

## GENTENNIAL YEAR OF GENERAL MEADE

### Hundredth Anniversary of His Birth in December.

The last day of this year marks the centennial of the birth of General George Gordon Meade, Union victor of the battle of Gettysburg. General Meade was born on Dec. 31, 1815, at Cadiz, Spain, in which city his father was engaged in business. Pennsylvania claims Meade as her son and greatest general, however, since his father was a Pennsylvanian and he himself was taken to the state when he was very young.

After the great battle Meade continued in charge of the Army of the Potomac, passing under command of General Grant when the latter was ele-

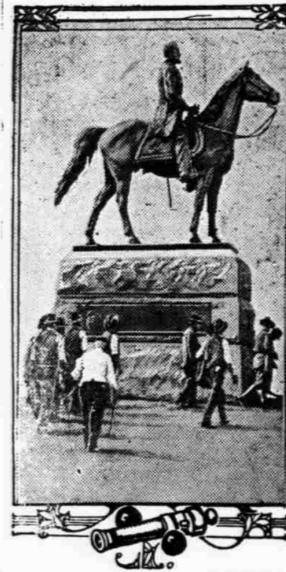


Photo by American Press Association.

MEADE STATUE AT GETTYSBURG.

vated to the chief command of all the Union armies. Grant told Meade that he desired him to continue as the commander of the army, and he did continue until that army was disbanded.

Grant placed Meade on a par with Sherman, McPherson and Thomas as army commanders, and other military authorities thought highly of him.

When the battle of Gettysburg was fought, though Meade was a major general of volunteers, he was only a major in the regular army, and he had held that rank but a year and two weeks. His great victory at Gettysburg resulted in his being jumped from major to brigadier general of regulars.

The following year, Aug. 18, at the request of Grant, who had tested him as the commander of the Army of the Potomac from Culpeper to Petersburg in that long list of battles in the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor and various engagements at Petersburg and vicinity, he was promoted to major general of the regular army. He died in 1872.

## CARRIER PIGEONS IN WAR.

Despite Wireless, These Birds Are Still Used For Certain Exigencies.

Even in this day of wireless they still use carrier pigeons in war. There seem to be certain exigencies when the birds can do the message bearing work best.

At an early stage in the war England forbade the releasing of pigeons



Photo by American Press Association.

BELGIAN SOLDIER WITH A CARRIER PIGEON.

from their lofts. Evidently the English did not want them used by spies. Later, however, they have placed a ban on shooting these birds on the ground that they "are being used for certain purposes in his majesty's service."

In Belgium the use of carrier pigeons is still quite common. The illustration shows a Belgian soldier bearing a carrier pigeon at his back in a cage that somewhat resembles a wicker knapsack.

## SIRES AND SONS.

Dr. Parkes Cadman, the noted Brooklyn divine, was once a coal miner.

Mr. John Wrey, the Australian millionaire, started life as a salesman in a shoe store.

Cardinal Gibbons was born in Baltimore of Irish parents. He had a brief commercial career in New Orleans. When he became of age he entered St. Charles' college, near Ellicott, Md.

John Muir, the noted American naturalist, is a Scotchman by birth. He is an ardent advocate of national parks. The Muir glacier in Alaska is named after him to commemorate his discovery of it.

Patrick Calhoun, noted street railway operator and corporation lawyer, also a grandson of John C. Calhoun, started his law career in St. Louis, living in the garret of a lodging house. He has a copper riveted rule to read two hours each day.

Marcus Loew, the "small time king" of vaudeville, doesn't try to prop his morning paper against a sugar bowl and read as he eats. He has a habit, contracted many years ago, of using it for a tablecloth. He shoves his toast and cup of chocolate from column to column as he reads.

## Pen, Chisel and Brush.

The picture "Paradise," by Tintoretto, is the largest painting in the world. It is eighty-four feet wide, thirty-three and a half feet high and is now in the doges' palace, Venice.

When Dr. Woodrow Wilson established a new system at Princeton which kept the professors busy pretty nearly all the time, Dr. Henry van Dyke resigned, as he did not have enough time for literature.

Frederick MacMonnies, the sculptor, has returned to this country after more than twenty-five years of life abroad, in which he gained an international reputation, won exhibition honors in all the capitals and was made a chevalier in the Legion of Honor of France and decorated with the Order of St. Michael of Bavaria.

## Echoes of the War.

Not that King Albert does not want peace, but that he wants Belgium with it.—Boston Herald.

The main difference between the war a year ago and now seems to be 365 days.—Washington Post.

The war casualties are not all on the battle front. Some of them happen in the government cabinets.—Philadelphia Press.

Europe finds the cost of living advancing in a manner that discourages any reliance on war as a solution of economic problems.—Washington Star.

Peace conditions are being talked of again. The trouble about them is that each side wants to make them rather than take them.—Baltimore American.

## State Lines.

In the state of New York there are approximately 12,000,000 acres of potential forest lands.

Not since 1864, with one exception, has California produced so much gold as in 1914, when the output was worth \$20,563,496.

Illinois is the leading state in the production of common brick, Pennsylvania in fire brick and Ohio in vitrified paving brick and sewer pipe.

Texas, which in 1850 stood twelfth in rank, is now the seventh state in the American Union in point of wealth. It is first in point of size and fifth in population.

## BRIGHT BRIEFS.

The searchlight always seems to be looking for something bad.

The unexpected happens so often that it ought to lose its novelty.

Don't waste time in explaining why you failed. Get busy and make good.

This fall sees fewer announcements of emperors' plans for Christmas dinners.

The next war, says Mr. Edison, will be one of machines. Preferably typewriting machines.

Easiest way is the best way if you don't mind taking a chance on doing the work over again.

Speculation as to when the war will end have given place to calculations as to when loans will fall due.

The joke seems to be on the European tightwads who used always to be kicking because taxes were so high.

Intense interest of the masses in the war question may be directly traceable to the fact that it is their funeral.

It is evident from the rising quotations on medicines that a drug on the market is pretty good property these days.

A person has to keep busy with the newspapers to remain in close touch with real conditions in the European cabinets.

Woman's rights are marching on. It is announced that the new superdreadnaught California will have a "spacious reception room for women visitors."

It is not in the warring countries that people are obliged to eat atrocities instead of food. Consider neutral Iceland, where codfish is dried, ground into powder and made into bread.

## BAD LANDS OF BORDER WARFARE

### Big Bend Country Scene of Many Raids.

THE trouble along the Mexican border, which at present is giving rise to no little anxiety in government circles, is an old sore which breaks out every now and then and which perhaps may be only eradicated by means of heroic treatment.

Nowhere in the United States is there an area better adapted to sudden raids and swift escapes than the Big Bend country of Texas, where bands of Mexicans have had frequent fights with United States soldiers, Texas rangers and parties of citizens. It is a region which settlers have let severely alone. Its traditions and customs in 1915 are much the same as its traditions and customs of 1800.

Although the Big Bend country proper is really that part of Texas lying along the border and extending from El Paso to Del Rio, a distance of some 350 miles where the Rio Grande makes a big dip into Mexico, the name has through long usage come to embrace all of the Texas border from El Paso to Brownsville. For a hundred miles north from the river for practically the whole distance from El Paso to the gulf the country is desolate, supporting a few large cattle ranches and little else. Small hills, frequent ravines and old water courses and a gen-

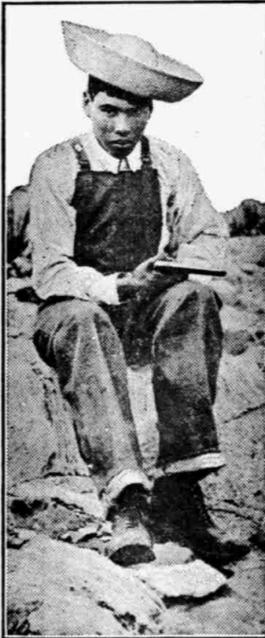


Photo by American Press Association.

MEXICAN BANDIT IN THE BAD LANDS.

erally dense growth of mesquite and sagebrush make it ideal for guerrilla warfare.

Ferds have existed between the Mexicans and the cow men of the region almost from the day that Texas won her independence from Mexico. It was because of these ferds that that picturesque organization, the Texas rangers, was formed. The rangers are, in reality, the outgrowth of a semiofficial posse of Big Bend citizens formed at the expense of the ranchers to put a stop to the cattle rustling which had gained such proportions as to threaten the whole industry, along the frontier.

Many years ago, before the Southern Pacific extended its lines through the northern rim of the Big Bend country, that territory was the retreat for the cattle rustlers, murderers and bad men of the southwest. One of the most noted of these old time bandits was Roque Martinez, who was at the head of the famous Black Pool band, which numbered upward of 100 Mexicans, Indians and renegade white men.

For years Martinez held sway throughout the whole section, gradually increasing his operations from cattle stealing until his band on more than one occasion attacked and sacked small towns in the interior. He was finally cornered by a company of Texas rangers, assisted by cowboys, and was killed in a running fight. Eleven of his band were later captured and lynched.

The killing of Martinez occurred at a point near Ojinaga, which obtained some notoriety a year ago because the last stand of the Huerta federalists against Villa was made there. The battle ended in the flight of the federalists across the border and their long tramp across the heart of the Big Bend country to Marfa, where they entrained for the concentration camp at Fort Bliss.

To patrol the Big Bend country properly would require the active co-operation of practically half the entire United States army. Despite the fact that the region has been pierced by the main line of a transcontinental railroad and that every effort has been made to introduce irrigation and dry farming the Big Bend country today remains as wild as it was fifty years ago. It is today the last "bad lands" of the United States, and it is there that the only counterparts of the old bands of cattle rustlers and outlaws are to be found. The Big Bend country of Texas is really the last survival of the old west.

## DAMES AND DAUGHTERS.

Lucy Smith, bride at fifteen, mother at seventeen, at nineteen is a divorcee in New York.

Miss Marie L. Obenauer is chief of the woman's division of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

Mile. Jeanne Prevost, the famous French actress, has been given the rank of corporal in the French army in recognition of what she has done to amuse the wounded soldiers.

Mrs. Julianna Ferguson, daughter of Philip Armour, has a palatial home on Long Island. The house is a faithful copy of an ancient Italian monastery. Three years and \$1,000,000 were required in the construction.

Miss Lillian D. Wald is the Jane Addams of New York. She started the Henry Street settlement and built it up to 3,000 members. This settlement has under its supervision ninety-three nurses, who attend, without charge, poor women unable to go to hospitals. She also started the first public playground in New York.

## Short Stories.

In Shakespeare's day Shylock was always played as a comic character.

To understand the newspapers a man must have a vocabulary of at least 2,000 words.

The Chinese now must doff their hats when meeting friends. The government has adopted western ideas in enforcing its new customs.

Six feet four inches is the average height of the Bororos, who live in the southwest of Brazil. They are the tallest people in the world.

Efforts are being made in the Philippines to revive the coffee growing industry, which was ruined by the blight a quarter of a century ago.

## PITH AND POINT.

Envy is the tribute that failure pays to success.

You can save yourself a lot of trouble by not borrowing any.

Even Europe will eventually discover that man does not live by shrapnel alone.

The discretion that is the better part of valor is sometimes merely lack of nerve.

It is a comforting assurance that the Panama canal will certainly be opened before the next war.

If you intend to do a mean thing wait until tomorrow, but if you are going to do good do it now.

That New York Hall of Fame is pretty well advertised by the immortals who don't get into it.

No satisfactory theory has been offered of what outlaws do with all the money they get by robbing trains.

Much of the history of the present war is being written, without censoring, in the ledgers of the world's great bankers.

The English are said to be having trouble trying to subdue the American mules they bought for use in the war. Evidently they got the genuine brand.

An average man breathes about twenty-one cubic feet of air into his lungs every hour, and it's about the only thing in the world he gets without paying for.

Science has made it possible for the human voice to be heard from America to Europe, but no wireless telephone was needed to carry the sound of the shot that was heard around the world.

## Flippant Flings.

One is in doubt whether to attribute Carranza's success to his verblage or to his foliage.—Chicago News.

Well, if it isn't one thing it's another. We'll soon have congress on our hands again.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

They are having what they call apple day in some of the western cities, but Eve invented it.—Philadelphia Press.

"John Doe No. 104," adopted by the Finley Sheparis, couldn't have been much luckier if he had bought Bethlehem at 32.—Washington Post.

## Fashion Frills.

Men only laugh at the freak fashion maid.—Baltimore American.

The girls who attempt to improve on the fashions do it by making their skirts shorter.—Philadelphia Press.

How the world moves! A few years ago tights were considered immodest. Now they are prescribed in the name of modesty.—New York Sun.

A Japanese actress finds it difficult to keep track of American fashions, which she thinks must change daily. Daily? Hourly might be nearer the fact.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

## Tales of Cities.

There is not a single pawnbroker in Quebec.

San Francisco's bonded debt is now \$42,635,000, of which sum \$5,475,000 is for street railway expenditures.

New York has more Irish than there are in Dublin, more Italians than Rome and more Russians than Kiev.

Dawson City, which during the Alaskan gold rush of 1899 reached a population of 25,000, now has fewer than 2,000 inhabitants.

## STORY OF FAMOUS GRIDIRON CLUB

### Arthur W. Dunn Publishes History of Unique Organization.

Arthur W. Dunn, the well known Washington correspondent, has just published through the Frederick Stokes company a history of the Gridiron club under the title "Gridiron Nights."

Mr. Dunn is peculiarly well fitted for the task that he has so admirably accomplished. He was for some time the president of the Gridiron club, which is known far and wide for the remarkable gatherings about its board. The position of president is the highest ambition of the Washington correspondent, and no one is elected to that



Photo by American Press Association.

ARTHUR W. DUNN.

position except journalists of recognized ability and high standing in the profession. Mr. Dunn is one of the best equipped newspaper men in the country. His long residence in Washington, his wide acquaintance with public men and his ripe experience in newspaper work place him in an advantageous position for getting at the inside of national affairs.

The dinners of the Gridiron club of Washington have for thirty years been made occasion for a satirical treatment of the larger political events and the more conspicuous political persons of the then immediate past and present; good natured and funny always, but without very severe regard for the dignity of political headliners. The membership of the club is made up largely of Washington newspaper men, editors and correspondents. The guests of the club at its unique dinners are prominent public officials from the president down, foreign ambassadors and sundry others in the public eye.

The history of those dinners during the thirty years since the organization of the club as related by Mr. Dunn is not only a narrative entertaining in itself, but an inside view of the history of the United States as it unfolded at the national capital during that eventful period. Apart from the amusing features of the interesting recital, the book is of special value as a notebook of contemporary history.

## DREDGING AT GAILLARD CUT.

Old Trouble at the Panama Canal Still Hard Problem.

The great slide in the Gaillard cut, formerly known as the Culebra cut, of the Panama canal has choked that part of the great waterway with mil-



Photo by American Press Association.

DREDGING AT THE GAILLARD CUT.

lions of cubic yards of rock and dirt. Numbers of vessels have been tied up awaiting passage. The canal force is at present working day and night to free the channel and thus reopen the canal to traffic. The most powerful units in the dredging fleet are being used to further this purpose.

## SHORT AND SHARP.

Who will open the door in China when the trouble's over?

Good judgment isn't of much value unless you make use of it.

Sometimes you can help your friends by not giving them advice.

As a rule a man never forgets the spot where his hatchet has been buried.

At Thanksgiving time we may be glad to realize that we are still out of it.

It doesn't matter so much who wins the most battles as who wins the last battle.

Speaking of the Nobel prize, the greatest peace prize in the world is peace itself.

It will take ten years of peaceful work for Mexico to figure out just what her revolutions have cost her.

For those who favor a short winter we suggest the signing of a promissory note or two to mature next March.

Stefansson has discovered a lot more land in the higher latitudes. But there will be no immediate rush to cut it up into building lots.

Best of all, this banner wheat crop is not due to an exceptional run of weather, but to better methods on moist soil and to wider mastery of dry.

Mexico is to substitute the American game of baseball for bullfights. Here is one gratifying proof that the republic is honestly trying to become civilized.

The invention is reported of an aerial torpedo which can drop explosives on an enemy 100 miles away. Day by day the space for innocent bystanders decreases.

## Some Questions.

Is a shop devoted exclusively to boys' clothing what might be termed a half wear store?—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Isn't it enough to make New England revolt to learn that the revered codfish is now being dyed red and sold for plebeian salmon?—Chicago News.

Dean Johnson of the New York university wants the "heaviest tax put on married men." Huh! Isn't that where it is at present?—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Barcelona's observatory has discovered a new planet. The astronomer says the shiner is getting away from the earth as fast as possible. Can you blame it?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

## Electric Sparks.

So great is the velocity of electricity that it could travel round the world eight times in a minute.

Though 2,000 miles from a railroad, Yakutsk, in the extreme north of Asia, maintains an electric light plant the year round.

According to a French scientist, who has experimented exhaustively, rain can carry both positive and negative charges of electricity.

Point Hope, Alaska, which is in darkness during the long arctic winter, will soon have an electric plant. Storms along the coast will be harnessed by windmills to produce the electricity.

## Current Comment.

Drugs are going up in price so rapidly that many people may be benefited by having to fight ailments with fresh air and sunshine.—Washington Star.

The perpetuation of the names of some of our famous old warships in the new battle cruisers would be an excellent idea. Other navies adopted it long ago.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The secretary of the interior asks for a million dollars less for next year than he had for this. This would be more welcome from some other department, for it means that the veterans are passing away and the pension rolls are diminishing.—Philadelphia Press.

## The Royal Box.

Czar Nicholas is an expert whist player.

The favorite dishes of the queen of Holland are English roast beef and mutton.

The queen of Norway takes a great interest in bookbinding. The collection of beautifully bound books is one of her hobbies.

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy declares his great liking for polenta, the Indian meal porridge, which he eats as regularly as the poorest peasant. He also likes roast chicken giblets with calf's brains and artichokes.

## Recent Inventions.

A patent has been issued for a corrugated metal or rubber mitten for use in washing clothes.

Eight blades set in a semicircular frame form a new implement for cutting halves of cakes evenly.

The valise patent by a Kentucky inventor has a drop front and several shelves that make it serve as a miniature dressing table.

A rural mail box with a loose bottom that closes a circuit and rings an electric bell at a distance when even a postal card is dropped upon it has been patented by a Californian.