

AMUSEMENTS.

Crawford Grand E. L. Martling, Manager

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15.

Fitz Webster, In that Musical Comedy Surprise.

A BREEZY TIME

Entirely rewritten and tuned up to date. Introducing five distinct novelties, including the DAGO SERENADE, FEMALE CLOWN, TENNIS QUARTETTE, THREE-LEGGED SAILOR, and a GRAND CAKE WALK.

Crawford Grand E. L. Martling, Manager AN EVENING OF MYSTERY.

Edward Maro

The Eminent Prestidigitator Tuesday Eve., Dec. 21st WICHITA LYCEUM.

No single admissions sold until evening of entertainment. Seats Reserved Saturday, Dec. 18, 9 a. m., Howe's Jewelry Store.

Gold Lettering Gold lettering on holiday presents on short notice at this office. Will do it while you wait.

Everybody will wish to read the "Christmas Annual," edited by the Ladies Aid Society of the First Presbyterian church.

Closing out Statuary. Martin's Art Store.

Every mother in Wichita will testify to Israel's ability in photographing children for original positions, etc.

Mrs. Toler's story in the "Christmas Annual" will be of special interest to girls.

A nice Christmas present from Martin's Art Store.

Rock Holders' Meeting. Wichita, Kansas, December 2, 1897.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Fourth National Bank of Wichita, Kansas, will be held at their banking house, No. 299 E. Douglas ave.

Not how cheap, but how good. Israel uses nothing but the best of material in his photo work and it will never fade.

After hearing some friends continually praising Chamberlain's Cough, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, Curtis Fleck of Anaheim, California, purchased a bottle of it for his own use.

Notice of Disolution. Notice is hereby given that the firm of Bentley & Ferguson has this day been dissolved.

Mrs. May Skinner Smith's quarterly story in the "Christmas Annual" will be read with much interest.

Scientific cooks give the use of cereal foods. Try Wheatling.

Wheatling makes bone, muscle and brain.

Ask your grocer for Wheatling. It is cheap, healthful and delicious.

Owing to the fact that "The Messiah" is soon to be given, Miss Clark's article will be especially timely.

Goods advertised in this newspaper are for sale in this town. You can get them without trouble if you refuse substitutes and press your demand for genuine articles.

The finest Costumes and Masque Faces in the city at 241 North Market.

The latest in Picture Frames and Art Novelties at Martin's Art Store.

The best way to Colorado is over the Santa Fe route. The fast train which leaves Wichita at 3:45 p. m., arrives at Colorado points the next morning.

A brightly written and comprehensive bird's-eye view of present day literature, by Dr. Fred L. Johnson, will be found in the "Christmas Annual."

Told in Fewest Words

The government was defeated yesterday when the chamber of deputies at The Hague by a vote of 42 to 41, refused to authorize the building of new warships.

In the football match at the Queen's club, London, yesterday, Oxford scored two tries and Cambridge nothing. The weather was beautiful and there was a large crowd present.

J. Waldere Kirk, who recently shot Richard Maldebaum in a hotel in New York City, was discharged from custody yesterday, Maldebaum failing to appear in court to prosecute the case.

Major Benjamin Butterworth, United States commissioner of patents, who has been seriously ill in Cleveland, Ohio, for weeks, has left for Thomasville, Ga., where he will remain until his health is fully restored.

Charles C. Brown, a veteran California sports fan, has fallen heir to an estate in New Orleans valued at \$100,000. The estate belonged to his sister, Fanny Hinckley Little, who died in New Orleans a little over a year ago.

William F. Bickel, vice president and cashier of the Minnesota Savings bank, which went down in the financial flurry of one year ago, has been found guilty of the charge of making away with funds belonging to the bank.

On complaint of H. T. Schwahn, president of the Columbia Aluminum company, St. Louis, a warrant was sworn out yesterday charging William F. Werns, president of the Guarantee Loan and Mortgage company, with embezzling \$17,000 from the former concern.

It is reported that James B. Haggin, the wealthy tycoon of California, and Mr. Amstutz's step-daughter, Miss Pearl Voorhies, of Versailles, Ky., will be married the latter part of the week. Miss Voorhies is handsome, 26 years old and a favorite in Kentucky's best social circles.

Yesterday afternoon, in view of hundreds of men in Green's big billiard hall, Chicago, A. J. Moore, formerly passenger agent at Denver of the Chicago and Alton, shot and instantly killed himself. Moore, it is said, was despondent over the loss of his position and money.

At a party at the residence of W. H. Catiff, near Jeffersonville, Ga., Tuesday night, a dispute arose between two men who were drinking and three men, Luther Catiff, Clarence Jones and a man named Griffin were killed, and Mrs. W. H. Catiff and Mary Perry were fatally injured.

The Greek government has requested a month's extension of the term fixed upon for ratifying the treaty of peace with Turkey. The members of the diplomatic corps at Constantinople are much surprised at the request and the Turkish officials declare it is unwarranted and unacceptable.

The Australian eleven in the cricket match with the visiting English team, which began on Monday last at Sydney, N. S. W., were all out yesterday in their first inning for 237 runs.

The Australian eleven in their second innings followed on with their second innings and at the close of play yesterday had 128 runs to their credit for one wicket down.

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OLD PAPYRI FOUND

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS EXHUMED FROM EGYPT'S SANDS.

Fragment of the Gospel of St. Matthew. An Original Poem by Sappho and Part of a Play by Menander Brought to Light at Oxyrhynchus. Which Proves a Veritable Treasure House of Old-Time Lore, Which It Will Take Years to Translate—Pieces of the Bible Nearly 1700 Years Old.

New York Dec. 15.—The Herald says: By far the oldest New Testament manuscript yet recovered has just been found in the desert sands of Egypt, together with portions of an original poem by Sappho and part of a play by Menander.

While excavating at Oxyrhynchus, in Egypt, during the last summer, B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt, of the Egypt Exploration Fund, unearthed a number of rolls of papyrus, that were immediately sent to Queen's College, Oxford, there to await their return and translation.

This work is now going on, and has just resulted in the astounding discovery that among the papyri are sheets containing nearly the whole of the first chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew.

This is the oldest and most important record of the New Testament ever brought to light. It carries the date of the writing of that portion of the Bible back to within one hundred and fifty years of when Christ Himself actually walked the earth. It is the greatest discovery of the kind that has ever been made.

At last the world has absolute proof that the Christians who lived during the Apostolic age had in their possession the same gospel that we use today.

The translators have also found that other rolls of the newly recovered papyri contain no less valuable writings than a leaf of the Acts of St. Paul and Thecla; portions of an original poem by Sappho and a number of lines of a play by Menander.

The story of the life of the religious and literary world is told in the following articles to the Herald by the Rev. Dr. Camden M. Coburn, James C. Cotton, M. A., and Mrs. Marie N. Buckman, the well known Biblical, literary and Egyptian scholars.

Rev. Camden M. Coburn writes: A leaf of the New Testament; the oldest leaf known to be in existence. The very words told us spell-bound. It seems almost incredible as I write it, but it is actually true that in this discovery we now possess a leaf of the New Testament between seventeen hundred and eighteen hundred years old.

Even more than this, I can state on the authority of Sir Edward Mounde Thompson, of the British Museum, the great authority on ancient manuscripts, that the papyrus from St. Matthew's Gospel contains the same abbreviations and other marks of age which he had previously noticed in the "Logia," and therefore it must be regarded as a leaf from a book which had been in use at least fifty years at the time when this copy was made.

Thus we are able to affirm, on the highest authority, that we now possess a leaf from the New Testament which was used in Egypt within the limits of two generations of the lifetime of St. John, and it proves to us also that the New Testament that was in use in those ancient days was the same as we have today, for, on the authority of Dr. W. M. Flinders Petrie, the director of the expedition, I can state that the text written upon this leaf is the same text as that which is written in our own Greek Testament.

Dr. Thompson says that as the papyrus shows the same contractions as the Logia, the same observations made concerning the Logia will also apply to it. But this gives us astonishing results, for it practically puts in our hands a leaf copied from the New Testament that was used in the days of Polycarp and by the noble body of confessors and martyrs who themselves may have listened to the preaching of St. John.

The importance of this discovery can be seen at once when I state that Dr. Thompson declares that while the manuscript was evidently written about 200 A. D., because of the contractions used and because of the form of the papyrus, "it would be a moderate computation to carry back the date of the composition of the book fifty years earlier, and thus to fix the latest limit in the middle of the second century.

What, then, is the appearance of this leaf, torn from a New Testament 1,700 years ago and which, because of its abbreviations, cannot have come from a work which had been well known for at least half a century? Does it bear any resemblance to a leaf torn from our New Testament? This is an important and far-reaching question, and I am glad that I am in a position to answer it, for I can say on the authority of Dr. Petrie that the most ancient leaf contains the same Greek text as that with which we are acquainted. That means that even the slight variation noticed in the Syriac Mount Sinai Gospels is not found in this oldest Greek New Testament manuscript. It is only one leaf—the first leaf in the book—but it proves that the Christians who lived within the lifetime of the apostolic age had in their possession the same Gospel which we have today!

I particularly desire to call attention to the new light which this discovery throws upon the Logia. Professor Harrook and all the other critics who have written upon these "Sayings of Jesus" have made much of the similarity of these "Sayings" to the Gospels, and in various ways. Some have thought they were mere echoes of the Gospel sentences, and others have been equally sure that they stood "behind the Gospels" and represented the lost literature of which the Gospels were a later "reduction," but by this present discovery we know now that at least St. Matthew's Gospel in book form, and written in a style which testified to a long and common use, was in the hands of these martyr Christians, who were also cherishing these "Sayings."

Does not this explain why all the "Sayings" are either new or striking variations of the Gospel words? The only "Saying" which is exactly identical with any Gospel saying is the first—and half of it is lost. I believe if we ever find the lost fragment, it also will vary from the Gospel record. Men who had the Gospel in their libraries only needed to copy in note books the new

Royal makes the food pure, wholesome and delicious.



sayings which aged men remembered hearing reported as the word of Jesus but which the evangelist had not mentioned.

MENANDER AND SAPPHO. James E. Cotton writes: The discovery of the Greek papyri in Egypt promises to reveal a new world to the classicist scholar and to all interested in primitive Christianity. No other depository keeps so carefully the secrets that have been entrusted to it as does the land of Egypt.

Up to the middle of the present century it may be said that the extent of Greek and Latin literature known to the modern world was identical with that known to the scholars of the Renaissance. No new author and no fresh book has come to light since the "Annals" of Tacitus were found, early in the sixteenth century.

Now, for the first time, we have before us a sufficient series of continuous lines to enable us to judge of Menander's style and plot. In antiquity, the fame of Menander overshadowed all his rivals. He was the foremost dramatist of the time, and his plays, the "New Comedy" as Aristophanes was of the "old comedy." The difference between the two is fundamental, and characteristic of a change in Greek political life.

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the ruins of houses of the Roman period, several large collections of papyrus.

But Tania lies in the marshy Delta, not in the sands of the desert, and unfortunately almost all the papyri had shared the same fate as those of Heracleum. The rolls and fragments were either rotted by water or calined by fire, so that practically nothing with Greek writing could be deciphered. Later on, however, he made a fortunate find of a roll of Greek papyrus at Hawara, under the head of a mummy, containing the greater part of the second book of the "Iliad," with interesting scholia, or notes.

The papyrus was rolled up as a pillow, upon which the head of its former owner rested. She was young and apparently beautiful, and her long silken hair fell in heavy tresses over the papyrus, hiding it from view. The inscription on her coffin was illegible, and we are alike ignorant of her name and her history. But there she lay, in her last long resting place, and buried with her were the papyrus leaves of the book she so dearly loved. That papyrus is now among the treasures of the Bodleian library at Oxford.

At Garob a still richer discovery was made. In an early Greek cemetery, where the dead had been buried in Egyptian style, Professor Petrie noticed that the mummy cases were composed of pieces of inscribed papyrus. On subsequent examinations these papyri were found to contain a considerable portion of the "Pharos" of Plato and fragments of the "Antiope," a lost play by Euripides. From the date records found with them it is certain that these classic texts could not have been written later than 250 B. C. and may be a century earlier. They are, therefore, by far the oldest manuscripts we possess of any Greek author.

But for years scholars have hoped that Egypt might yet restore to us the poems of Sappho or the plays of Menander. It has now done so, and we actually have in our hands five stanzas of the poem of Sappho, as well as a considerable portion of a play by Menander. The importance of this discovery can hardly be overestimated. Hitherto Menander, though the acknowledged father of modern comedy, has been little more than a name to us. Every one of his plays has perished, except for a certain number of isolated passages that have been preserved in quotations by grammarians and antiquarians. The total of these would amount to some hundreds of lines, not exceeding fifty from any single play. It is true that the Latin plays of Plautus and Terence consist to a very large extent of translations from Menander and other Greek comedians, but we have no means of knowing how far the translations were literal, or whether the charm of the original has not vanished in the process.

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