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SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1905.

"IMPORTANT—IF TRUE."

The esteemed Richmond News Leader contains the following communication, which comes under the "important—if true" head:

"Editor The News Leader:

"Reading of the monument unveiling at Bethel, I am reminded that a soldier named Bill Sargeant was killed in that same fight. The incident was impressed on my mind by the fact that his was the first soldier's body sent home over the old James river and Kanawha canal. The man was from Buckingham county, although he went out with one of the Richmond companies, and the body was brought to Richmond and sent by packet to Rolling's Landing, seventy-five miles above Richmond. It was said at the time that Mr. Sargeant was the first man killed in the fight.

"Buchanan, Va., June 12, 1905. "K."

In General Magruder's official report of the battle of Big Bethel, published in last Sunday's Daily Press, the losses are placed at one killed and ten wounded, and Wyatt's name is officially recorded as that of the first Confederate soldier to fall in battle. In Colonel (afterwards General) D. H. Hill's detailed report of the battle, the name of Bill Sargeant does not appear even in the list of wounded, and he also gives Wyatt as the only man to fall in the battle.

If Bill Sargeant was killed in the battle of Bethel it should be possible to establish the fact in some way and another marker should be erected at the spot where he fell. It may be, however, that the News Leader's correspondent has either the name or the battle wrong, or else Sargeant did not belong to the troops stationed at Bethel church.

DR. ALDERMAN AND BAILEY.

Dr. J. J. Lafferty in the last issue of the Baltimore and Richmond Christian Advocate takes the following shot at Senator Bailey, of Texas:

"The President of the University of Virginia, Dr. Alderman, in a paper of merit, argued the need of stalwart men in the Senate of this republic of the calibre of Clay, Calhoun and Webster. It so happens that one of his selected champions of our renowned State college is a Senator. He 'took exceptions' to the rating of the present 'Conscript Fathers' as outclassed by the aforesaid trio. He resigned from the committee chosen to carry the oriflame of the university. The Senator let it be known that he held himself the peer of those giants—in plain speech, he was also a tall son of Anak."

We think Dr. Lafferty must have misunderstood both Dr. Alderman's remarks and Mr. Bailey's reply. As we remember the affair, the president of the University of Virginia limited his criticism of senatorial timber to the South, and in his reply the senator from Texas did not make it a personal matter at all, but simply protested against the assumption that Southern senators were not as capable, in comparison with the senators from other sections of the country, as they were in the days of Calhoun, and we believe he was right in the position he took.

The labor unions in Sweden announce that they will not take up arms against their brethren in Norway. When the fighting men the world over refuse to be led into unjust wars international arbitration will secure a greater boost than it did through the Czar's peace conference.

JAPANESE SURGERY.

Sir Frederick Treves, the great English surgeon, pays a glowing tribute to Japanese medical and surgical methods. "Nothing in Japan," says he, "astonished me more than the manner in which the native practitioners have absorbed into their own science the medicine and surgery of this side of the world. Take only one branch—medical equipment in time of war. Many problems which have been the terrors of European armies the Japanese have solved. European armies enter upon a war with many determinations; one is to have 10 per cent. of sick. They get it. The Japanese are quite content with 1 per cent. of sick, and they have achieved their ambition. I hope we on this side of the world may be able to imitate it."

When we place those figures beside the disgraceful ones brought out in our little brush with Spain, we are driven to the conclusion that the Japs are not imitators of the United States and of England. They certainly must have eliminated those inefficient methods which have made disease more fatal than bullets in the average war. In leading the way to a higher plane of military sanitation and surgery the Japanese should be considered as benefactors of the human race. Are the old, hide-bound red-taped nations too self-satisfied to learn the lesson of Japan's remarkable experience.

PANAMA CANAL SUPPLIES.

Senator Hopkins, of Illinois, is reported as saying that the administration is right in buying canal materials abroad when they can be bought for less than in the home market. He does not believe that there are a dozen members in both houses of Congress who disagree with the President or have any intention of legislating on the subject. So also Representative Tawney, of Minnesota, a member of the committee of ways and means, rejects the claim of the stand-patters that the government shall pay the trusts for canal materials more than the price at which the trusts sell the same materials in foreign markets.

The fight, however, is not over and it remains to be seen whether or not the President's congressional supporters will "stand pat" in the face of an approaching election in which campaign funds will be necessary. If the principle laid down in the Panama purchases is to stand it certainly will necessitate a revision of the tariff in the interest of the general consumer who is now forced to pay exorbitant rates for his supplies just as Uncle Sam would be forced to do, but for Mr. Roosevelt's bold defiance of the powers which maintain artificial prices simply because a prohibitive tariff makes such a course possible.

A BUSINESS PRINCIPLE.

Mr. Dalrymple, the manager of Glasgow's municipal railway system, has left Chicago, and is now on his way home to Scotland. Before leaving, he summarized his impressions as follows:

The peculiarity which has impressed me most strongly in this country is the complacency with which the American people allow their public officials to be tipped out of office every two years or so. Our city council consists of twenty-seven members, twenty-five of whom comprise what is known as the tramways committee. Under this committee is placed a general manager, who is a permanent official, and does not change because of any change in the members of the city council or in this committee. Indeed, such a thing is quite unknown as the change of a head of a department on account of the change of the government."

The principle carried out by Glasgow is based upon common sense. In America, however, it will be difficult to establish it upon a satisfactory basis until there is a change in the character of public servants. At present, in many places, the only reason why changes are two years apart is that the voters don't get a chance at the office holders any oftener. It usually happens, however, that men who do their work properly hold their offices year in and year out regardless of popular upheavals.

Out in Kansas City white men are taking the places of striking negro hod carriers. By transferring the white strike-breakers from the Missouri town to Chicago and the negro strike breakers from the Windy City to the Missouri town it might be possible to strike a happy medium and to remove a prolific source of race prejudice in two communities.

That heartless judge who fined the secretary of the Tobacco Trust five dollars for contempt of court must have an exaggerated idea of the value of money or else a very proper conception of the dignity of that special court.

Lieutenant General Sherman, of Illinois, declares that Washington "is the most aristocratic, plutocratic, money-ridden, flubstocratic community in Christendom." The general should have refrained from voicing his sentiments until the peace negotiations were pulled off. The plenipotentiaries might have overlooked the fact he persists in shouting from the house tops.

The fact that the Japs had their range finders in the fighting tops during the recent battle in the Sea of Japan is another indication that the little brown men of the Orient have an original inspiration now and then.

A perusal of the assessments laid against the aspirants for preferment in the approaching State primary, leads one to suggest that perhaps the State committee expects the candidates to buy their nominations.

In buying a farm in Virginia Mrs. Roosevelt has hit upon a happy solution of the old question: "What shall we do with our former Presidents?"

Stub Ends of Thought and Heart Verse

It is seldom one finds so much of practical value and so great a measure of entertainment within the covers of a single volume as is contained in "Stub Ends of Thought and Heart Verse" by Arthur G. Lewis, one of the South's most brilliant writers. It is a handsomely printed and beautifully bound volume, containing clear cut, terse thought and philosophic expression of ideas, yet with a gentle, sympathetic feeling for all humanity. Jerome K. Jerome, in speaking of the writer, once said: "He is a thorough student of human nature, possessing the brain of a giant and the heart of a child." Mr. Lewis has conducted his special page in the Book of the Royal Blue for several years with apparently an endless store of philosophy.—Royal Blue for May.

A Language Lesson.

Beautiful is an adjective applied chiefly to brides, heroines of novels and ladies in distress. It is employed principally by society editors, novelists, newspaper reporters and poets and holds its age and shape well in spite of constant activity and overwork. The only novelist who never used the word was Rhoda Broughton. Her heroine Belinda was green eyed, freckled and cantankerous and is the only unbeautiful heroine on record, just as the count in Wilkie Collins' "The Woman In White" is the only fat villain. The only poet who has never used it is Swinburne. He always compares his heroines to serpents, they are so wise and sinuous. The society editor or newspaper reporter who has never worked it to a silvery edge does not live, contrary to the rules of the Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Inoffensive Adjectives.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

How to Seal Letters.

It is often very desirable to know how to seal a letter so that it cannot be opened without betraying the fact. Steam or hot water will open envelopes closed with mucilage and even a wafer. A hot iron or a spirit lamp dissolves sealing wax, an impression in plaster having been taken of the seal. By the combined use of wafer and sealing wax, however, all attempts to open the letter otherwise than by force can be frustrated. All that is necessary is to close the letter first with a small moist wafer and to pierce the latter with a coarse needle (the same applies to mucilage), whereupon sealing wax may be used in the usual manner. This seal can neither be opened by dry heat nor by moisture.—Chicago News.

Making a Lawn.

Four things are required to make a good lawn—time, soil, climate and intelligent labor. In England they have a saying that it requires 100 years to make a lawn and 200 years to make a good lawn. In this country, where we are trying to make suburban homes while you wait and where a month or two seems a very long time, people are too impatient. It speaks well for their ambition that they want lawns as soon as they move into their houses, but they are really expecting too much. At the very best it requires no less than three years to make a presentable lawn and five or ten years to make what we uncritical Americans call a good lawn.—Garden Magazine.

Sunset Charms.

"Oh, Mr. Chappey," exclaimed Miss Gusch, "why weren't you up on the hill to see the sunset? It was just too lovely!"

"Yaas," replied Chappey, "sent my man up to do it for me. He understands that sawt of thing, don't y' know."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Taking Him In Time.

Mr. Newlywed—By the way, dearest, did I ever tell you about that beautiful heiress who once wanted me for a husband? Mrs. Newlywed—No, dear. You have never told me a lie yet that I know of.

Must Be In.

Would Be Musician—Do you think there is any music in me? Professor—There ought to be, sir. I have heard none come out.

Everything great is not always good, but all good things are great.—Demosthenes.

Why Did They Move?

They had a dog that never barked,
A hale that never cried;
They kept a cat that never fought
Whatever might betide.

Their tuneful daughter never screeched
These things are what they say;
But, pray, why was it, do you think,
Their neighbors moved away?

—New York Mail.

Unchanging Circus Rings.

"Circuses," said the old ring master, "have developed, evolved and changed. From the one ring of the past they have grown to three rings, plus an elevated stage, and there are many other improvements. But in one particular there has been no change since time began, and that is in the dimensions of the ring. A circus ring is always the same size—forty-two feet nine inches in diameter. Go where you will, you will never find a circus ring with different dimensions from that.

A bareback rider can ride best in a ring of this size. All riders train in such a ring and all horses are trained in such a ring. There would be trouble for horses and men if the size of the ring should be changed. It would be like changing the size of the baseball diamond, only worse."—Minneapolis Journal.

Preferred Tenants.

Servant—These rooms will be rented to artists only. Applicant—And why not to others? Servant—Because artists are less troublesome. They never want their rooms put in order.—Chicago Journal.

The Awful Loneliness.

The Friend—What made you close your season so early? The Actor—The solitude, my boy; night after night, the appalling solitude.—Brooklyn Life.

Every man has just as much vanity as he wants understanding.—Pope.

IT'S ALWAYS BAD.

The Best of Backs Are Bad When They Ache, and Newport News People Know It.

A bad back is always bad.
Bad at night when bedtime comes.
Just as bad in the morning.
Ever try Doan's Kidney Pills for it?
Know they cure backache—cure every kidney ill?
If you don't, some Newport News people do.
Read a case of it:

Mrs. M. E. Scott, wife of M. E. Scott, employed in the shipyard, residing at 3619 Lafayette avenue, says: "When I went to Allen's drug store for Doan's Kidney Pills a dull aching in the small of my back and through the loins was very pronounced. It was only an attack similar to predecessors which had annoyed me for some months. When they were in the acute stage if I contracted even a slight cold it was sure to settle in the small of my back and an aggravation of the complaint followed. Morning after morning I have been so lame and sore that I was poorly prepared to commence the coming day's duties. I thought if Doan's Kidney Pills could be depended upon they might tide me over the last attack and I was not disappointed. Mr. Scott is just as positive about the benefits received from the treatment as I."

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India Linens 7 1-2c; usually sold at 10c
India Linens 10c; usually sold at 12½c
India Linens 12 1-2c; usually sold at 15c
India Linens 15c; usually sold at ....18c and 20c
India Linens 18c; usually sold at ....20c and 25c
A lot of colored lawns 5c; worth, ...7½c to 8c
A lot of colored lawns 7 1-2c; worth 10c
A lot of colored lawns 10c; worth ....12½c to 15c
Beautiful patterns in figured organdies 12½c; worth..15c and 18c
Beautiful white mercerized waistings and suits, 10c, 12 1-2c and 15c; reduced from 15c and 20c.

Extra Values in Long Cloths, Plain and Check Nainsooks.

36-inch white dress Linens, formerly 28c to 35c, now 23c and 25c. Brown Linens, formerly 15c, 20c and 28c, now 12 1-2c, 14c and 18c.

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