

THE GATE CITY PUBLISHED BY THE GATE CITY COMPANY

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MAY.

May is here, the world rejoices; Earth puts on her smiles to greet her; Grove and field lift up their voices; Leaf and flower come forth to meet her!

Happy May, blithesome May! Winter's reign has passed away!

Birds through every thicket calling, Wake the woods to sounds of gladness; Hark! the long drawn notes are falling,

Sad, but pleasant in their sadness. Happy May, blithesome May! Winter's reign has passed away!

—Polish Song.

The Sioux City Journal says Ida Tarbell writes in a mistressful manner.

A man of sixty-three and his son of twenty both courted the same Philadelphia girl and the older man won. The presumption is that he had "de mun."

A veracious chronicler vouches for a three month's old Missouri girl baby commencing to talk. If we see these things in the green tree what may we not expect in the dry?

A Virginia mob came very near lynching the umpire a few days ago for deciding against the home team on a close point. The great American game evidently is well under way at last.

An English visitor says he doesn't believe anybody can understand the language used by the bleacherites at a baseball game. This shows of course that the umpire gets mad wholly without cause.

No one is surprised that an alienist has testified that Captain Hains was insane when he slew W. E. Annis. From the alienist point of view we are all of us more or less "cracked," even when at our best.

Judge Moses Wright of Rome, Ga., said in his charge to a grand jury a few days ago: "The presumption is that the newspapers tell the truth." Greater value would attach to the compliment if it was more discriminating in character.

Senator Dolliver's attack on Senator Aldrich shows that the tariff still carries a good deal of dynamite, but the St. Louis Globe-Democrat recalls the conflict between these two leaders is not as volcanic as was that between President Cleveland and Senator Gorman on the same issue fifteen years ago.

Dr. J. Adams Allen is said to have given this advice to a class of graduates of Rush Medical College:

"Gentlemen, let the owl, be your model; look wise; say nothing; when you do hoot, hoot like h—!"

The Des Moines Tribune says this is what Senator Dolliver has been doing and that he is now at his best. Having determined to hoot, he has come fully up to the requirements.

A good deal has been said about the American invasion of Cuba since Spanish rule was overthrown, but the census figures show the presence of only 6,713 people who are natives of this country. Americans compose only about 2.9 per cent of the foreign population, and they number about one in 300 of the entire population.

The Vinton Eagle and the Dubuque Times are afraid that Senator Dolliver is a little "wobbly" on the tariff. The Cedar Rapids Republican thinks those papers will find that the senator has not changed his views at all on protection. It says:

"We have had many talks with the senator during the past ten years, or since the Dingley law was enacted and he has always talked substantially just as he spoke in the senate the other day. The fact that the senator may want a duty changed from 44 per cent to 40 per cent instead of to 48 per cent, that is downward rather than upward, does not mean that he has ceased to believe in the great principles of the protective tariff."

THE RISING TIDE OF DIVORCE.

Twenty years ago an investigation by the department of labor showed that 328,716 divorces had been granted in the United States between 1867 and 1886, and that divorces were increasing two and one-half times as fast as population. The recent census for 1887-1906 brings to light 945,625 divorces, and demonstrates that the movement constantly gains in velocity. At present probably one marriage in ten is broken and in some states the proportion may be as high as one in four. Forty years ago the broad contrast was between north and south; but the divorce rates of north and south have been converging, whereas those of east and west have diverged. The central states have two and one-half times the rate of the Atlantic states, while for the western states the proportion is three and one-half. Although the tide of divorce is rising the world over, nowhere is it so high, nowhere is it rising so fast, as in the United States. Our rate is twice that of Switzerland, three that of France, and five times that of Germany.

Professor Edward Alsworth Ross, who has made a careful study of the census figures, finds that they dispel many false impressions. It is often assumed that many couples separate precipitately before they have given marriage a fair trial; but the average interval before separation exceeds six and one-half years, and is not diminishing. Since more than half the couples lived together above four years, while in the majority of cases the duration of marriage exceeded seven years, Professor Ross argues that it would be rash to surmise that people are forming risky and unstable unions in full view of their easy dissolution. Nor is divorce usually sought in order to remarry. In Connecticut, during a period of years, the number of divorced persons married was about forty per cent of the number divorced in the same time. In Rhode Island, from 1889 to 1896, the proportion was only twenty-eight per cent. Remarriage is one of those cases in which, as Doctor Johnson put it, "hope triumphs over experience," and it is not at all certain that the rate for divorced persons much exceeds that for widows and widowers of the same age. Professor Ross concludes that the restrictions that many states are imposing on remarriage do not seem to affect appreciably the divorce rate.

The same authority holds that it is erroneous to suppose that the explanation and cure of the drift toward divorce is to be found in legislation. Twenty years ago Professor Wilcox, on the basis of the most rigid investigations, declared: "The immediate, direct and measurable influence of legislation is subsidiary, unimportant, almost imperceptible." Dr. Dike, the secretary of the National League for the Protection of the Family, said: "The direct influence of law laws in producing the great increase of divorce in the last forty years is relatively small." Moreover, the tendency of legislation for the last twenty years has been decidedly in the direction of greater stringency. Professor Ross goes on to say in a thoughtful article on "The Significance of Increasing Divorce," in the Century Magazine for May:

"The falling grip of the legal institution need not entail a corresponding abandonment of the hallowed ideal of marriage as a lifelong union. If the iron clamp be loosened, it does not follow that the silken cord is weaker. Although in thirty-eight years the resort to divorce has become three times as frequent, there is little to show that couples are taking the vows of wedlock with any other desire or expectation than union till death. Nor can we conclude that wronged spouses are less faithful than formerly to this ideal. The loveless couples of the 'good old times' appear to have been held together by public opinion, religious ordinance, ignorance of a remedy, the expense of divorce or the wife's economic helplessness, rather than by a heroic fidelity to an ideal.

"In nineteen cases out of twenty the marriage purports to be shattered by some flagrant wrong, such as adultery, cruelty, drunkenness, desertion, imprisonment for crime or neglect to provide. Nevertheless, the growth of divorce cannot be taken as a sure sign of increasing depravity on the part of husbands or wives. Often the 'cause' that figures in the record is a screen for some deep-seated irritant. Physicians declare that many marital troubles have their roots in the pathology of sex, and do not argue moral fault on the part of either spouse.

"Incessantly the factory plagues away the economic basis of the family. In the time of our grandmothers the home was the seat of a score of productive processes, and the ideal wife was the 'virtuous woman' celebrated by Solomon. She might not be a 'soulmate' to her husband, but she was a prop to the prosperity of the household. Now that the machine has captured most of the domestic processes and the middle-class home is sustained by the earnings of the husband, the wife, from a helpmate, has become a luxury. If now, there is a rift in the lute, the husband becomes aware of carrying a burden, and resents things that are overlooked when the wife is a true yokefellow.

"On the other hand, the capable, unencumbered woman, who finds her self doomed by social convention to be supported in idleness by a husband who can earn, perhaps, little more than she can, is also making a sacrifice—a sacrifice which she will chafe under in case the marriage fails to satisfy her affections.

"In a word, outside of the manual laboring class, the old economic frame-work of the family has largely fallen away, leaving more of the strain to come on the personal tie. Husband and wife are bound together by love, conscience, and affection, but very little by that profitable co-partnership

which once contributed so much to the stability of the home."

Professor Ross finds that the intellectual progress of women also explains the demand for matrimonial surgery. He says that today two ideals of the family are struggling for mastery—the old despotic family, of Roman origin and ecclesiastical sanction, based on the authority of the husband and the merging of the wife's legal personality in his, and the democratic family, of Germanic origin, based on the consenting and harmonious wills of two equals. The one goes naturally with pioneering, agriculture and warfare, which put men to the fore; the other goes with industry, peace and city life, which add to the consequence of women. Wherefore Professor Ross concludes that—

"In proportion as women escape from abject mental dependence on men and find a point of view of their own, they spurn patriarchal claims and expect marriage to be the union of equal wills. What with more girls than boys in the high schools, and half as many women as men in college, it is not surprising that women more and more enter marriage with a broader ideal of their own. Nevertheless, the men they wed—many of them—cherish the conviction that the husband is the rightful 'head' of the family. The resulting clash of ideals is none the less disastrous because it is only an incident of a transition process in social evolution."

It is found that the intellectual ferment of our time weakens the grasp of the social institution upon the innocent individual. The voice of authority, whether it appeals to precedent, to doctrine or to Holy Writ, is little heeded. No longer is a harsh requirement or a rigid arrangement used to hedge itself about with a divine sanction. Says the authority here quoted:

"The question, 'Cui bono?' is in the air. Any policy that crushes the individual or blocks his pursuit of happiness is challenged and obliged to produce the best of credentials. The feeling that 'marriage is for man, not man for marriage' is, along with heresy trials and contempt of the courts, an outcome of the reigning spirit of criticism. Now, as ever, lawmaker and theologian stand ready to bind on hapless persons heavy burdens and grievous to be-ladened to the callosities of the well-wed to the woe of the mis-matched passes all belief—but public sentiment is master today; and public sentiment, making the promotion of happiness as the end of human institutions, flinches from keeping the unhappy locked together when no demonstrable harm will result. Those who would turn this sentiment against divorce must appeal to sociology rather than to dogma."

It has been calculated that if the movement toward divorce retains its present velocity, in forty years one marriage in four will end by divorce, and in eighty years one marriage in two. No one who understands the vital role of the family in a healthy society anticipates any such deplorable outcome. Professor Ross mentions the following influences already in sight that are likely to moderate the headlong movement:

"The industrial and intellectual emancipation of women will, of course, complete itself, but the old despotic ideal of the family will die out of men's minds and cease to be a breeder of conjugal discord. The distrust of institutions can hardly go much further. It is likely that the public as it wins a deeper insight into the services of the family to society and to the race, will feel less sympathy with the whims that shatter weaknesses, and whims that shatter the individualism, too, is probably at the zenith of its power. The discussion of human relations we are likely to hear more of the radical note and more of the ethical note. In proportion as the emancipated are led to an ethical view of life, they will cease to regard marriage simply as a fair-weather arrangement with personal happiness as its constant view. They will recognize its inexorable demands for patience and self-control, for loyalty through sorrow and sickness, through misfortune and the aging years."

HEAR YE!

Hear, hear! O ye Nations, and hearing obey The cry from the past and the call of today! Earth wearies and wastes with her fresh life outpoured. The glut of the cannon, the spoil of the sword.

This was the hymn with which the international peace congress was opened in Chicago. The words should echo and re-echo throughout the world until heard and heeded in every land. War is butchery and is incompatible with present day recognition of the brotherhood of man.

RESULTS AT LEAVENWORTH.

Confronted with reduced revenues, the city of Leavenworth adopted the commission plan of local government, such as it is proposed to institute in Keokuk. Results to date have been highly satisfactory. The city attorney of Leavenworth is thus quoted in the Kansas City Star:

"He declares that city finances are already so much improved that public improvements are being made that were impossible under the old system, and the money comes from legitimate sources. Taxes have even been reduced. 'Rental property is so scarce,' says this official of Leavenworth, 'that if I had to move out of my house tomorrow I should have to go to a hotel.' One need not accept these claims, as put forth in a newspaper interview, at their full face value, for one must allow a bit for the natural tendency to advertise Leavenworth as the municipal paradise of the imperial west—yet it is worth noting that the commission form of city government there is making good."

Everywhere the commission form of city government has been tried results have been the same, and the conclusion is warranted that it is the

most satisfactory arrangement yet devised for the purpose. Its chief advantages are concentration of authority and responsibility, simplicity, efficiency, economy and honesty. These are prime requisites and entitled to great weight in determining the matter of a change. From all the information at hand Keokuk would do well to adopt the commission plan as soon as the matter can be brought to a vote.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

This is said to be the latest song hit in Atchison: "No Matter How Hungry a Horse Becomes, It Can Not Eat a Bit."

Lightning speed characterized the divorce court in Des Moines one day recently, five decrees being granted in twenty minutes.

The state treasury now contains \$1,018,826.44 which is more than \$200,000 greater than Treasurer Morrow had a year ago.

The last session of the Iowa legislature cost the treasury department \$137,080.47, which covers salaries, clerk hire and incidental expenses.

Governor Carroll has appointed former Adjutant General Byers chief of inspector to succeed Capt. Hugh Pickle, who held office fifteen years.

It is remarked by the Memphis Reveille that with lumbago in his back and a blind partisan senate on his neck, Governor Hadley of Missouri, has had his strenuous times lately.

A collar button was found in an Oklahoma man's appendix, showing, as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch points out, the futility of searching under the bureau instead of calling a surgeon.

According to George Fitch, a new wife, a new baby and a new automobile are three things which fill the possessor full of embarrassed pride when he takes them down the street for the first time.

Mayor Arthur of McKeesport, Pa., who is a police magistrate, has decided that men convicted of intoxication must sign papers permitting their wives to draw their salaries for one year. In the cases of unmarried men the next of kin will draw the salaries. The alternative is six months in the workhouse.

Optometrists of the state are making big plans for their state convention at Des Moines, May 18, 19 and 20. It will be the first convention since the legislature has recognized optometry as a regular profession. At this convention will be conducted a school or institute for optometrists to brush up for the examinations which most of them must take after July 4, in order to continue the practice of fitting glasses.

"One good way to end violations of liquor laws in mule cities," says the Cedar Rapids Republican, "is to make it the duty of every policeman to report to his chief any suspected violation of the laws. If that is made the duty of every policeman on his beat, there will soon be an end of such violations. Heretofore city policemen have gone on the theory that the enforcement of the liquor laws was something that did not concern them. They have regarded it as county and state business. But is it not the duty of an officer to see that all laws are enforced?"

The Democrat relates that a girl went into a store at Washington, Iowa, and bought a pair of stockings for fifty cents, although she hated to buy such cheap ones and she was somewhat sad at her lot in life that it did not justify her in buying higher priced ones. Presently a girl she knew came in and bought a pair of silk stockings at a high price and said to the merchant, "Papa will call and pay for them." But the merchant being wise, said, "All right, just leave the stockings until papa comes and pays for them and then he may bring them to you." And the first girl was not so sure whether she felt bad about her condition in life or not."

An Editor at Eighty-eight.

Sloux City Tribune: The Hon. D. M. Harris of Missouri Valley, is the patriarch of newspaper men in Iowa, and in a recent issue of his paper, the Missouri Valley Times, he gives a few words in explanation of why he is still with us. They are modestly uttered, but nevertheless filled with valuable information. He remembered his creator in the days of his youth and has kept right along at it and so, according to the promise, he is living long in "the land which the Lord thy God giveth."

This is the way Mr. Harris says it: We are asked, almost daily, how we manage to retain our good health and apparent youth to the good old age of eighty-eight years. We have no particular formula for extending life, but think it is more the goodness of God than any effort of ours. We recognize the law that gives the life of man to three score years and ten (70 years), but for cause may be extended.

We have always taken good care of No. 1. Have lived temperate, having been a member of every temperance organization from the Washingtonians way back in the '40s down to the Good Templars, so you see that excluded intoxicating liquor from our use. We neither smoke nor chew tobacco and for many years, just before retiring at night, we drink a bowl of hot lemonade and go to bed and sleep as sound-

ly as an innocent babe. We have never had a rheumatic pain, and while it may not be from our way of living, it is certainly worth a trial. We divide our time into three equal parts, going to bed at 10 p. m., and rising at 7 a. m., and attend to business during the balance of the time. We married at twenty years of age, raising ten children, all now living.

This is our life, good or bad as it may be, and if worthy of trial, try it. Remember, we do not say this manner of life will prolong your life, but we do say we have tried it, and here we are at eighty-eight years old, well and hearty, and willing to try it for forty years longer.

Forecasts and their Value.

Davenport Democrat: At irregular intervals somebody seeking notice rushes into print with an attack on the weather bureau of the United States. To be sure the weather bureau, like every other department of the government service, is subject to criticism by everybody whether the critic knows what he is talking about or not. The weather bureau is a human institution and will never, for that reason, be perfection in its working. The same may be said of the life saving service. Many ships go down and all on board is lost. But this is no reason for not trying to make that noble work more efficient. Many lives are annually saved, and the aggregate is a powerful argument for supporting the life savers.

It is conceded by foreigners that the weather bureau of the United States is the most extensive, the most valuable, and the most trustworthy in the world. Thousands upon thousands of Americans have come to understand and appreciate this fact, and to take advantage of the benefits furnished. All along the seaboard from Portland to Key West and to the Rio Grande; and on the Pacific from San Diego to Seattle the shipping interests have learned to respect and value the forecasts. The men of the sea heed the warnings so far as it is possible for them to do so; and they take advantage of the information given them by the fair weather flags.

All across the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico there are other large inland interests that find the study of the forecasts a matter of business. Of the hundred or more stations where forecasts are made there is not one but performs a public service. It gives the best information available to all who call, regardless of position, and this without pay. No government officials are more obliging than those connected with the weather service and it is within the truth to say that none are more often called upon. The various lines of business from the grower of crops to the carrier of freight, and those who deal in perishable articles, are all much concerned. There is not one of them but gives cheerful evidence of the advantage of the forecasts to him.

But perhaps the best recognition of the weather service is that made by the daily papers. Practically all of them devote valuable space to reports of weather conditions and records covering the United States. The Democrat usually gives half a column daily of its first page space, and it considers this one of the news features. All classes of readers study it and the weather has come to be something more, much more, than an idle remark.

From close observation readers have come to know not only what conditions have been for the past twenty-four hours, but what they are quite likely to be for the next twenty-four hours. Looking into the future is not an exact science, but more is known today than ever before. And more will be known tomorrow. The laws of nature so far as meteorology and all that is connected with it goes, will in time be better understood. Great advances have been made, and the record of correct forecasts is growing higher and higher. But it is not probable that the time will ever come when some dyspeptic may not want to show how he feels. And it is only natural to grant that he can find some pretext.

But there is a truth that most observant persons have come to recognize and put their faith in: from 85 to 90 per cent of all forecasts issued of weather, rain, temperature, frosts, and wind velocity are successful; only 10 to 15 per cent falling of verification. And a large percentage of the forecasts rated as failures are in good part successful. The wonder is that so many of them "make good."

The Ball Season in Keokuk.

Nauvo Independent: The base ball season opened in Keokuk yesterday. Many of the stores had a half holiday and there was a big parade. It was also the beginning of the non compos mentis season for a good proportion of Keokuk's population.

Another Deceived Wife.

Chicago Tribune: Family physician: "The trouble with your husband, madam, is that he has overdrawn his account at the bank of vitality."

Mrs. Gayman: "I felt sure he was deceiving me about something! Doctor, I give you my word, I never knew he had any account there!"

So.

Topeka Capital: We, have often wondered why the spectacle of a widower "going with" an old maid attracts so much attention and that of an old bachelor "going with" a widow so little.

Another Good Land Offering. Burlington Route. 320 ACRE MONDELL ACT—Select location for homesteading in Wyoming near Newcastle, Upton and Moorcroft. Plats on file. Write me. I conduct an excursion on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Only \$27.50 round trip homeseekers' excursion rate from Keokuk, Iowa. Correctly low rates from other points. No charge for my services. Write promptly to once about this new tract. The excursion of May 18 or in June will be in time for good selections.

Food Fads may come and go, but SHREDDED WHEAT goes on forever. It contains more real nutriment than meat or eggs and is more easily digested. Try it for breakfast.

Rich Cut Glass T. R. J. Ayres & Sons. Have just received a lot of rich Cut Glass in new designs and cuttings in all the different articles. Prices From \$1.50 to \$30.00. It is worth seeing, quality being the best and prices attractive. T. R. J. Ayres & Sons. 509 and 511 Main St. Keokuk, Iowa.

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