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SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1915.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

I vex me not with wind and tide
On which to Fortune I may ride,
But fit my craft so sturdily
That it may sail victoriously
Whatever winds or tides may be.

(Copyright, 1915.)

The wilted collar yesterday gave notice of the sudden leap from winter to summer, with no intervening spring.

Wonder who in Washington is tickled over the near approach of the Chautauqua season with its $500 honorarium per talk.

Speculation on the New York Stock Exchange is measuring up to old-time standards. What's the matter with Washington?

Anyway, judging from the contradictory reports from the seat of war, there are several candidates for Mr. Roosevelt's Ananias club.

European science has added seventeen years per century to every man's life, so the statisticians declare. But that was before the European war started.

Huerta at least has the satisfaction of knowing that, while he gave the rest of them the opportunity to run things in Mexico, they didn't make a howling success of it.

Instead of betting that the war will last till September, real pessimists will wager that it lasts long enough for Prof. Munsterberg to get out a third book upon it.

No so very long ago the United States refused to recognize Huerta. Now that he wants to enter this country it is to be presumed he will be recognized as an undesirable.

The women are especially interested in the present clean-up campaign and there are some unregenerates who are inclined to hint they are obeying literally the "paint-up" request.

That Kankakee couple who eloped and sent back carrier pigeons to inform the old folks they were married, must have great faith in the dove of peace, but sometimes even the dove meets a tragic fate.

There seems to be a growing impression that the man who is nominated in the next Republican National Convention will be President of the United States, which in a large measure explains the keen competition for the job of candidate.

Mrs. Carl F. Scheel, of Milwaukee, wants a divorce. Mr. Scheel declares she is a nagger. Both are deaf mutes. The husband says she kept the gas burning at night so she could talk to him. The judge will have an interesting time deciding who talked the fastest and the loudest.

Statisticians declared that there would be a great surplus of widows at the end of the war. Now come reports that the women of Serbia are the chief sufferers from the typhus plague that is devastating that "agin the government" country.

In acknowledging the gift of a set of golf sticks President Wilson wrote: "I really sometimes begin to think I am getting out of the duffer class." Let it be remembered that this is the first confession on record that a President of the United States has ever been in the duffer class in any competition.

The Navy Department will no doubt put forth every possible effort to bring the submarine F-4 to the surface. Conflicting reports as to the condition of the vessel make necessary an examination that will satisfy the public mind and relieve the department of embarrassment. It is incredible that the submarine was maintained in service in a defective condition, but this will have to be proven in order that the public may absolve the naval authorities from all blame.

"Not one boy in a thousand who applies to a mill foreman for work has learned in school how to operate a drill, or planer, or lathe, or milling machine," says Secretary Redfield. "Foremen must pick untrained men to do these tasks." The Secretary advances this as an argument in favor of vocational training in the public schools. To be logical Mr. Redfield would have to advocate the training of boys to be motormen, miners, farmers, electricians and chauffeurs, which would be undertaking a large contract.

Reports on the operation of the Federal Employment Bureau, inaugurated this year by the Department of Labor, in co-operation with the Agricultural and Postoffice departments, show that during the months of February and March 1,245 persons obtained work through this government agency. The government officials are represented as being gratified with these results, but the general public will probably not go further than to recognize that times have indeed been hard.

Political Situation.

During the past week Mr. Bryan has loomed large in the public eye. His letter to the Iowa Democrats urging that the Democratic party be committed to the prohibition movement has already been commented upon in these columns. It has aroused much discussion throughout the country. The announcement that Mr. Bryan desires to step from the State Department into the seat in the United States Senate now occupied by Senator Hitchcock is equally interesting, although it has not attracted as much attention.

A six-year term in the Senate would unquestionably be a pleasing climax to Mr. Bryan's public career. Senator Root went to the Senate after serving as Secretary of State and added to his reputation. Mr. Bryan undoubtedly thinks that he can do the same—in fact, that he might be better fitted for a place in the great American forum where public questions are constantly being discussed than in an office dealing with international affairs. It is possible, too, that Mr. Bryan thinks that the honor will come to him for the mere asking. He is Nebraska's most prominent citizen and if he were in the Senate the light of the State would not be hid under a bushel. It becomes interesting, therefore, to consider what are his chances of victory if he should enter the race. He must be elected by popular vote. Can he secure the necessary majority?

It is by no means certain that Mr. Bryan can be elected Senator from Nebraska. The time when he held the State in the hollow of his hand has passed.

The other day the Nebraska Senate, with its Democratic majority, passed a resolution endorsing President Wilson, but deliberately eliminated Bryan's name from the commendatory words. This is a straw showing the direction of the wind.

Bryan's candidacy for the Senate directs attention to some interesting facts. First, that there is no Republican in the State who, like himself, enjoys nation-wide prominence. Second, that the chief issue of his campaign will be prohibition. Third, that he has endeavored to control the political patronage of the State in order to advance his interests, and, last but not least, the man who will contest with him every inch of the ground is a man who was formerly one of his closest friends and to whom he was under deep obligation in the early days of his political career.

Mr. Bryan was nominated for Congress in 1890. The nomination was easily obtained. Nebraska was so solidly Republican that a Democrat entered the campaign with a forlorn hope. It soon became evident, however, that Mr. Bryan was not of the commonplace type. He challenged his Republican opponent to a joint debate and his attractive presence, pleasing voice, fluency of language and fertility of ideas attracted enormous crowds wherever he was announced to speak. The Omaha World-Herald, then as now under the control of Gilbert M. Hitchcock, the present United States Senator, detailed a young reporter to exploit Mr. Bryan. The young reporter was Richard Lee Metcalfe, who afterwards became associate editor of Bryan's paper, the Commoner—but that, as Kipling says, is another story. The World-Herald made Bryan's campaign an event not only of State but of national importance. The result was Bryan's election, much to everybody's surprise, and he was chosen for a second term. During these four years Mr. Hitchcock blew the Bryan trumpet with great energy and then, when Bryan was defeated, invited him to become the editor of his newspaper. For two years this intimate association continued, the World-Herald committing itself under Bryan's editorship to the advocacy of the free coinage of silver. Then came Bryan's nomination for the Presidency. The World-Herald supported him and all his ideas, whereupon the banks which had been financing the paper called in their loans and advertisers withdrew their patronage. Those were dark days for Hitchcock, but he sailed through the storm with Bryan's banner nailed to the mast.

As time went by opportunity for political preferment came to Hitchcock. Death had created a vacancy in the Senate and the governor had determined to appoint Mr. Hitchcock. Mr. Bryan, off on a shooting trip in Texas, ordered otherwise and Mr. Allen was named. Mr. Bryan's explanation was naturally unsatisfactory to Mr. Hitchcock and this was the beginning of the parting of the ways. The first test of strength between the two men came at the Democratic State convention of 1910, when Br. Bryan favored county option and Mr. Hitchcock opposed it. It is said that Mr. Bryan believes that his defeat in 1908 was due to the liquor interests, but whether this be true or not, his antipathy to the liquor traffic has been growing more and more pronounced. In the State convention he was beaten two to one. This was not the first time nor the last time that he experienced defeat in his State, and it will be remembered that in one of his three Presidential campaigns he failed to receive its electoral vote.

The probability is that Mr. Bryan will force the fighting upon Mr. Hitchcock on the same issue over which the two men clashed in the State convention. Mr. Bryan will advocate prohibition and Mr. Hitchcock, although he is a temperance man, will oppose it. There is no doubt that prohibition is just now a very live topic and the results of the elections in Michigan, Illinois and other States last Tuesday show that the "drys" are constantly gaining ground. In Nebraska next year, however, there will be other things to think about than prohibition. Business depression, the Mexican muddle, the empty National Treasury and a score of other indictments will be presented against the Democratic party and will not be obscured by the attempt to throw into the eyes of the voters the dust of the prohibition issue. There may be a fight in the primaries between Bryan and Hitchcock but afterwards there will come a harder fight to elect the one who secures the nomination.

This Bryan-Hitchcock rivalry has resulted in a curious situation in Nebraska. With the exception of the postoffices all the Federal positions in the State are either vacant or are held by holdover Republicans. Mr. Bryan has insisted upon dominating all the appointments and even the names of men recommended for minor postoffices have been submitted to him for approval. As he and Senator Hitchcock have not been able to agree, the marshalship, collectorship and attorneyship are still filled by Republicans. The President would like to arrange a compromise but Mr. Bryan is insistent and Senator Hitchcock declines to yield. With a Senatorship at stake next year neither man can afford to grant to his rival the slightest degree of advantage. It is a deadlock with an outcome not to be predicted; but it is worth while to remark in passing that no other Cabinet officer is embarrassing the President by taking a similar stand in regard to State appointments.

It is to be expected that the influence of the administration will be thrown entirely in Mr. Bryan's favor. Senator Hitchcock, a thorough believer in the independence of the legislative branch of the government, has not always seen fit to be subservient to the President's wishes. He opposed the details of the administration currency bill and voted with the Republicans to secure wise amendments. He fought the ship-purchase bill and made the famous remark, which was not denied, that there were not half a dozen Democrats sincerely in favor of the measure. He was largely instrumental in securing the defeat of Jones, the harvester and zinc trust magnate nominated for a position on the Federal Reserve Board. In all of these things, however, he has not acted in factious opposition to the President, but in the exercise of what he deemed a proper spirit of independence consonant with his position as Senator. With a powerful newspaper under his ownership and control he has been able to withstand the pressure which compelled other Senators to yield.

The fact that he has shown independence, however, has brought him under the ban of administration disapproval. This makes the Senatorial fight all the more interesting. Mr. Bryan enters the contest with State and national prestige and the influence of the administration in his favor. Senator Hitchcock has a splendid record of nearly six years' service in the Senate, following a successful experience in the House, and with a large personal following that has enabled him to win political battles with comparative ease. As the fight progresses it will become more and more interesting and when the campaign is fairly on there will be a battle royal worth traveling a thousand miles to see.

Mr. Root's Note of Warning.

Senator Root's speech as chairman started the New York Constitutional Convention on a high level of ideal and practical effort. Mr. Root declared that there is a duty of public morality as truly as there is a duty of private morality, and that a constitutional convention should seek to answer the question of what is public right. But he warned the convention that the real definition of public right or public morality is not to be found in the reasoning of acute and highly trained specialists, but in the conscience of the great body of the people when the people are instructed, law-abiding and liberty-loving, and when their voice is free from impulses, and distractions of special occasions, interests and desires.

We have, in this country, an unchanging guide in the political philosophy of the Declaration of Independence which declared: "All men are endowed with inalienable rights," and the government was instituted to secure these rights. "The rights of the individual citizen," said Mr. Root, "are not derived from the State, but are independent of it, and all the powers of government find their justification only in their adaptation to secure the rights of the individual. These inalienable rights of the individual citizen, cannot rightfully be taken from him by legislators or executives or majorities or armies." It is well that the men who are to frame a new constitution for the 10,000,000 citizens of New York, have before them such a clear and forcible definition of public morality and public right, for after their labors are concluded the people will act, not in passion or on impulse, but looking to their own inalienable, individual rights, when the new constitution is submitted for ratification.

There has been a tendency to drift away from the original conception of government, its powers, duties and responsibilities, when Americans made their declaration of independence, and to follow after strange political gods, some of which were set up by the ancient republics and led as directly to despotism as did any empire, kingdom or oligarchy. We have majority rule within limitations, and the limitations hedge about the inalienable rights of the citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness where this pursuit does not interfere with the inalienable right of other citizens.

We have had political teachers and prophets who lost sight of the individual citizen in their admiration for and their confidence in the State, or in their hope of influencing majorities. Mr. Root has sounded a much needed note of warning, not only to the constitutional convention in New York, but to the people at large in every State in the Union. Majorities are never stable; they swing like the pendulum and the farther they swing to one extreme the more radical is certain to be the rebound, and what may be called a public right by an unreasoning majority one year may be called a public outrage by a majority the next year. The weather vane boxing the compass in the shifting winds of a March day is not a good model for a constitutional government. Majorities have been known to lynch a man and then on second thought or in remorse to erect a monument to his memory. The Puritans had the old idea that individual rights must all be subordinate to the State, but we have nothing in American literature of which the descendants of the Puritans are more ashamed than the old blue laws of Connecticut. Any suggestion for the reenactment of that old code would cause a revolution in any New England State and yet we have political agitators who are drifting that way piecemeal.

Billy Sunday in Paterson.

Sophisticated old Paterson seems to take pride in the fact that at the Rev. William A. Sunday's first services the multitudes present gave no sign of conviction of sin and repentance. Paterson does not know what is ahead of it. In a few weeks' time some of its manufacturers who grind the faces of the poor, and various of its labor leaders who are teetering most of the time on the edge of anarchy, will be elbowing each other on the sawdust trail. Billy will get them, sure.—New York World.

Philadelphia's Curfew Law.

Unless extraordinary discretion is used by the police—and experience has shown that the average patrolman is not always the most discreet and tactful person in the world—Director Porter's order for the arrest of boys and girls under 16 years of age found alone on the streets after 11 o'clock at night is going to work injustice in many cases. Any one familiar with city life knows that there are a thousand good reasons, especially in the summer time, why young people should be on the streets at that hour, and that they have a perfect right to be there. In these matters the social habits of a great community cannot be regulated like those of a village. The police will do well to go slow before they arrest young boys and girls and send them to the House of Detention. The wrong thus done may easily be worse than the evil they fail to correct.—Philadelphia Record.

LINCOLN AND BOOTH

The Inner Story of the Great Tragedy of Fifty Years Ago

By WINFIELD M. THOMPSON.

No. 2—Booth's Plan to Kidnap Lincoln.

JOHN WILKES BOOTH.

This picture shows the assassin as he appeared when plotting to kidnap Lincoln, before he formed a resolution to murder him. From the Collection of the Loyal Legion, Boston.

While the National Capital was rejoicing over the surrender of Lee and the end of the war, and while President Lincoln, newly come from captured Petersburg and Richmond, was receiving the joyous congratulations of many callers at the White House, there passed in and out among the happy crowds in Washington, on streets, in hotels, theaters, and other public places, a young man whose mind was centered on killing the President.

This was John Wilkes Booth. He was not like the traditional assassin, skulking with lowering brow and furtive eye, but bright and gay., with a winsome manner that disarmed suspicion and made men like him on sight.

Watching and waiting to take Lincoln's life, he went blithely from place to place, busy with his plans of death, yet apparently carefree and even joyous. He had moved thus for months about Washington, and also on various journeys, long and short—to Baltimore, New York, Boston, and Montreal—leading what seemed a normal life, yet always planning and plotting for the downfall of Lincoln.

At first he had planned to kidnap the President, take him South, and offer him in exchange for all the Confederate prisoners held in the North. This plan failing, he had embraced the dark purpose of assassination, and had nourished it secretly in his bosom until it mastered him and controlled his every thought.

In his first plan Booth had drawn about him such persons as he needed for his work and could control without explanations. When that plan failed he held most of these dupes about him, to do his bidding in the darker work. He had no confidants, no advisers, no partners; all the persons he enmeshed in his net of crime were subjects of his will, obeying him blindly and at times unwillingly.

Booth's Beauty of Person.

The personality and occupation of John Wilkes Booth combined to afford him unusual facilities for the dispatch of his crime, for by reason of them his goings and comings were not questioned. His family name was known all over the country. As an actor he was at home wherever there was a theater. If he chose to spend a week in Baltimore or in Boston, or a month in Washington, his professional connections gave proper color to his movements; and wherever he went he won men's hearts.

Booth was 27 years old. He was described as "tall and full of slender grace." His features were regular, his eyes large, black and very expressive, and his curling black hair fell over a white and intellectual brow.

He was born at Bel Air, near Baltimore, Md., in 1838, the youngest but one of the ten children of Junius Brutus Booth, who, although a famous actor, drank to excess, and was at times insane in consequence. He died in 1852. Of his sons, two became famous on the stage. They were Junius Brutus and Edwin Booth. John Wilkes might have won a fame like theirs, except for indolence. But he was a graceful and charming figure on the stage and his intermittent appearances were sufficient to yield him a liberal income.

On the night of November 25, 1864, all three brothers appeared in a performance of "Julius Caesar" at the Winter Garden Theater on Broadway, New York, opposite Bond street. Their mother witnessed the performance. Julius was cast as Cassius, Edwin as Brutus and John as Marc Antony.

When Booth thus appeared with his gifted brothers his mind was already full of his project to kidnap the President, and with finding associates. He had already secured in Baltimore, in September, two recruits. They were Samuel Arnold and Michael O'Laughlin, who had been his schoolmates. Both had served in the Confederate army.

Booth in Maryland.

In October Booth had visited Montreal and had deposited funds in a bank there, apparently for use in the event of failure and flight. He may also have communicated his plan to the Confederate commissioners there, though there is no evidence on this point.

Returning from Canada, Booth went into Maryland to make arrangements for transporting his captive and crossing the Potomac. He carried a letter from a Confederate sympathizer in Montreal to a citizen of Charles County, Dr. Queen, whose guest he was for a Saturday night. With his winning ways, his Southern sympathies and a plausible story that he was looking about for a country place that he might buy, Booth quickly won the confidence of the people he met here. To some he gave a hint of his plan.

With his host, Booth attended Sunday service at St. Mary's Catholic Church, near Bryantown, and there was introduced to a local physician, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd. Booth asked Dr. Mudd if he knew of any one who had a horse to sell. The doctor did, invited Booth to his home and introduced him to a neighbor who sold him a horse. Booth slept at Dr. Mudd's house that night.

This was the beginning of an acquaintance, to be confined to three meetings, that was to cause Dr. Mudd as a conspirator in the assassination of Lincoln.

Dr. Mudd's recent association with Booth was an accidental one in Washington a month later. Booth then requested Dr. Mudd to introduce him to John H. Surratt, a young man represented to Booth as an active messenger for the Confederacy. Dr. Mudd did so, but apologized to Surratt privately for introducing him to a stranger of whom he knew little, and whom he suspected of being a government detective.

Surratt a Valued Recruit.

Booth secured in Surratt his most valued recruit. Surratt knew every road to the Potomac, every creek and crossing place on the river and every house along the way to Virginia. He entered enthusiastically into Booth's kidnaping plan and by so doing enmeshed his mother in Booth's fatal net. Eight months after meeting Booth she died on the scaffold.

Mrs. Surratt was a strong, serious-minded, religiously inclined woman and a member in good standing of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mrs. Surratt, as Mary Jenkins, in her girlhood had been a local belle in Prince George County, Md. On marrying John H. Surratt she had lived first on a farm and next at a roadside settlement about twelve miles from Washington, where he bought a farm and tavern and became postmaster, giving the place the name of Surrattsville. (It is now Clinton.)

The elder Surratt died in 1862. In the fall of 1864 Mrs. Surratt rented the tavern to one John M. Lloyd and removed with her daughter, Annie, and son, John, to Washington, opening a boarding house at 541 H street northwest. (The house is now numbered 604.)

From the day John Surratt joined his fortunes to Booth's the actor became a caller at the Surratt home; and he often sent others of his agents there to consult with Surratt.

Thorugh his acquaintance with John Surratt Booth met another young man suited to his purpose. This was David E. Herold, a drug clerk, 20 years old, of Washington. Herold lived with his widowed mother and seven sisters. They were a respectable family. He was a careless youth whose greatest fault was idleness.

Gets a Boat and Arms.

Making his headquarters at the National Hotel in Washington, Booth employed Surratt as his field agent. Surratt went to Port Tobacco, Md., and there bought a flat-bottomed boat or scow that would hold about fifteen persons. This was to be used in ferrying President Lincoln and his abductors across the Potomac from Nanjemoy Creek, about twenty-five miles south of Washington.

An acceptable ferryman was secured in the person of a German named George A. Atzerodt, a carriage painter by trade, who was acquainted with "running the blockade." He was a good-humored, clownish, low-browed man of small mental capacity, weak and avaricious, and willing to do anything for the wealth Surratt declared success would bring him.

The boat secured, Booth supplied his men with equipment for their enterprise. In a bedroom in a Baltimore hotel he met Surratt, O'Laughlin, and Atzerodt, and gave them two carbines, ammunition, pistols and knives.

The guns were taken by the three men in a buggy to the tavern at Surrattsville, and John Surratt showed the proprietor where to hide them, in a secret room under the eaves, until they were wanted.

Booth's Last Recruit.

Booth's last recruit, and one of the most important to him in the end, was brought into the circle by the merest chance. Booth, on a brief visit to Baltimore, was standing on the steps of Barnum's Hotel, one day early in March, when a hulking young man, of athletic build, badly clothed and evidently dejected, slouched past him.

Booth recognized him. Four years before Booth had played in a Richmond theater to a large audience, including many Confederate soldiers. One face in the audience had attracted him. It was that of a raw young soldier, Booth, on leaving the theater, found this young man near the stage door, and addressed him.

The young soldier had never seen a play before. He was from Florida, the son of a Baptist clergyman. His name was Lewis Thornton Powell, but he called himself Lewis Payne. Flattered by the young soldier's frank admiration, Booth condescended to accept him as an acquaintance. They met every day for a week, and when the soldier marched away his soul was Booth's. He would have faced death in any form at the word of the brilliant, handsome, fascinating young actor.

At Gettysburg Payne was wounded and captured. He was sent to a Baltimore hospital, from which he escaped, going to Virginia, where he joined a Confederate cavalry regiment. Deserting this in January, 1865, he sold his horse, returned to Baltimore, saw his money dwindle day by day, and finally, homeless, penniless and desperate, walked the streets. Booth saw him thus, followed him, and the two met again.

Booth gave young Payne money and sent him to Washington to see Surratt. His hand was now complete, and he only awaited opportunity to set them upon the President.

In formulating a plan for kidnapping the President, Booth had canvassed and rejected two modes of procedure before fixing on one that seemed to promise best. The first had been to spring upon the President as he sat in his box at a performance at Ford's Theater, and, a confederate having turned off the gas in the theater, to handcuff him and hurry him across the stage and into a carriage before chase could be made. Surrounded by armed men, he was to be driven rapidly into Maryland.

His next plan had been to seize the President as he passed at night from the White House across the grounds to the old War Department building, as he often did, accompanied usually only by one man, and hurry him in the darkness to an ancient mansion, the Van Ness house, in Seventeenth street, near the Potomac.

This house, surrounded by trees and having a secret cellar, reached by a trap door, was thought by Booth to afford a safe hiding place even for such a captive as the President until the Potomac could be crossed.

It does not appear that either of these wild plans were entertained long. Booth did not hire the mansion, nor did he seek to seize Lincoln at the theater, although he showed two of his new associates the arrangement of the stage and rear exits.

The plan finally adopted was to lay in wait for the President's carriage as he drove in some unfrequented road, for it was known he rarely had a large guard.

On March 16 Booth learned that a special performance of the play, "Still Waters Run Deep," was to be given next day at the Campbell Military Hospital by J. W. Wallack, E. L. Davenport, and Rose Eytinge, and that the President was expected to attend. The hospital was out Seventh street, beyond the city dimits, near the Soldiers' Home.

Booth now decided that the time had arrived for the kidnapping, and he assembled his followers and assigned to each his part. Atzerodt was to have the boat ready and the others, mounted and armed, were to go with Booth to a lonely part of the road to the hospital and hold up the President's carriage. He was on the box were to be overpowered, gagged and bound, and Booth was to drive the carriage rapidly into Maryland and by the shortest route eastward of Washington.

How the Plan Failed.

At a meeting of the plotters that night, in a hotel, John Surratt declared the plot was already known and that it would fail. Some of the others urged withdrawal, when Booth arose, struck the table in a dramatic manner, and exclaimed: "Well, gentlemen, if worst comes to worst, I shall know what to do."

Four of the men rose to go. One of them said: "If I understand you to intimate anything more than the capture of Mr. Lincoln, I for one will bid you good-by."

The others assented to this statement. Booth at once, in his most winning manner, quieted their fears and when, at 5 o'clock in the morning, the meeting broke up, he had won them back to allegiance to his kidnapping plan.

That afternoon Booth and his band mounted and rode out of Washington, two by two to the rendezvous, to wait for the President's carriage. After nightfall they returned and dispersed, baffled and disappointed. Lincoln had not gone to the theatrical performance.

Booth at this point, relinquished his plan to kidnap Lincoln. How much of his mind he revealed to his associates cannot be said. It is doubtful if any but Payne knew his purpose. O'Laughlin went back to Baltimore. Arnold went to Fortress Monroe and secured employment. In a fortnight John H. Surratt went to Richmond, to take dispatches to Canada—a journey that saved him from hanging. Atzerodt, Payne and Herold, Booth kept about him, until such time as he could use them; and as the days passed he watched, smiling and gay of manner, at the theaters, for the coming of the President.

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Tomorrow—Lincoln's last speech.

THE OPEN FORUM

In Which Readers of The Herald Express Their Views on Current Topics.

Editor of The Washington Herald: An editorial in The Washington Herald of April 4, 1915, is deserving of attention from every Republican who wishes for his party national success in the election of 1916.

If Mr. Roosevelt is intending to help achieve such success it is the duty of all Republicans to welcome his assistance without reproaching him in any way for anything he has said or done in the past. In 1906 the Republican party seemed hopelessly controlled by trusts and the money power. It would have gone on to overwhelming defeat by the action of discouraged reform Republicans in 1908 if it had not been for Mr. Roosevelt's leadership in reform principles and measures. He spoke and acted boldly, made his administration an instrument for the salvation of the party, adopted his associate, Secretary Taft, as his candidate and as a reform candidate, and was the dominating force in the victory of his successor in the Presidential office. In all this effective and successful work Mr. Roosevelt was not faultless. No man with his wonderful intelligence and force in human affairs ever was perfect in his plans and methods. He made a mistake in selecting Mr. Taft as his successor as a reformer, for in the latter statesman's whole career he was never a wholehearted and sincere and energetic progressive, solicitous for the success of the reform measures which came up for consideration during his administration, and some of which were adopted by the Republican party. Yet Mr. Roosevelt also made a mistake in becoming a candidate against Mr. Taft in 1912 and in helping to send to defeat the party which had honored them both, and in placing in national power the Democratic party and the "Watchful Waiting" President, Woodrow Wilson.

But these mistakes are in the past. If Mr. Roosevelt is now willing disinterestedly to give all his wonderful energies to the defeat of Wilson and the election of the Republican nominee for President in 1916 his services to help restore to power in the nation the grand old party which met the defeat which the President whom he had selected as his successor brought about should be accepted without any of the reproach which The Herald article seems to imply that Mr. Roosevelt deserves. It would not be difficult for me to state serious faults of Mr. Roosevelt, but on the other hand I could repeat unstinted eulogies I have uttered both before and since he began in 1908 to reform the Republican party and to strike blows against the mass of malefactors of great wealth whose crimes were leading the Republican party to defeat too much deserved. Mr. Roosevelt should be taken as he is, a wonderful and powerful character and should be gladly welcomed and co-operated with whenever he is right as he now promises to be.

The Republican party needs to be cautious and not reactionary. It must lay aside animosities and not seek to punish progressives of any grade even those who so fatally bolted President Taft when a candidate for re-election in 1912, that he only obtained eight electoral votes, while President Wilson received 347. If a spirit of revenge prevails on the part of the old guard to any considerable extent, the Republican party will again fail. In that spirit it cannot carry all the Northern States necessary to overcome the Democratic solid South, which is made solid by suppressing the votes of the colored population who furnish to that section forty electoral votes, which, if the fifteenth amendment of the Constitution was not wickedly disobeyed, would make Republican victory sure even with many internal dissensions in our ranks. But as the conditions actually are Republican national defeat will come without such harmony as can be best secured by accepting with cordiality and friendship and with no reproaches the offer of Mr. Roosevelt to help us to achieve victory.

WILLIAM E. CHANDLER.

The Married Teacher Question.

Editor of The Washington Herald: The crusade intended to coerce the Board of Education into abrogating the rule which automatically dismisses women teachers upon marrying presents something of a paradox.

The contention is that the rule does injustice to the women of Washington; that the newly wed, under marital cares, are not only able to give proper attention to school duties, but become especially fitted to teach by reason of such added cares or in spite thereof.

The arguments seek to establish, that if a man is entitled to teach upon marrying, so is a woman entitled to continue to teach upon marrying; that the matron upon becoming a mother and having the physical and moral welfare of her baby to look to, thereby, is especially qualified to teach a public school upon the assumption that she has become experienced in looking to the welfare of children; that notwithstanding that the wife or mother does prefer to continue to teach rather than to housekeep or to look after her own children, that she has become better qualified for teaching school than the unmarried woman; that the preference of the board under rule 45 for unmarried women, whether for economical or whatever reason, is unwarranted discrimination against social status and sex.

If the contentions of those who oppose rule 45 have justification there is little necessity for the States to enact laws pensioning mothers so that they may remain in the home and rear their own children.

Charged with an administrative duty the Board of Education has adhered to rule 45 as being in the interest of school efficiency.

The newly married woman by reason of new interests and added responsibilities, would likely be compelled to regard her school as of secondary consideration. The responsibilities she has assumed engrosses the attention of matrons generally, and in dealing with the question from the practical aspect of school morale the action of the board seems proper.

Ought it to be assumed that the newly married woman has had experience by reason of marriage which can counterbalance the untrammelled efficiency of the unmarried teacher?

Undoubtedly, in adhering to rule 45 the board concluded that it is not possible for wives who would be mothers to continue to teach upon a plane of efficiency with unmarried women.

The teaching corps in the elementary schools has been recruited largely from the normal school; not only have the teachers been trained to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic, but to supplement parental care in the respect of looking to the physical and moral welfare of the children during school hours. Is not the plea that there is need for married women in the elementary schools sentimental? Is it likely that children lose anything in an educational way because unmarried women are preferred in the elementary schools, for administrative reasons as being more efficient than can reasonably be expected of the average wife and potential mother? Herein lies the common sense and expediency of the rule.

The need for the wife and mother is in the home not in the school.

CONSERVATIVE.

Must Crush the War Machine.

Editor of The Washington Herald: I notice the full page advertisement which is a request by American Germans that influence be brought about that might break the laws of neutrality and stop the shipping of war munitions to the allies. This might bring about peace to the great advantage of Germany. This may be the proper time to say that no sensible Anglo-Saxon anywhere wants peace now. The Prussian war machine of aggression must be crushed now or "crumbles the English-speaking nations." Belgium must go back on the map. Any nation that is coarse enough to use the war ethics of a madman like Neitzschi, who died insane, needs a lesson.

CYRIL COUDEN.
1112 Maryland ave. southwest.

When Women Vote.

Editor of The Washington Herald: Prophesying as to what will happen when women vote is no longer necessary, for we have within our own country proof that woman suffrage has not wrecked the home and has not overthrown the foundations of government, but has been of benefit not only to the women themselves by giving them a wider outlook on life, but has taught both men and women that woman's duty to humanity cannot stop within the precincts of her own home, but does, of necessity, compel her care for the less fortunate within the State or nation. The women of Massachusetts were fifty-five years in securing the law making mothers the equal guardians of their children with the fathers. In Colorado, after women were enfranchised, the next legislature enacted the equal guardianship law. In Massachusetts the women worked for the equal guardianship law for fifty-five years, in Colorado with the ballot, less than two years. The average pay of a woman teacher is one-third that of a man teacher in Massachusetts; in the States where women vote, the law provides that men and women teachers shall receive equal pay for equal work. A word to the wise is sufficient.

VIOLA KAUFMAN.

King of Musical Instruments.

Editor of The Washington Herald: Music of the gods, celestial music, divine music, soft and sweet music is the harmony produced by the pipe organ, according to my humble criterion. The violin, the harp, the mandolin, the guitar, the piano, in short, all the other instruments produce agreeable musical sounds, but the pleasing, indescribably beautiful, sublime notes of the pipe organ surpass all other melodies; they reach the inmost fibers of our hearts.

The pipe organ weeps, sighs, sobs, smiles, whispers, murmurs, imitates the human voice. The pipe organ with its incomparable rhythmical eloquence speaks of love, of hope, of God, of re-

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