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Keokuk, Iowa, March 27, 1912

A LAUGHING CHORUS. Oh, such a commotion under the ground

When March called, "Ho, There! ho!" Such spreading of rootlets far and wide,

Such whispering to and fro; And, "Are you ready?" The snow drop asked,

"'Tis time to start you know." "Almost, my dear," the Scilla replied;

"I'll follow as soon as you go." Then "Ha! ha! ha!" a chorus came

Of laughter soft and low, From the millions of flowers under the ground—

Yes—millions—beginning to grow. "I'll promise my blossoms," the Crocus said,

"When I hear the bluebirds sing." And straight thereafter, Narcissus cried,

"My silver and gold I'll bring." "And ere they are dulled," another spoke,

"The Hyacinth bells shall ring." And the Violet only murmured, "I'm here"

And sweet grew the air of spring. Then, "Ha! ha! ha!" a chorus came

Of laughter soft and low, From the millions of flowers under the ground—

Yes—millions—beginning to grow. Oh, the pretty brave things! through the coldest days,

Imprisoned in walls of brown, They never lost heart though the blast shrieked loud,

And the sleet and the hail came down, But patiently each wrought her beautiful dress,

Or fashioned her beautiful crown; And now they are coming to brighten the world,

Still shadowed by winter's frown; And well may they cheerily laugh, "Ha! ha!"

In a chorus soft and low, The millions of flowers hid under the ground—

Yes—millions—beginning to grow. Be a booster all the time.

A little disfigured but still in the ring. Oh, you hat!

Always remember that spring in 1912 came in by the calendar route.

Governor Marshall of Indiana is the latest entry in the dark horse race.

The countess of Warwick pleads for pensions for mothers. Poor old dad, by all means.

New York chiropodists are dissatisfied with the law as it affects them. Probably want to get a toe hold on it.

It is going to require a lot of diplomacy to keep those seven governors from fighting over second place.

Still Woodrow Wilson is pretty sure to get the populist endorsement in the Nebraska presidential preference primary.

The Philadelphia Press hopes Colonel Bryan may live yet another fifty-two years. So do we and be a candidate every fourth year if he pleases.

Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller doubtless appreciate the kindness of their friend, Congressman Underwood, in planning to exempt them from taxation under the income tax bill.

A woman lecturer proposes that girls be taught how to flirt. Good suggestion. There may yet be a class for the purpose of instructing ducks in the art of swimming, also.

Captain Bernier, the Canadian Arctic explorer, is urging the Canadian government to send him north again this year on board the steamer Arctic.

It is intimated that he desires to visit the ground Peary went over to express an opinion as to whom the territory belongs.

Mrs. Wilson Woodrow, writer of fiction, recently was asked whether she was a college graduate. She replied that she was not, and that she had never gone to school even.

She was the youngest of eight children and was allowed to grow up pretty much as she liked.

Just before sailing from New York for the seat of suffragette war, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst left with her American admirers the sweet and happy thought: "She who makes one brickbat fly where none flew before is a benefactor of womankind."

Signor Santoro, the Italian crown prosecutor talked for fifty hours in summing up the case against the Camorristas at Viterbo. It was not a continuous performance, however, and is not in the immortal vocal records of William Vincent Allen of Nebraska and Senator La Follette of Wisconsin.

A press dispatch sent broadcast from Keokuk said that the power house of the Mississippi River Power Company here was carried down stream a hundred feet where it sank.

Considering that this power house, so far as completed, is a mass of solid concrete a third of a mile long, over a hundred feet wide, and about fifty feet high, set down twenty-five feet into the limestone bottom of the river, that dispatch tells of the biggest flood since Noah—or tells the biggest lie since Marco Polo.

In this part of the country it is chiefly a commentary on the veracity and reliability of some press associations.

"The illness of little Dr. Mary Walker," says the Brooklyn Eagle, "brings into prominence this advocate of women's rights who got into the enemy's country by wearing its clothes. How much better is this noiseless method than that of brick heaving, Dr. Mary Walker's reform if carried out by her sex would so revolutionize industry that every department would dwindle into a gent's furnishing goods shop. Before this could happen lawmakers would be forced by clamoring business to yield everything rather than go to such limits. A radical blow struck at millinery and dressmaking would carry the battle."

A LIFE SAVING DEVICE. With the spread of the use of electricity comes the knowledge of the devices in use to render this powerful servant of mankind harmless. High voltage is necessary to send electrical current great distances, but when it is delivered, so to speak, into the hands of the users, the voltage must be reduced in order that their hands may not be burned.

Wires carrying a voltage sufficient to kill a man cannot be safely used in a factory where they might come in contact with the employees. The device for effecting this reduction is called a transformer.

They are manufactured in various forms by the General Electric, Westinghouse and Crocker-Wheeler company, but are a specialty of the latter, who claim a high degree of efficiency for their particular transformers. The transformers manufactured vary greatly in efficiency on account of design and selection of materials.

HOW TO OBTAIN GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS. No doubt most people interested in useful reading matter will thank us for information, obtained through official sources, as to how public documents can be procured with least trouble and at trifling expense.

The idea that prevails most generally, that this class of literature may be secured through the courtesy of members of congress, is correct only in so slight a degree that it had best be corrected. There are nearly five hundred senators and representatives—hence an edition of several thousand copies, if distributed pro rata, gives to each only a few copies.

Some of these the senator or representative needs for reference, the few left over are soon exhausted and those constituents who then write for them are necessarily disappointed, through no fault of the public man whom they have addressed. Now, as a general proposition, the reader who is interested in a Government publication—serve himself best by addressing the official known as the superintendent of documents, government printing office, Washington, D. C., who is authorized to have reprinted any Government publication for which there is a demand, and sell the same, at cost, to all applicants.

He will mail price lists, divided by subjects, free upon application, and remittance can then, as required by law authorizing such sales, accompany order.

The Fontanelle Observer says that congress cannot be expected to accomplish much when most of the members are at home running for something.

IOWA PRESS COMMENT. The Sioux Rapids Republican-Press says that present indications are that Mr. Clarke will have a walkaway in the contest for the governorship nomination.

"Woodbury county is for Taft, but Woodbury is not the whole of the Eleventh district," says the Sheldon Sun. "It is a safe bet that the district will be for Cummins."

"North Dakota believes in the square deal," says the Onawa Sentinel. "Teddy should withdraw."

"Things are not going quite as he expected," says the Coon Rapids Enterprise, referring to Roosevelt. "The country is by no means going wild over him, but on the other hand he finds that his popularity is greatly on the wane and that he has the hardest kind of a fight on his hands. He will not be able to come back."

The Sac City Sun says it is not enthusiastically in favor of the Cummins presidential primary bill. The Sun believes that preference primaries should be required in every state, but it is not ready to see the President nominated or elected by direct popular vote until there is greater uniformity in the various states as to the qualifications of voters and the enforcement of laws protecting the ballot.

"The La Follette resurrection is one of the most remarkable in recent politics," says the Cedar Rapids Republican. "This little man, full of indignation and crochety notions was prostrated in the midst of his campaign. And while he was down many of his followers deserted him and went to Roosevelt. But he has come up and he is now contesting Roosevelt himself and that successfully."

The Boone News-Republican says that instead of waiting the call of the people, it is plainly the intention of the Roosevelt managers to go out and compel the people to call him if possible.

"It may be written down that Mr. Roosevelt will not be able to come back," says the Charles City Intelligencer.

The Creston Advertiser says that the blow which Roosevelt and his quintet of governors and his few other admirers received in North Dakota was a "good stiff punch," and the failure to carry the state has taken the wind out of their sails.

The Perry Chief says that Senator Kenyon is not as strong today in the eyes of the people as he was when he was an "unknown."

The Mason City Globe-Gazette says we all trust the people when they think the way we do.

"The Democrats of Iowa," says the Monticello Express, "unite with the insurgents in demanding the primary system of making nominations, and then they dodge the primary systems wherever they can. They know that its operation is farcical, and that it seldom brings out more electors than the caucus does."

"The admonition is plain," says the Nevada representative, referring to the North Dakota primary. "Let Taft be dropped; leave Roosevelt alone; nominate a Republican of real standing who has not yet been President of the United States; let the party be placed nor drawn too far by the glamour of a third term; let it choose as the successor of both Taft and Roosevelt some one different from and better than either. There are lots of such men in the Republican party."

"If the people of Iowa had a chance to express their choice of a Republican candidate at the polls, Cummins would win, five to one," says the Waterloo Courier.

St. Paul Dispatch: The worst blow ever aimed at the institution of matrimony has been struck by a Los Angeles, Cal., judge. He has ruled that a bride was justified in leaving her husband and applying for a divorce when she found that the things he had told her before marriage were untrue. It is difficult to picture what to expect, in view of that decision. If wives carry their rights to the limit, the American family, as it exists today will be practically wiped out. Of course, there may be a few unable to prove the falseness of the fairy tales poured out to them in the ante-nuptial days. But a very large majority would have no trouble. In most cases all that would be necessary would be to tell the stories in court and leave the rest to the jury.

It is bad enough to have a decision on the books as an avenue of escape to practically all the married women in the country. A still more serious feature is that there seems no hope of removing conditions. If absolute truthfulness is to be required by the courts as a condition precedent to matrimony, what hope do the men have? It is expecting too much to suppose he would have any success if obliged to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Thus not only is the American home of today tottering,

but there is small hope that there will be any tomorrow to take its place. That decision certainly should be first on the list of those in need of recalling.

Curiosities. I make a good speech, And nobody cheers me; I make a bad break And everyone hears me!

I write a good song, And nobody tries it; I turn out some trash, And everyone buys it!

I dance rather well, And nobody's boasting; I slip on the floor, And I'm in for a roasting!

I dress a la mode, And nobody truckles; I wear an old hat, And every one chuckles!

I work like a dog, And nobody praises; I slack up a bit, And I get the blue blazes!

I pile up the dough, And the world is no wiser; I give away cash, And they call me a miser!

I'm poor and I'm good, And nobody flatters; I'm rich and no worse, And they tear me to tatters!

I talk like the rest, I am called a good fellow; I deal in the truth, And they say I am yellow!

I bluster and swear, I could pass as a Quaker; I follow the church, And they call me a faker!

I do as they wish, And I'm on the level; I do as I please, I'm a son of the devil! —Charles Irvin Junkin in Puck.

Spring is Here. I know that it is spring, though I hear no robin sing, Though I see no jeweled flashing of the bluebird on the wing; I know that spring is here, though no laughing leaves appear, Though the snowflakes scurry swiftly through the chilly atmosphere.

Yet still 'tis spring, I know, though no dandelions blow, And the meadows still are sleeping 'neath their covering of snow; I even know 'tis spring, though no poets rise and sing, In a Hoosier dialectic roundelay made of "B'jing!"

No balmy southern breeze brings the humming of the bees, And no marvel-sweep of blossoms bursts upon the apple trees, Yet I know that spring has come, though the frogs are sleeping, dumb, And the fingers that would play upon the pipes of Pan are numb.

But this symptom never fails—every spring one's eye it halls, So I'll sing 'tis spring, although we're swept by fercest Arctic gales. Spring is with us; spring is here; in the daily prints appear Many wild, prophetic statements that a miners' strike is near. —Chicago Post.

A Real Treasure. After addressing a woman's cooking club a famous lecturer was besieged by the members, who questioned him about his own household and about his kitchen in particular. "Are you satisfied with your cook?" some one asked him. "Yes, indeed," was the reply. "Is she economical?" "Very."

"Can she bake pies and bread?" "The best in the land." "Is she neat about her work?" "As tidy as a pin and as attractive in appearance as one would care to see."

"How about her disposition?" "I think it is about perfect." "Hugh!" exclaimed one of the matrons, who had been having trouble with her cook. "It's a wonder you don't marry the girl."

With a satisfied smile the lecturer replied: "That's exactly what I did. My wife does her own cooking." —Youngstown Telegram.

A Story and a Lesson. Marshalltown Times-Republican: A little story is going the rounds which carries an important lesson to corn farmers. At the Iowa corn show one ear of corn on exhibition was an easy winner over all competitors. Shape, size and kernel, the judges placed it first. Some of them pronounced it the best ear ever exhibited at the Iowa show. But the germination test proved that it was utterly worthless as a seed ear. It had been frozen and the germ was dead. Not a kernel sprouted.

That's the story and the lesson. Enough said.

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