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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1912.

Albert T. Patrick.

For sheer perseverance, for a cast-iron system, and nerves as tough as the tackleage of a ship, Albert T. Patrick, the New York lawyer, who was pardoned by Gov. Dix as a Thanksgiving gift, has no equal in this or any other country, as far as we know. What that man has gone through, how, from his "death cell" at Sing Sing, he has fought courts, juries, prosecutors, and even the Governor himself (when he declined to accept executive clemency in the shape of a commutation of his death sentence to imprisonment for life), would make excellent reading, and would fill a book. We are almost persuaded that Arthur Train, the noted ex-attorney criminalogist and writer, will not be long in presenting a story based upon the Patrick cause celebre to the public.

This pardon disposes of one of the most curious cases of the criminal records. Patrick was convicted of the murder of his aged and decrepit client, a Texas millionaire by the name of Rice. The evidence was not very clear as to whether the supposed victim died of suffocation by chloroform, or whether his death was due to the infirmity of which he was the victim. The principal witness for the State, the dead man's valet, who was alleged to have administered the fatal drug, disappeared after the trial and could not be found, though searched for all over the country. It was supposed that he, in turn, also had become a victim of foul play.

The strongest proof against Mr. Patrick was that of motive. He had drawn his client's will some time before his death and was a beneficiary under it for a large sum. He was sentenced to the electric chair, and for a number of years was kept in the "death house" at Sing Sing, pending the hearing of numerous appeals and motions for new trials, all of which he argued in person before the New York courts.

On the intervention of prominent men (Mark Twain was one of them) and of leading physicians, who insisted that owing to the medico-legal aspect of the case Patrick could not have been guilty, the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Patrick declined to accept this, demanding either freedom or death in one of the most remarkable letters ever penned to any Governor from a "death cell," wherein he threatened to take the case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

That letter was written in December, 1900, and now, after six years, his pardon at last has come to him. Whatever one may think of the case, credit is emphatically due to the man for his consistency in maintaining his innocence, but above all for his persistency in establishing it against such overwhelming odds. It was his knowledge of law and legal procedure that saved his life, that got him his freedom after a decade of imprisonment and nerve-racking anxiety. But his knowledge would have availed him nothing had he not been able to back it up by a most remarkable will power and fortitude.

The murder of Rice thus is another in the long list of New York mysteries that go unavenged.

Mr. Hitchcock's Surprise.

The Postmaster General makes the astounding statement that during the fiscal year which ended June 30 last the Post-office Department would have had a surplus of more than a million dollars, instead of a deficit of $1,781,000, if it had not been for the political material of the pre-convention campaign transmitted free through the mails. Mr. Hitchcock asserts that the postage on these political documents would have amounted in round sums to $3,250,000, but that it does not include the political letter mail transmitted free during the same period, of which there was a vast amount.

Well, here is a poser. Using the people's money to aid in furthering this or that would-be candidate's ambitious designs through a privilege granted members of Congress, &c., for official communications! The abuse of this franking privilege is one of our evils that has been discussed publicly for years; still there never has been any evidence that either party has had more than a mild intention of seriously attempting to remedy it.

Public opinion would have made quick work of this abuse had the public known to what unwarranted extent this privilege was being taken advantage of. And we doubt not that public opinion, now that the Postmaster General has spoken, will put a stop to this gross waste of the public money.

The one way to make an end of the franking privilege is to abolish it. There is no reason for it, and as long as it exists it will be abused. Genuine "official business" will cost just as much for transmission, whether it is stamped or franked. The "frank" compels the post-office to bear part of the expenses of all the other departments as well as the extravagance of Congress. Last year the total amount of the franked mail would have required the enormous total of $20,000,000 in postage. If the letters had been stamped in the regular way, what a vast difference it would have made in the Post-office Department showing, while divided among all the other departments who used the "frank" the difference would have been noticeable but little, if at all. This is plain. For if each department would have had to pay for this mail only a fraction of what was transmitted would have been sent out, certainly not enough to foot up $20,000,000. Much of the people's money thus would have been saved.

Here is a chance for genuine reform!

Bankers and the "Blue Sky" Law.

State, instead of Federal, regulation of big business was advocated by the Investment Bankers' Association at their last week's session in New York, when they went on record favoring the enactment of the so-called "Blue Sky" laws in their various States.

This law, which exists at present only in Kansas—the home of all radical reform legislation—is an act by which the State endeavors to protect its citizens from the class of capitalists that would capitalize the sky even, and collect money on the shares issued on the scheme. In Kansas it requires the approval of the banking commissioner before a series of securities may be offered, as well as his judgment that they would yield a fair return on the cash invested.

Only a few short years ago such a proposal would have been rejected emphatically in the East as worse than paternalism, as the most radical Populism. But since then the public has been made to understand the educational purpose of State regulation as afforded by public service commissioners. We can see no danger, we anticipate nothing but benefits, to the public and to the bankers, of a law requiring the filing with a State official of facts regarding new securities offered for sale, especially by what tangible assets they are backed. No honest promoter need fear it, and the State itself would be enabled to furnish the assurance that there is no "water" in any issue of securities.

Not an Even Division.

It may not be a very appropriate topic for a proper Thanksgiving spirit—or is it?—but statistics show that about one out of twenty-five of the population of this country, or some 3,000,000 souls, are dependent upon and the recipients of either public or private bounty. The annual cost of supporting these is estimated at almost $200,000,000, that is, one-tenth of all wages paid by the manufacturers of the entire United States.

This, it seems to us, is not a correct estimate. By taking into consideration those who often are underfed, poorly clothed, and improperly housed the total would be brought up to fully 10,000,000 of our population. Besides, one-half of the inhabitants of this country own no property and at least 5,000,000 of our women folk are compelled to earn their living by steady work, 2,000,000 of them in mills and shops.

Then there is another thing. In the neighborhood of a million workingmen are killed, maimed, or injured in the course of a year at their tasks, throwing them out of work and bringing need upon their families or destroying their homes.

Federal Aid for Good Roads.

Two days after the inauguration of Mr. Wilson as the President of the United States the second Federal Aid Good Roads convention, under the auspices of the American Automobile Association, will be held in Washington. The success of the first gathering in this city last January was so pronounced that the good roads board of the American Automobile Association decided to make it an annual feature, until Federal aid shall have become a substantial fact through Congressional action.

If results follow future conventions as rapidly as they did the first one, it should be a matter of only a few years before a comprehensive system of national highways, constructed by means of Federal appropriation, is in existence.

Governors of twenty-six States had been appointed as delegates to attend the convention last winter, and the outlook is that practically every State will be officially represented in 1913.

Since the boll weevil invaded this country it has caused a loss of 2,550,000 bales of cotton at a value of $125,000,000. Like almost all of our other troubles, it came to us from Mexico and Central America. The only way to effectually get rid of the pest is to uproot and burn the cotton plants in the fall.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING.

Turkey soup;
Gloomy group
Gathered at the board.
Dark regrets;
Squash croquettes
Best we can afford.

Turkey hash!
Teeth that gnash
Moved by one accord.
No more jokes;
Gloomy folks
'Round the festive board.

Uncle Pennywise Says.

A man has no time to bother about a color scheme for his street costume. He's satisfied if his shoes don't leak.

Household Secret.

"I can't get the sugar to stick to the doughnuts."

"I know a good scheme, but don't tell anybody."

"Very well."

"Use a little library paste."

November 29 in History.

November 29, 1535—Henry VIII has dyspepsia, with eleven doctors and one executioner in attendance.

November 29, 1496—Lucretia Borgia originates turkey hash.

Turned on the Balkans.

"The limelight of fame is garish."

"A little Bulgarish just now."

The Usual Economy.

Mary had a little lamb
Which cost a deal of cash;
And Mary says the next two days
She had a little hash.

A Deal on the Side.

"Why is your hired men working so industriously all of a sudden?"

"I think he has a deal on with a moving picture concern which wants a few films of life on the farm."

A Family Jar.

"How is it," demanded Mr. Wombat, "that our child never emits any bright sayings?"

"I'm sure I don't know," responded Mrs. Wombat.

"You might at least employ a governess with sufficient ingenuity to imagine some."

Father's Present.

"Father, we need some lace curtains for the parlor."

"Um!"

"Also a sideboard and a dining-room rug."

"Why do you tell me all this?"

"I want you to decide what you want for a Christmas present."

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

KEEP OUT OF THE STREET.

Citizen Urges Police Regulation of Pedestrians.

To the Editor: A member of the Piney Branch Citizens' Association has suggested the enactment of a police regulation requiring pedestrians, children, and all others having no authority to keep out of the streets except when directly crossing at street crossings or when alighting from or boarding a vehicle, and, it is understood, the matter will be carried into the Federation of Citizens' Associations, acted on there, and eventually presented to the Commissioners and the Chief of Police. The time has, indeed, arrived when the well-known habit of our citizens to cross the streets where they like, and our children to play and skate on their broad surfaces, should be checked by official act and the practice stamped out. There is hardly a day but some one is knocked down and injured elsewhere than at street crossings, and the courts have decided that the person venturing into the street between corners does so at his own risk. This is not generally known, and even if so it would not deter us from "cutting corners" nor the children from playing where it is dangerous and they have no right to venture. On the other hand, vehicles may not venture on the sidewalks, even to avoid a pedestrian who encroaches on the space alloted to them, and a rule is a poor one that does not work both ways. Look up F Street or Pennsylvania Avenue any day at its busiest hour and note the dozens who are constantly walking across or skating in the roadway, without a single objection; imagine as many vehicles on the sidewalks.

This is the age of rapid transit, and the holiday season is approaching, when vehicular traffic will be at its utmost. Except at times and places where he has the right of way, the pedestrian and the child should "keep out of the street."

N. L. G.

SARCASTIC AT SURG. GEN. BLUE'S EXPENSE

To the Editor: In this morning's issue you publish a report to the effect that Surg. Gen. Rupert Blue, of the United States Marine Hospital Service, regards with disfavor the present use of the sugar loaf in the humble restaurants tucked in under the shadow of our busy offices. He is reported to say in part: "* * * it would seem that loose sugar is the more sanitary. One is compelled to use the spoon."

Allow me to concur heartily with the surgeon general in the expression of such unusual views. The sugar loaf has deprived me, I know, of a good many opportunities in life. I am the man who first sips his coffee with his spoon and then plunges it into the sugar bowl for more sweetening. Besides, I am fond of denatured sugar, preferring it mixed slightly with bits of uneaten bread crumbs, fragments of apple cobbler, a stray straw of shredded wheat, and anything at all that is adhesive. Then, too, I prefer loose sugar colored a little here and there in bunches, though I have no preference when it comes to choosing between coffee color and tea color. I am the man, too, who always has to have a bluecoat standing over him in order to make him use a modern sugar tong. The community spoon I always use voluntarily, even if it does get somewhat worn looking.

I shall look with interest to the return of my old freind, the common sugar bowl, and the resumption of my old habits will certainly be a relief.

"DOMINIE JESTER."

November 28, 1912.

Leading American jewelers have adopted the metric carat as the standard weight for diamonds, the change becoming effective next July.

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GOSSIP GATHERED IN COUNTRIES ACROSS THE SEA

To Flaneur readers the Right Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington, is no stranger. All those who have come in contact with the venerable scholar and diplomat admire the plain, democratic representative of the world's greatest power. Several weeks ago, when I spoke of Mr. Bryce in these columns, I was satisfied that his rich and influential wife would succeed in having him retain his present post. In fact, the emphatic utterance of Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister in the House of Commons, that Mr. Bryce would return to Washington at the expiration of his summer vacation trip to the Antipodes was in itself enough to mislead the world, though I, for one, am unable to see the necessity for prevarication when replying to the question of a member of Parliament, a harmless query and pertaining to a country with which England apparently is maintaining the most cordial relation.

Mr. Bryce has been with us since 1907, and, though seventy-four years of age, is hale and hearty. This was his first diplomatic post, his selection being intended as a compliment to this country after he had published his book, "The American Commonwealth," a standard work and used as text-book in universities here and abroad. He is a man of profound learning and holds honorary degrees from a number of educational institutions. He was born in Belfast on May 10, 1838; was graduated from Oxford in 1862 as an honor man, and for fifteen years practiced law in London. In 1880 he took his seat in the House of Commons. Since 1882 he has pursued the career of a publicist and litterateur. In twenty-six years of parliamentary life he had served as under secretary of state for foreign affairs (1886), as chancellor for the Duchy of Lancaster (1892), and as president of the British Board of Trade in the Rosebery government of 1894. He resigned the chief secretaryship for Ireland, which he had held thirteen months in the Campbell-Bannerman ministry, to become Ambassador to the United States.

Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, who succeeds Mr. Bryce as British Ambassador to the United States, belongs to a family that has given Great Britain a number of astute politicians, statesmen, and diplomats; and so does his wife.

Sir Cecil is first cousin to the present (second) Baron Monteagle (Sir Thomas Spring-Rice of Brandon, County Kerry, Ireland; doctor of law, County Councilor of Limerick, and Knight of St. Patrick, who was born in 1849 and succeeded his grandfather to the barony in 1866). He is the son of the late Hon. Charles William Thomas Spring, at one time British Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, and of his wife, Elizabeth Margarette, eldest daughter of William Marshall, member of Parliament of Halsteads and Patterdale Hall, County Cumberland.

Sir Cecil was born in 1858, and in his forty-fifth year married Lady Florence Caroline, the only daughter of the Right Hon. Sir Frank Cavendish Lascelles, grand commander of the Bath, of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and of the much-coveted Victorian Order, and nephew of the third Earl of Harewood, the head of a family that has been in York since the days of Edward I, when, in 1275, Roger de Lascelles was summoned to Parliament.

Sir Cecil's father-in-law held high diplomatic posts. He was British Minister and Plenipotentiary to Roumania, 1886 to 1891, and to Persia, 1891 to 1894, and Ambassador to Russia, 1894 to 1905, and to Germany, 1905 to 1908.

It becomes thus very plain that Sir Cecil, the new Ambassador to this country, so to say, had it in his blood to fellow a diplomatic career. After leaving Eton and Balliol (Oxford) as an honor man in the final classical school, he entered the British war office as clerk, being, after the lapse of a year, transferred to the foreign office. We hear of him—then, of course, still plain "Mr." Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice—as assistant private secretary to the Earl of Granville and confidential man to the Earl of Rosebery.

His first mission abroad was as secretary of the British delegation to the International Maritime Conference, when he had his first connection with official Washington. On his return home he was appointed secretary at Brussels, then again at Washington, at Tokyo, Berlin, and Constantinople.

By this time the Hon. Cecil had begun to make a name for himself in the British diplomatic world and Downing Street accredited him at Teheran in 1900 as charge d'affaire. The following year he was given the responsible post in Cairo of commissioner of the Egyptian public debt. From 1903 to 1905 he officiated as first secretary of the British Embassy at St. Petersburg; from 1906 to 1908 he was British minister and consul general to Persia. In that year he was made a knight commander of the Order of St. Micael and St. George, which entitled him to the prefix "Sir," and sent to Stockholm as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary.

Sir Cecil, having served from the lowest rung of the diplomatic ladder, is a fine routine man. Neither at Teheran, where he was less than a year in a responsible position, nor at the Stockholm court, where the Queen is a British princess, did Sir Cecil have much of an opportunity to show his mettle in critical times, nor his tact as a diplomat. His berths thus far have been almost sinecures. All this will be changed now, coming here, as he does, at a time when there are likely to be clouds on the political horizon at any movement between the United States and Britain, as a result of the Panama Canal tollage, an issue which his predecessor very wisely sidestepped by resigning at the psychological moment.

The Baron of Monteagle, the Spring-Rice peerage, is of comparatively modern creation. The founder of the family was Stephen Edward Rice, of Mount Trenchard, County Limerick, son of Thomas Rice and his wife, Mary, sister of Robert Fitz-Gerald, the famous "Knight of Kerry." This Stephen Edward Rice married Catherine, the heiress of Thomas Spring, of Castlemain, Kerry, in 1776. The only son of this union, Thomas Spring-Rice, was raised to the Irish peerage in September, 1828, as Lord Monteagle of Brandon. He adopted as his motto, "Fides non Timet" (the faithful need not fear). His first wife, the Lady Theodosia Perry, who died in December, 1839, left four sons, among whom was Sir Cecil's father, and one daughter. His lordship married again. He held a number of positions under the government. He was an assistant Home Secretary; Secretary of the Treasury, Colonial Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Comptroller General of the Exchequer.

Mention already has been made of the distinguished noble family from which Sir Cecil's wife descends. The head of her house is the fifth Earl of Harewood (Sir Henry Ulrick Lascelles, knight commander of the Victorian Order; Viscount Lascelles and Baron Harewood, of County York; lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum, aid-de-camp to the King of England, whose wife is the Lady Florence Katherine Bridgeman, daughter of the third Earl of Bradford. Roger de Lascelles, mentioned above, as the first lord of that name, died without male issue in 1297, in consequence of which the newly created baron of Lascelles at once fell into abeyance. It is dormant to this day. But through the first lord's four daughters the Lascelles family was continued in 1790. Edwin Lascelles was created a peer, with the title of Lord Harewood. But again the barony expired, because he died without any issue. His heir-at-law, Edward Lascelles, of a cadet line, then was elevated to the peerage, and a nephew of the present—the third—incumbent of the barony, is the father of our new British Ambassador's wife.

FLANEUR.

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REMEMBER POOR ON THANKSGIVING

Red Men Are Hosts to Poor Children of Alexandria—Religious Services in All Churches.

MEMORIAL FOR ELKS SUNDAY

Alexandria, Va., Nov. 28.—With religious services in the churches, family reunions where King Turkey was the principal asset, matinees and theater parties at night, Thanksgiving was observed here. The poor children of the city were also remembered with a dinner by the Red Men. Friends of the Alexandria Hospital did not forget that institution, this being donational day.

The day was unusually quiet.

Large congregations attended the services at the various churches.

Collections at the various Protestant churches were taken up for the Alexandria Hospital, and reports received indicate that the offerings were very liberal.

Union Thanksgiving services were held at 11 o'clock at the Second Presbyterian Church and were participated in by the congregations of the Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches of the city. Rev. G. A. Luttrell, pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, preached a sermon.

Services were held also at the three Episcopal and the Catholic churches.

One hundred children, ranging in age from five to twelve years were made happy this afternoon with a big turkey dinner, together with all of the necessary accompaniments, ending with fruits and ice cream, as the guests of the Red Men of the city. The dinner was served in the Young People's Building of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and a committee of women of the degree of Pocahontas, an auxiliary of the order of Red Men, saw that the little ones were well provided for. Six big tables in the hall were filled with the youngsters.

Before the dinner an address was made to the children by Rev. Dr. John Lee Allison, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, who told them of the significance of Thanksgiving and also reminded them of what they might accomplish by leading good, clean, honest, and upright lives. The speaker asked the children to give a rising vote of thanks to the Red Men for their generosity, which they did. Rev. Dr. Allison then closed with a short prayer.

Twelve children from the Children's Home, under the supervision of two helpers from the home, greatly enjoyed the feast, they occupying the head table.

During the progress of the dinner a number of musical selections were given by members of the degree of Pocahontas. The committee of Red Men in charge of the dinner was composed of W. S. Nicklin, from Seminole Tribe of Red Men, and C. M. Schwab and A. J. Butcher, from Osceola Tribe of Red Men.

At the city almshouse a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner was served the inmates by Joshua Sherwood, superintendent. Fruits, the gift of Miss Rose M. MacDonald, were also given the inmates at the conclusion of the dinner.

Will Deliver Elk Eulogy.

Kyle B. Price, of Alabama, will deliver the address at the annual memorial services of Alexandria Lodge of Elks, which will be held next Sunday night at the opera house. A eulogy on the deceased members of the local lodges will be delivered by City Councilman J. Fred Birrell, member of the local lodge. Invocation will be given by Rev. Edgar Carpenter, chaplain of the local lodge, and benediction will be pronounced by Rev. Dr. John Lee Allison, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church. There will also be a musical programme. The opening exercises of the services will be conducted by the officers of the lodge under the direction of Robert S. Barrett, exalted ruler. Solos will be given by Miss Kathryn Brill and Richard Wirt. There will be a violin solo by Prof. Leon Cohen and the music for the occasion will be furnished by an orchestra under the direction of Prof. Cohen.

The stage will be elaborately decorated for the occasion. Many new and novel electrical effects will be seen. Owing to the limited seating capacity of the hall admission will be by card only.

The annual Christmas entertainment for the children by Alexandria Lodge of Elks will as held this afternoon of December 27 from 2 until 5 o'clock at its home.

The programme of exercises planned will consist of songs and recitations and at its conclusion the children will have an opportunity of meeting Santa Claus who will distribute baskets filled with fruits and candies.

An entertainment for the grown ups will be held from 8 until midnight at the home. It will consist of dancing and music which will be followed by refreshments which will be served in the rathskeller.

Plans are being made by the committee of the lodge for the distribution of baskets to the poor children of the city. These baskets will be distributed Christmas eve.

Arguments will be made in Richmond to-morrow morning before Judge Scott, of the Circuit Court of that city, on the report of R. D. Brumback, special commissioner of the Virginia Safe Deposit and Trust Corporation. The question to be argued is over the distribution of $12,500 State bonds held by the State treasury. Among the Alexandria attorneys who will have gone to Richmond to argue the case include S. G. Brent, Howard W. Smith, and Douglas Stuart.

The first consignment of Red Cross seals was received to-day by the officers of the local branch of the Anti-tuberculosis Society, of this city. The seals were at once placed on sale in the various stores.

It is the intention of the women identified with this organization to have the seals sold in the stores during Christmas week by a number of young women, as was done last year. The seals can be obtained by merchants upon application to Miss Rose M. MacDonald, president of the society, or Mrs. Louis S. Scott, who has charge of the distribution of the seals.

To Present "The Mikado."

The opera, "The Mikado," will shortly be presented by a local musical organization known as "Sharps and Flats." Frequent rehearsals are now being held by the members in the east. Funds derived from it will be for the benefit of the Arlington Confederate Monument. The play will be given under the auspices of the Seventeenth Virginia Regiment Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The performance will be under the direction of Mrs. M. W. O'Brien, and those in the cast follow: George H. Evans, Kenneth W. Ogden, Harry B. Caton, Marshall L. Dinwiddie, Stanley G. Blanton, Mrs. Robert F. Downham, Miss Alice Anderton, Mrs. Harry B. Caton, and Mrs. Lewis H. Machen.

They will be supported by a large and well trained chorus.

The funeral of Matthew De Lane, of Del Ray, Alexandria County, who died yesterday at Garfield Hospital, Washington, will be held at 9:30 o'clock to-morrow morning from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. De Lane was sixty-four years old and a native of Ireland. He was up to the time of his death employed as a watchman.

"Why So Few Christians Can Pray in Alexandria" was the subject of a sermon delivered by Evangelist E. Hez Swem at the revival services in progress at the First Baptist Church tonight.

"Shall We Know Our Loved Ones After Death?" will be his subject at the special services, which will be held at that church at 3:30 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Arrangements have been perfected by Seminole Tribe of Red Men for its second annual banquet, which will be given next Tuesday night at the Hotel Rammel. It is expected that a large gathering of members of the order will attend and many will respond to toasts.

The body of Mrs. Agnes Hamilton, wife of William Hamilton, who died last Tuesday in Nicholson, Pa., was brought here this afternoon and taken to 815 South Washington Street and prepared for burial.

Charged with carrying a pistol William Trigger was fined $20 in the Police Court to-day. Trigger claimed that he had just returned from the country, he having carried the weapon there for the purpose of shooting a possum.

Washington Teacher Talks.

Miss Flora Henley this afternoon addressed the Alexandria Teachers' Association. She is supervising principal of the Washington public schools.

A sale and oyster supper will be given by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Second Presbyterian Church to-morrow night in the Young People's Building. Funds derived from the affair will be for the benefit of the new Sunday school building of the church.

The Bible class of the Methodist Protestant Church will hold an oyster supper at that church to-morrow night from 5 until 10 o'clock.

Alexandria Division, No. 1, Ancient Order of Hibernians, will hold a progressive euchre at the Young Men's Sodality Lyceum Hall to-morrow night.

The marriage of Miss Rose M. Padgett and William H. Thayler took place today.

Awkwad for the Caller.

A well-known American business man has just been relating an amusing but mortifying little incident in which he figured during the present election fracas.

"It happened in this way," he says. "You see, I had some business to transact with one of the candidates for the legislature, and, as it was something important, I was forced to go out to his house to see him.

"It was quite late when I got there and I guess he had gone to bed. At any rate, the servant who opened the door showed me into the parlor to wait for his master. I was obliged to wait some time, and while doing this I amused myself looking at the pictures and other ornaments about the room.

"On the center table, among books and other bric-a-brac, stood a big fancy decanter filled with liquor which looked like whisky. It was a strange-looking decanter, and on one side was some fancy lettering which I could not make out. Being rather curious to find out what it said, I lifted the decanter from the table and tipped it up so that the light fell on the lettering. It said: 'If you touch me I'll tell.'

"Curious, wasn't it? But, sure enough, it did tell, for I had scarcely had time to read the lettering when my ears were greeted with the tones of 'Johnny Get Your Gun.' There was a music-box hidden in the bottom of the decanter and when it is tipped the machinery starts and the music begins. You can judge for yourself how surprised and chagrined I was, for I had never seen the master of the house before, and I would have a fine opinion of me for my meddling qualities.

"Right in the middle of the tune I walked into the parlor, and gave me a cynical smile when he heard that music box. It seemed as if it would never stop. I tried to make some sort of an apology, but made a mess of it. I know though now I cannot think for the life of me what I said. He saw how confused I was and laughed it off, saying that it was an oddity he had found in New York."

DEBTS

By GEORGE FITCH,
Author of "At Good Old Siwash."

Debts consist of a pile of bills in the mail box and a collector around the corner. They are the money which a man is going to pay next week, but unfortunately this week always insists on coming in next week's place.

Debt is very unfortunate because it generally makes two men unhappy—the man who owes the money and the man who can't get it. Some debts, however, only make the former unhappy because of the blithe and hopeful disposition of the debtor who declines to add to the solemnity of the occasion by worrying. Many a man can carry a load of many thousands of dollars of debts without giving them a thought and will even cheer up his gloomiest creditors by buying them fine cigars—on tick.

Debt is a great misfortune to some men who shudder when they spend a nickel for bread because it belongs to the man who sold them last year's beefsteak. To other men debt is only an annoyance, and they speak harshly to the patient collectors who insist on bothering them. To still others debt is an asset. Some men are such financial geniuses that they can use $500 worth of bills to obtain $1,500 additional credit. The difference between mediocrity and genius is shown by the fact that while some men grow shabby and wither away under $100 of debts, other men are able to accumulate $1,000,000 of obligations and to live handsomely on the proceeds.

Debts grow faster than anything else on earth. Give a debt a $10 start and take your eye off it and it will grow to $2,000 in no time. Paying debts is a slow and painful process, and is about as interesting as pounding stone. But accumulating debts is delightful, and the man who has not felt the thrill of stepping blithely into a new motor car and telling the owner to charge it has something to live for.

"Give a debt a $10 start and take your eye off it and it will grow to $2,000."

In the old days they used to lock debtors up in prisons, but now the man who has accumulated a clothes basket full of bills can go peacefully into court and swear that he hasn't anything in the world except twenty-nine suits of clothes and a piano, after which he is declared bankrupt and can buy a new clothes basket and begin a new collection. This has made the debtor's life much more comfortable, and collecting obligations is now one of our most fascinating national pursuits.

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ABSOLUTELY PURE

Cooking is a matter which concerns the whole family, and under modern methods and conveniences it is made so attractive the whole family is becoming interested, if not taking part in it.

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It is a crime, with our modern agencies, helps and facilities, to have soggy biscuit, or wooden cake, or leaden pastry.

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