifle range that is now being erected with fifty targets.

Heslery May Cost a Life.

Spokane, Wash.—His passion for "inde socks," the highly-colored, flamboyant kind, may cost Martin J. Maloney dearly, for the young man, who lives at Colfax, will probably have to have one of his feet amputated and may lose his life as the result of his liking for gay hosiery. Maloney has been confined to his bed for the last ten days suffering from blood poisoning in his feet, which, the physicians say, came from fading colors in his socks.

Agas Wines in Few Minutes.

St. Petersburg.—A new process for the aging of wines by the use of ozone, the invention of a young Russian scientist named Orchenikoff, was demonstrated in the presence of the director of the imperial vineyards and other interested persons. The claim is made that this process accomplished in a few minutes a maturing that ordinarily requires years.