

The Conning Tower

Lines Inspired by the Construction of the Building on the Site of the New York Sun's Old Edifice.

Rat-a-tat-tat-a-tat-tat!
The riveters go like that.
The clock strikes zwölf; we're beside ourselves—
Rat-a-tat-tat-a-tat-tat!

Well, it looks as though we were about to retire, and on a vast competence. "I'll bet this ship against a cent," said Mr. Ford, Thursday, "that we have the boys out of the trenches by Christmas." Done and done, Mr. Ford. And if you fail to pay the bet we shall never cease to remind you of it. If we lose, we'll settle in our w. k. easy-come spirit.

LOCAL NEWS

Geo. Doran of here is supposed to go to England in a couple of weeks.

Indoor tennis is the order of the day these chilly afternoons, also skating.

Eddie Burns, Jr., wants it understood that he is a business man and not a tenor as this dept recently averred.

Geo. Gueph of London, Rumor hath it, wishes the war were at an end, also his cousin Wm. Hohenzollern.

Mont Glass will move into his new house next Tues., but Clare Briggs will not get into his for a few weeks yet.

Andrew Morgan Rockefeller Swope, Herb's new son, is doing finely. Herb said he couldn't name the child F. Adams Swope because there wouldn't be any endowment for him in that case.

Bob Benchley of Boston, Worcester, Watertown and Cambridge, Mass., is packing up his lures & household goods preparatory to coming to N. Y., where he will join the already talented staff of The N. Y. Tribune.

In his "Anthology of Magazine Verse for 1915" Mr. William Stanley Braithwaite tells why he does not include the Atlantic Monthly in his summary of the magazines. It is, he says, because the editor has persistently refused to supply, as all the other editors do, copies of the magazine for the purpose. And Mr. Braithwaite gets even by spelling him Ellery Sidgwick.

Berton Braley eludes the proofroom again. The best graphic section in the universe (adv't) calls him Berton Braley.

THE STUDY HOUR.

Started by Rev. "The Study Hour," by Flaccus and Baron Ireland, is the contribution that won the 1913 watch offered for that year's best contribution.

A blue eyed lad was seated upon his father's knee;
With an open book before him he was studying history.
He read of men who saved this land with doughty hearts and blades—
"Was Montgomery's American History for the Elementary Grades."
"Dear father," said the manly lad, "I've studied long in vain,
But somehow I can't get the stuff into my little brain."
The father sadly shook his head and brushed a tear away,
And then unto this noble youth these words to him did say:

CHORUS.
"George Washington was the Father of his Country,
Which now has become a very prominent nation;
Abraham Lincoln was quite celebrated—
He wrote the Emancipation Proclamation.
Alexander Hamilton wrote the Federalist.
A paper which was down on crooks and graft.
This country has had twenty-seven presidents,
And the present one is William Howard Taft."

Next night again our hero was on his father's knee,
With another open volume studying geography.
He read of many a sea and lake, of many a hill and valley—
"Was the Beginner's Geography published by Rand, McNally."
"Dear father," said the sturdy son, "I've studied hard and long,
But somehow I can't learn these things unless I learn them wrong."
The father seemed discouraged, but soon he did take heart;
And then unto this eager boy responded thus in part:

CHORUS.
"This land was found by Christopher Columbus;
Bismarck is the capital of North Dakota;
Tobacco, cotton and rice are grown in Georgia;
Minneapolis is the metropolis of Minnesota.
This earth is round and turns upon its axis;
An isthmus is a narrow neck of land;
Vermont is bounded on the north by Canada,
And a desert is entirely made of sand."

Not since King Cophetua's celebrated nuptials has anything so hit our sense of contrasting values as the wedding last week, in Norfolk, N. Y., of Miss Marion Castle to Mr. Hermie Shanty.

HOW DO YOU THINK OF THOSE THINGS?

A ponderous thought has evolved in my brain,
A thought to the brain so well mated;
I thought that perhaps a tall, thin, spotted Jane
Might truly be called elongated.

The trouble with the Yale football team is that it was composed of too many—to borrow another from T. R.'s thesaurus—Byzantine logothetes.

THE FEAR-COMPELLING BRICK.

"What is your favorite kind of picture?" the cross-examiner continued.

"I like a picture that tells a simple, straightforward story. I do not think the story should be subtitled to the pictorial end. I like comedy pictures, but I don't like the outside-of-the-head-of-comedy. I enjoy Charles Chaplin. To me there is a note of pathos about him that appeals strongly."—From a Times interview with Mary Pickford.

O, not for me the childish farce of Hamlet,
Nor crude, untutored art of Juliet;
No depths I find in shallow, simple Shakespeare,
And doleful dolls with which his stage is set;
No Booth nor Keen nor Bernhardt,
I put them by with stern heart
And humbly seek to learn Art
In the paths that will stick
To the weeping tears of sadness for the dumb but feeling brick,
And the silent, subtle pathos of the solid, hearty kick.

What use have I for dramatic clap-trap
Or simply sweet but false romance?
Why cling to shelf-worn tragedies and lovers,
Or call a Lear to hinder Art's advance?
No hero, whole heart bringing
No troubador-tune singing
No fatal arrow winging
In the drama which I pick;
But the poignant pang of passion in the swiftly heaved brick
And the soul-deep haunting heart-throb in the solid, hearty kick.

"Each morning," writes Belle, "except Monday, I buy The Tribune. I read the headlines on the first page, then turn to the Tower, and read it from top to base. There ends my newspaper reading. What's wrong with me?" Nothing, Belle. Yours isn't a contagious malady.

Even the linotyper and the proofreader will have their little forer joy. In "The Cornell Alumni News" it appears that "President White drove to Homer last Saturday in his motor car."

The Norwegian Parliament has decided not to award the Nobel Peace prize this year.

Postponed, you might say, on account of darkness.

THEATRE PARTIES FOR DEBUTANTES

Dinners and Trips to Shows Follow Home Receptions.

FOUR GIRLS MAKE BOW TO SOCIETY

They Were Miss Riker, Miss Palmer, Miss Colgate and Miss Kerr.

Mrs. Samuel Riker gave a reception yesterday afternoon at her home, 204 Madison Avenue, to introduce her daughter, Miss Frances L. Riker and her niece, Miss Constance L. Chappell, daughter of Dr. Walter F. Chappell.

Assisting in receiving were Miss Nathalie W. Wood, Miss Helen Alexander, Miss Geraldine Adee, Miss Ethel Carter, Miss Madeleine Carey, Miss Marion Carey Dinsmore, Miss Mary Harbison, Miss Margaret Busk, Miss Isabel Stettinius, Miss Angelina Knech, Miss Dorothy Greer, Miss Virginia Kneeland, Miss Gertrude Geer, Miss Charlotte Riker, Miss Edith Farr and Miss Charlotte Strong. A dinner and theatre party followed. The extra guests were James M. Beck, Jr., Amory Haskell, Edward Le Roy, James Trask, Lawrence Dowd, John Potter, Robert C. Myles, Jr., Joseph B. Busk, C. Maury Jones, Reuel Kimball, Shelton and Barlow Farr, Raymond Hoagland, William Thompson, Allan MacDougal, William Preston, Arthur Du Bois and Alrick H. Mann, Jr.

Mrs. Nicholas F. Palmer gave a reception yesterday afternoon at her house, 992 Fifth Avenue, to introduce her granddaughter, Miss Lillian Palmer, the debutante daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Quintard Palmer. In the receiving line were Miss Frances Ballard, Miss Margaret Thompson, Miss Helen Barrett, Miss Marion Perry, Miss Josephine Bedie, Miss Caroline Dorsett, Miss Hope Williams, Miss Helen Porter, Miss Jeanette Blake and Miss Grace Colgate. Mr. and Mrs. Julius S. Walsh, of St. Louis, gave a dinner for the debutante, the receiving party and a few men. Later they took their guests to the Hippodrome. The men were Horace Hotchkiss, Coleman McGovern, Dean Klafleisch, Christopher Greer, Bache Brown, Thomas and Albert Johnson, Coster Steers, Frederick Cunningham and Henry C. Steers, Jr.

Mrs. Craig Colgate gave a reception yesterday afternoon at her home, 305 West Seventy-sixth Street, to introduce her daughter, Miss Grace Colgate. In the receiving line were the debutante's sisters, Mrs. Stanley W. Rombough and Miss Florence Colgate; her cousin, Miss Florence Colgate, of Cambridge; Miss Grace Colgate, Princeton; Miss Marie Thayer and Miss Elizabeth Elliot, of Cambridge, Mass.; Miss Elizabeth Cushman, of Albany; Miss Elizabeth Phelps, of Birmingham; N. Y.; Miss Norma Trimm, of Troy; Miss Hope Colgate, Miss Genevieve Hodge, Miss Elizabeth Jennings, Miss Charlotte Platt, Miss Katherine Oleott and Miss Alice Baldwin, of this city. A dinner followed, and afterwards a receiving party and a few men were taken to the Harris Theatre.

Mrs. John Clapperton Kerr introduced her daughter, Miss Helen Culver Kerr, at a reception yesterday afternoon at her home, 135 Central Park West. Assisting in receiving were Mrs. James L. Morgan, Miss Beatrice Kelley, Miss Constance Ashley, Miss Clara Hicks Dorsett, Miss Josephine Bedie, Miss Isabel S. Yeomans, Miss Eleanor Margaret Greene, Miss Jeannette Blake, Miss Geraldine Condit Hall, Miss Amy Jennings, Miss Katherine Lyon and Miss Mabel Alker, all of Manhattan; Miss Lois Grace Smith, Miss Madeleine Hallock, Miss Constance Gray, Miss Elizabeth Haight, Miss Charlotte Edwards Hibbard and Miss Mary O'Brien Polak, of Brooklyn; Miss Frances Phillips and Miss Kathleen Moses, of Washington; Miss Shelby Johnson, of Baltimore, and Miss Jean Forrest, of Chicago.

At the tea table were Mrs. Walter Charles Bettinson, Mrs. Ormi Ford Hibbard, Mrs. A. Hatfield Mrs. Glenwood Reeve Butler and Miss Emily Bushmore. A dinner followed after which the guests were taken to the Hudson Theatre.

450 ENTRIES FOR BENCH SHOW

First Annual Affair of Special Relief Society Opens to-morrow.

The first annual bench show of the Special Relief Society will open at the Hotel Biltmore to-morrow morning. The entry list, which will close at 11 a. m. to-morrow, includes more than 450 dogs. Many special prizes have been offered, besides \$500 in gold and cups to be distributed among the regular classes.

Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander is president of the show; Mrs. William C. Foster, secretary, and Mrs. Vivian Spencer, treasurer.

Among the exhibitors are Miss Marian Kennedy, Miss Mercedes Crimmins, Mrs. Payne Whitney, Miss Joan Whitney, Mrs. Frederick Nielson, Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer, Mrs. Harry Felham Robbins, Mrs. Hugh C. Jennings, Mrs. Harry La Montagne, Mrs. Hamilton Wilkes Cary, Mrs. Frederick W. Rhinelander, Mrs. T. J. Oakley Rhinelander, Mrs. Stuart Duncan, Mrs. Thornton T. Hill, Mrs. Haley Fliske, Mrs. George H. Pell, Mrs. Jerome Bonaparte, Mrs. Palmer Campbell, Miss Eleanor M. Mellen, Mrs. H. L. Mopes, Mrs. George E. Cron, Mrs. C. Davies Talbot, Mrs. W. N. Hoffman and Mrs. H. McK. Fultz.

ACADEMY PRIZES AWARDED

C. W. Hawthorne Gets \$1,000 at the Winter Exhibition.

The National Academy of Design announced yesterday the award of prizes in the winter exhibition of the organization. The Altman prize of \$1,000, together with the Isidor medal, was bestowed upon Charles W. Hawthorne, National Academy.

Paul Dougherty, National Academy, was awarded the Carnegie prize of \$500. The second Altman prize of \$500 went to Daniel Garber, National Academy. Cecilia Beaux, National Academy, won the Thomas B. Proctor prize of \$200, and Paul Herzel, National Academy, was awarded the Helen Foster Barnett prize of \$200.

CALVÉ'S VOICE TO AID SOLDIERS.



Mme. Emma Calvé, French soprano, who is to sing at a benefit for her country's defenders at the Metropolitan Opera House on January 4, under the auspices of the Vacation Committee.

FLOTOW'S 'MARTHA' AT METROPOLITAN WABANAKI SCHOOL WOODCRAFT'S SEAT

Caruso, Hempel and Ober Share in Triumph as Old Opera Is Sung Again.

Flotow's opera, "Martha," was performed at the Metropolitan Opera House yesterday afternoon. A few years ago there would have been nothing novel about its production. Then it was the "ever popular Martha" and comment would have stopped at that. Yesterday old operagoers were met with the questions: "Where did you hear it last? When was it that Castle-mary died between the acts?" As a matter of fact, the latter tragical occurrence took place on February 10, 1897, but the history of the opera should not have been seriously affected thereby, because the audience never realized the occurrence. It was only the stage people who were aware of the fact. Modern journalism, not to say the modern system of publicity, demands that such things be recorded year after year. The record is accordingly resting to while it is much more interesting to read that Flotow's tuneful opera was sung to the delight of a houseful of people; that because of the loveliness of its melody nobody stopped to ask whether Mme. Hempel or Mr. Ober had a German or an Italian or a French conception of the music which was written by a German for Paris.

Caruso was the Lionel. We have laughed at him in the character because of his wig and gloves. There was no chance for laughter yesterday because he made all the old music sound as beautiful as it is. When he united his voice with Mme. Hempel's in "The Last Rose of Summer" (sung twice last week) an appreciative public demanded it there was nobody in the crowded house who was not willing to concede demands and musical beauty had been met.

There have been many performances of Flotow's opera at the Metropolitan; we cannot recall any so uniformly successful; even though the admirable Miss Ober made us recognize more than we wanted to that Flotow and his collaborators were responsible for the fact that the opera which we always think of as English, or rather English-French, or Italian, least of all German.

This was the cast:

Lady Harriet..... Felice Hempe
Mrs. Ober..... Mirella Knech
Miss Ober..... Mirella Knech
Plunkett..... Mirella Knech
The Sheriff..... Mirella Knech
A Servant..... Mirella Knech
Three Maids..... Mirella Knech

200 CHILDREN WIN PRIZES

Awards Made at Wanamaker's in Fourth Christmas Drawing Contest.

In the fourth annual Christmas drawing competition for school children, held recently at Wanamaker's, 15,188 children entered drawings, and 200 prizes were given. The 300 best drawings brought "honorable mention" and bronze medals. District supervisors of the schools were the judges.

Most attention was attracted by the work of the youngest children, three, four and five years old, and by the more finished products of the fifteen-year-olds. The prizes included umbrellas, pieces of jewelry, tables, baby carriages and the like.

Beatrice Cuming, twelve, of 1109 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, carried off the year's honors, for her first prize this year was the third she has obtained in the annual competition. She received a gold bracelet, while the auditorium, its 1,300 seats filled with children and parents, rang with applause.

OPERA AIDS HOSPITAL

"Madama Butterfly" at the Metropolitan Nets Large Sum.

The Italian Hospital benefit last night at the Metropolitan Opera House netted the hospital several thousand dollars. The opera was "Madama Butterfly," with Mme. Luisa Villani in the title part for the first time in New York. Mme. Villani made a very creditable showing, and sang the music with clear voice. Her husband, Mr. Martignelli, Mr. Scott, M. Perini and Miss Egner were also in the cast. M. Palocco conducted.

RAPS PACIFISTS AND WAR FIENDS

Gridiron Club Satirizes Bryan; Sing Praises of Wilson.

T. R. WOULD FORM GAS BOMB BRIGADE

Bonbon Army in Mutiny After Girls' School Seizes Chewing Gum.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Peace and pro-peace advocates alike came in for a raking fire of jest at the winter dinner of the Gridiron Club to-night. At the close the preparedness ranks appeared the stronger, but their casualties from verbal shrapnel were almost as heavy as those of the pacifists.

President Wilson, members of the Cabinet, Senators, Representatives and men prominent in public life from many parts of the country were among the club's guests. The chorus of the song introducing the President follows:

We take our stand with you for the red, white and blue.
We're the just plain Americans, proud of the name.
We're the just plain Americans, proud of the name.
We're the just plain Americans, proud of the name.
We'll stand firm with you for the red, white and blue.

Bryan in Stellar Roles.

A figure representing William Jennings Bryan was prominent in the evening's entertainment. He bobbed up in three acts, always in a stellar role.

"The Saccharine Soldier," perhaps the liveliest of all the sketches, brought the former Secretary of State to the fore as the leader of a band of soldiers armed with marshmallows, bonbons and other candies, and exhibited as relics of a barbaric age. Among the officers were General Gumdrop, Colonel Caramel, Major Marshmallow, Captain Candy and others bearing names of confections. The soldiers' "weapons were huge red, white and blue candy canes, which they waved quite recklessly.

Announcement of the loss of all of the army's chewing gum to a girl's school and the destruction of two wagonloads of Chautauqua contracts caused great distress in the camp. Mr. Bryan then obliged with "Goodby, Chief, I'm Through." Here is the chorus:

Goodby, chief, I'm through.
I say goodbye to you.
With much regret I say
I'll leave the nation.
With better and brighter
So I hit a good lead.
I'm through, chief, I'm through.
I'm through, chief, I'm through.

Sing Preparedness Chorus.

As Mr. Bryan finished singing General Gumdrop broke out in "In Days of Old, When Knights Were Bold," and the entire company mutinied. The skit closed with the singing of a strictly preparedness chorus.

The Gridiron Rookies' sketch brought out Colonel Roosevelt, Harvey, Watterston and House and Secretary Garrison, General Leonard Wood, Mayor John Purroy Mitchel of New York, Dudley Field Malone, of New York, Collector of Customs; Representative Augustus P. Gardner, of Massachusetts; Oswald G. Villard, of New York; Mr. Bryan and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., as candidates for the army. Scarcely had the squad assembled, when Colonel Roosevelt leaped forward and began to assail those who are trying to "Chinify America." As the examination for candidates proceeded Colonel Roosevelt was asked if he desired to join the cavalry.

"I want to organize a gas bomb brigade," he replied.

"Everything, why, I did one at Plattsburg," he almost killed Leonard Wood.

Gardner in Scout Attire.

Mr. Gardner, clad only in a shirt and a barrel, rushed in, complaining that Secretaries Daniels and Garrison had annulled his appointment as Scoutmaster. Secretary Garrison, under examination, stated that his idea of a hero was a man who stood on the adjutant's list and permitted the adjutant to shoot speeches at him. Colonel Watterston declared his belief that preparedness just now is a good thing, because it will demonstrate that the Gridiron House was assigned to the Household Cavalry. Dudley Field Malone went to the Boy Scouts.

To prove that newspaper men in Washington are not handed information on a silver platter, "four exhibits" of raw material, with whom the reporters have to work—Mr. Bryan, Secretary Redfield, Senator James Hamilton Lewis and Secretary Tumulty—were presented in a sketch. Mr. Bryan had had much news, but he was keeping it for his own paper. Secretary Redfield entered a general denial. Senator Lewis uttered many words, but not one for quotation. Secretary Tumulty confined himself to anecdotes without news value, chiefly concerning old days in New Jersey.

Senate Adopts Cloture Rule.

A cloture rule, designed to affect only the Senate, was adopted by the Senate, 94 to 2, by a mock Senate. A suffragist, who appeared to investigate cloture, fled when he heard that it limited the Cloture, which was represented by a human figure, eventually was "talked to death" and carried out.

Besides the executive officers, Senators Cummins, Borah, Sherman, James Penrose and Oliver; Representatives Cannon and Mann, of Illinois; Gardner, of Massachusetts; Stevens, of Minnesota; Rear Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations, U. S. N.; Major General Scott, chief of staff of the general staff, a member of the naval advisory board, and David Belasco, of New York, were among the widely known guests.

The club elected Louis W. Strayer, of "The Pittsburgh Dispatch," as its president and Ira E. Bennett, of "The Washington Post," as vice-president.

MISS SOVEREIGN IN RECITAL

Songs by Schubert, Loewe and Brahms Sung in Aeolian Hall.

Miss Alice Sovereign, who is not unknown to local connoisseurs, gave a song recital last night in Aeolian Hall before a large audience. Miss Sovereign possesses a real contralto voice of ample volume, and much variety. Her repertoire, which included a variety of expression, a lack which is especially irritating because of the singer's natural endowment. On her programme were songs by Secchi, Marie Antoinette, Schubert, Loewe, Brahms and a group of folk-songs.

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VASSAR TO HAVE BLANKENBURG RAPS BIRD SANCTUARY POLITICAL GRAFT

Nature Study Club Starts Campaign to Draw All, Except English Sparrows, to Campus.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Dec. 11.—All kinds of birds, with the sole exception of the English sparrow, will hereafter receive a most cordial welcome on the Vassar campus and an invitation to stay as long as possible. The students of Vassar College are aiming to make the campus a "bird sanctuary," modeled after the idea in Meriden, N. H. For this purpose an organization has just started a movement of this kind, known as "The Vassar College Bird Club."

Students, faculty, and even President MacCracken, are enthusiastic to start a campaign to attract and protect wild birds. They hope that the residents of the nearby village of Arlington will cooperate. Plans are now going on to have the children in the schools make bird boxes for the Vassar campus.

Miss Anne Writting, '16, who is head of the nature study club at Vassar, says: "We are the first college at Vassar, which adds the Hanover Bird Club, to start a movement of this kind. We hope that the Vassar bird sanctuary will become a model for other college campuses."

As the birds are expected to have window boxes on all the college dormitories, where birds can get food. We are also going to have nesting boxes and other devices to protect birds, such as they have at Meriden, N. H.

Growing interest at Vassar in attracting wild birds is due largely to a lecture by Ernest Harold Baynes to the nature study club.

COUNT TO WED MISS SWIFT

Packer Announces Daughter's Engagement to James Minotto, of New York.

Chicago, Dec. 11.—Miss Ida May Swift, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Swift, is to be married to Count James Minotto next month. Count Minotto has charge of the South American business of the Guaranty Trust Company, New York. His family estate is in Venice, where he lives.

Mr. Swift, who is president of Swift & Co., packers, announced the engagement to-day. Count Minotto is at present in Chicago. He became engaged to Miss Swift two years ago.

Miss Swift, who made her debut four years ago, first met the count two years ago in New York. She has taken a leading part in the affairs of the younger social set.

'MESSIAH' TICKETS FREE

Columbia Chorus to Sing on December 20.

The Columbia University Chorus, with Professor Paul Henry Hall as conductor, will give "The Messiah" at Carnegie Hall on December 20, under the auspices of the Extension Teaching Department. The soloists at the concert will be Marie Stoddard, Gladys Buchanan, Scott, Dan Reddick and Robert Matland.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, it has been found possible to distribute free tickets for the concert to the students and officers of the university.

VIOLINIST AIDS WAR VICTIMS

Elman's Concert Nets \$8,000 for Jewish Sufferers.

Mischa Elman, the Russian violinist, gave a concert yesterday afternoon for the benefit of the Jewish war sufferers. Carnegie Hall being crowded, with part of the audience banked upon the stage in tiers of seats. Mr. Elman played, among other things, the Lalo "Symphonie Espagnole" and the Wieniawski "Waltz Fantaisie."

The concert realized about \$8,000, all of which will be applied to the fund for Jewish relief.

OBITUARY.

EDWARD T. TAGGART.

Edward T. Taggart, Deputy Tax Commissioner, and for the last twenty-five years in charge of the personal property tax bureau, died at his home in New Rochelle yesterday. Mr. Taggart before taking charge of the personal property tax bureau was secretary to ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt. Mr. Taggart was born at his office on Wednesday and went home. He was formerly a newspaper man, and worked on the old "Mail and Express" here. He was seventy-four years old, and leaves a son and daughter.

JOHN L. STREEVER.

John Lansing Streever, an electrical engineer, died yesterday morning at his home, 153 Ninth Street, Long Island City. For twelve years he was secretary of the United Civic Associations of Queens. Recently he became identified with the German-American Alliance, opposed to the shipment of munitions abroad. He leaves a wife and four children.

DR. JEREMIAH E. SAYRE.

Red Bank, N. J., Dec. 11.—Dr. Jeremiah E. Sayre, for thirty-five years a physician here, died this morning at his home, in Wallace Street. He had been ill for three years. He was a member of many fraternal organizations. He was born at Cape May sixty-three years ago. He leaves three children.

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