The Evening Times

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CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended April 28, 1900, was as follows:

Sunday, April 22	19,718
Monday, April 23	40,244
Tuesday, April 24	40,790
Wednesday, April 25	40,800
Thursday, April 26	41,316
Friday, April 27	40,566
Saturday, April 28	42,328
Total	265,771
Daily average (Sunday, 19,718, excepted)	41,008

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1900.

Mr. Root and the Kaiser.

An opinion was abroad in Washington yesterday that Secretary Root's Monroe Doctrine speech, at the Grant dinner in New York, was so pointedly aimed at Germany that it would be made the basis of diplomatic enquiries by the Berlin Government. In ordinary circumstances we should not expect Germany to take the least notice of the incident. After-dinner speeches do not always mean all that they seem to when read in the chill of cold and cruel type. They are apt to be seasonable exuberances, partaking of the spirit of the passing occasion, rather than of the retrospection which comes after the next morning's papers have gone to press. Captain Coghlan, on his return from Manila, also expressed after-dinner views of a Monroe nature and recited a poem in rich dialect. There was a slight flavor of anti-Teutonism about both of the Coghlan numbers, but not enough to cause the smallest friction between two great and closely related peoples. It is said that when the Kaiser was shown the verses recited by Dewey's gallant captain, after being on shore leave for half a day, His Majesty laughed heartily, and was heard to murmur words from a German proverb—something about "bier auf wein!"

We are afraid that Mr. Root will not get off so easily. Unfortunately for him, he represents an Administration which is determinedly bent upon destroying the Monroe Doctrine, and has through the formulation of the proposed Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, by and with the advice and consent of the European Concert, given a pledge of that intention to the several Governments interested. In arranging the terms of the agreement referred to by means of pourparlers and protocols in the usual way, definite and sufficient notice was given to the Old World nations that, so far as the present Republican Administration was concerned, they need give no further heed to the prohibition expressed in the Monroe declaration.

Of course, foreign rulers and cabinets were and are quite aware that it would require ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty by the United States Senate actually to work the destruction of the famous American doctrine. But they have been so fully assured that the Administration could and would achieve the object agreed upon, that they have been almost inclined to look upon it as already an fait accompli. This inter-cabinet situation adds great delicacy to the question raised by the Hon. Elihu Root. As a gentleman holding a high station in the country, and one regarded both here and abroad as the brains of Mr. McKinley's official family, his Monroe utterances will be certain to create a painful impression in diplomatic and Government circles throughout Europe.

Indeed it may become necessary for the British, German, Russian, French, Austrian, and Italian foreign offices to ask Mr. Hay if the formal proposition to get the Monroe Doctrine out of the path of European territorial acquisition in the Western Hemisphere, has been abandoned, and, if it has, why they have not been advised of the fact and the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty withdrawn from the Senate? As matters stand between the ministries, Mr. McKinley appears bound to secure the abandonment and surrender of the doctrine; yet his influential War Secretary has declared in a public place and with vehemence that it is to be maintained at the cost of an early and terrific naval and military struggle!

According to popular opinion that warning was intended for one of the great powers which have been promised that Monroeism should no longer stand in their way. If this be a correct view, it follows that a grave mistake has been made in gratuitously affronting a friendly sovereign and country with whom the Administration is on terms of amity and private understanding. There is always the possibility that the ebullition may have been merely designed as campaign jingoism to catch votes, and that it may have been arranged for in advance by a secret convention; but we do not incline to that theory. In such an event the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty would have to be withdrawn as a matter of consistency, or the claptrap would hardly become effective. In short, it is hard to know what to think about the embarrassing episode.

The Truth and the Friars.

The rock-bottom truth concerning the relations of the religious orders in the Philippines to the questions of property and government in those islands, may be known to a few high Government officials and ecclesiastics. As far as the American people are concerned the matter is one of much mystery. On the one hand, native authorities on the subject—those at least whose statements have reached the public here—appear to agree that the repeated insurrections which have occurred in the archipelago during the past century, have been principally caused by the oppression of the common people by these orders. Distinguished visitors, official and otherwise, like Prof. Dean C. Worcester, and the Anglican Bishop of New York, come home from the Philippines with stories which seem to corroborate the assertions of the natives.

On the other hand equally intelligent Catholic witnesses deny at once the statements of the Filipinos and of the American Protestants who have, or think they have, investigated the question on the ground. In New York yesterday, the Rev. Father McQuaid, of San Francisco, who is returning to his parish from Manila, after a sojourn there of seven months, preached a sermon on "The Catholic Church in the Philippines," in which he lauded the work of the friars, and severely denounced the reports concerning them disseminated by Bishop Potter and others. Referring to the devotion and heroism of the early Catholic missionaries Father McQuaid said:

"The Philippine friars were the advance agents of Christianity and civilization. They were men of fine breeding and of splendid education. They voluntarily exiled themselves to work among savages.

"They found slavery, murder robbery, and idolatry in their worst horrors prevailing, yet so thoroughly did the friars work that twenty-seven years after their appearance there were bishoprics and archbishoprics, and peace and happiness reigned over all the islands save those of the Sulu group. The friars brought the Philippines into the light of day.

"It is easy enough for carping critics, who sit at home in easy chairs, and blinded sometimes by bigotry or woefully ignorant of the pages of missionary experiences, to pick flaws in the work of the Philippine friars. It is the height of audacity for such as Worcester, whose tripping to and from the Philippines was more of the nature of a pleasure jaunt, enhanced by the fat salary, and incidentals of a commissioner, and Bishop Potter, who, accustomed to New York velvet, endured the heat of Manila just four days, to cast aspersions on the friars.

"And speaking of Bishop Potter let it be added that if he is correctly reported as saying that concubinage is widespread in the Philippines, he says what is not true. And if he says that this condition of things is the result of exorbitant fees charged at the marriage rites, he says again what is not true. My six or seven months' experience is worth as much as his four days.

"The Filipinos are a civilized, religious, honest, and brave people. In treating with them we can well afford to be magnanimous. The spirit of the Constitution which fired the courage of the men of '76 should guide us yet; for just as soon as we part from it, will come the Republic's ruin and decay."

The bold defence of the much-maligned friars by Father McQuaid is a direct challenge to men like Prof. Worcester and Bishop Potter to prove their case. This is not the first time that our Catholic brethren have openly resented what they believe to be a disposition to prejudice the people of the United States against the Philippine religious orders, and hence to make their position in the islands difficult of adjustment to new conditions.

It is a wrong to all parties in interest that the McKinley Administration continues its policy of suppressing all information possible concerning its policy or current course with regard to a question upon which seems to hinge the future peace and civilization of our greatest Eastern possession. The very fullest information should be given by the Government that the public may know the truth. That the truth is not easy to reach at this distance, or perhaps anywhere, is shown in the divergent statements of eminently respectable citizens who have tried to find it through personal investigation.

If leading Filipinos are to be believed, the friars have taken possession of a large part of the arable land in Luzon, without just compensation, and under color of corrupt grants and concessions from Spanish Governors. Whether it could make any difference to Mr. McKinley whether these holdings were justly acquired or not, is an open question under the Treaty of Paris. The wording of that document appears to have been designed to secure to religious corporations whatever they claimed under possession at the time of cession. The Administration has given the matter much attention, but has acted as if afraid to let the country know what it was doing. His Grace, the Most Reverend Archbishop Chapelle, who is a citizen enjoying general respect and credit, is understood to be at Manila, as the joint representative of the Papacy and the President, to straighten out the religious tangle which the rebellions and anarchy of the past have produced. But the Administration reserves whatever it has learned from Monsignor Chapelle. It is time that current Philippine conditions, religious as well as military, were brought to the knowledge of the American people. The policy of the close corporation at Manila so long and successfully carried out by Otis and Denby, should be changed. Let the public have all the facts, whatever they may be.

Otis seems sure to come home, for he has accepted an invitation to dinner in his native village of Rochester, N. Y., to be eaten on June 15. He will have the unique pleasure of being able to tell the other diners about a war a year long, no event or episode of which he witnessed, and which he conducted entirely by telegraph and telephone. It is not only the Rochesterians but the whole American people who will be glad to have the old lady back. He should never have started.

Conditions in South Africa are not yet reflecting much glory on Lord Roberts. With fully an hundred thousand men to cover a triangular area with sides about seventy miles long, he has allowed ten or twelve thousand Boers to cut in on his flanks, clean up the great wheat harvest of the Wepener district, and get away with it. The vices of the British Army organization and system do not appear to have been yet cured.

Probably it may be regarded as providential that General Merriam has the Coeur d'Alene situation so well in hand that he could be spared for other duty, if that were necessary. The threatened strike on the New York Central system is a warning to the Administration that more of its friends and supporters are likely to require military assistance.

It is doubtful if an American naval demonstration off the coast of Syria would be tolerated by the Concert of Europe. Certainly not in advance of an explanation of and apology for the Root Monroe Doctrine speech.

THEATRE FIRE IN SYRACUSE.

The Structure Badly Damaged and One Man Fatally Hurt.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., April 30.—The Dunfee Comedy Theatre, on South Clinton Street was partly destroyed by fire which broke out at 2:10 o'clock this morning. The fire is believed to have started in the dressing-rooms under the stage. Before the flames were extinguished $15,000 damage was done.

Captain Phillip Kantz, of Engine Company No. 1, was perhaps fatally injured by being overcome by smoke and falling into the cellar. The damaged theatre is owned by John Dunfee, a contractor and local politician. It is valued at $25,000. Messrs. Bagg and Watson, of Buffalo, had recently secured the management of the house.

Coins of Cromwell's Troopers.

(From the Birmingham Post.)

A remarkable discovery of coins has been made at Hoghton, midway between Blackburn and Preston, at a farmhouse belonging to Thomas Crook, near Hoghton Tower, the seat of Sir James De Hoghton, and the scene of one of the Cromwellian advances. The coins which number fifty-five, are of silver varying in value, and dated near the end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth century. They were discovered under the thatch of a roof, where it is conjectured they were placed for safety from plunder by Cromwell's troops. They are in a remarkably good state of preservation, and were in a curious bag of wash leather.

London Women's Fad for Walking.

(From the Chicago News.)

It is becoming the fashion for smart women of London to do their shopping of a morning walking, and, in fact, walking is now looked upon as a health-giving exercise, and is greatly indulged in by all degrees. For instance, the Duchess of Devonshire makes a point of walking for a couple of hours every morning. The Duchess of Portland too, generally takes her constitutional. Lady Alwyne Compton, whose husband has just gone to the front, is a great walker; and Mme. Van Andre and Lady Randolph Churchill are also firm believers in the walking cure. Lady Claude Hamilton, who walks almost better than any woman in London, is more often to be seen on foot than driving.

POLITICAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

Grosvenor, the Calculator—Gen. Charles H. Grosvenor has resumed his famous role as Mr. Hanna's lightning calculator. He is predicting Mr. McKinley's reelection by a decreased majority in the Electoral College. As General Grosvenor figures it, there are now assured to Mr. McKinley 260 electoral votes and to Mr. Bryan 174, leaving thirteen votes in doubt. Grosvenor gives to McKinley these States: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. He concedes that Mr. Bryan will carry these States: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Kansas and Delaware are the only doubtful States, according to General Grosvenor. Kansas has ten votes and Delaware three votes in the Electoral College. Accepting the Grosvenor calculation as representative of the Administration's view of the situation at present, it is evident that there is a worse "scare" at the White House than heretofore has been acknowledged. The Democratic managers are not willing to concede North Dakota, South Dakota, or Washington to the Republicans. In their calculations, these three States will bring eleven votes to the Bryan column. This, then, according to General Grosvenor's etimate, would reduce the McKinley vote to 249 and increase Bryan's to 185. With Kansas' ten votes—and the Populists as well as the Democratic managers say Bryan will again carry Kansas—Bryan's vote is increased to 195—only twenty-nine short of the necessary number to elect him. If Delaware is doubtful the chances are more in favor of Bryan in that State than of McKinley. Everything in the Blue Hen State has been tending toward a return to the Democracy for three years. This would give Bryan three more votes, bringing his total up to 198. Why the Administration should rely on West Virginia's vote this year, when Senator Elkins virtually has surrendered all hope of re-election, cannot be reconciled to the usual theories upon which political forecasting is based. West Virginia's six votes are as safe for Bryan as are Maryland's eight votes. This estimate brings the Bryan vote up to 234—only ten short of the required number. If what is needed cannot be picked up in the Middle West the Democratic managers will be the worst fooled lot of politicians that ever managed a campaign. To get them they have two States to rely upon with reasonable hope—Indiana and Minnesota. It is true that the latter State could bring to Bryan only nine votes, thus still leaving him short of the goal by one vote, but it is not believed that even so optimistic a Republican as General Grosvenor would contend that anybody could miss the Presidency by such a narrow margin as that, especially when the same causes that would give Minnesota to Bryan would be operating with equal strength in Indiana, with Illinois exposed to like conditions of uncertainty.

Hanna Hasn't Given Up.—In spite of all the recent discouraging developments in Congress, it is evident that Mr. Hanna has not yet given up hope of pushing through the Ship Subsidy scheme at this session. He made a characteristic speech at Pittsburg Saturday night in which he laid down the law to his party on the Hanna-Payne Bill. He complained that more than $200,000,000 annually is wrung from the commerce of this country by foreign shipowners, and pointed out how all of this could be saved to the home shipper by the bounties he proposes to give American navigation companies. He also spoke eloquently of the flag and of the duty imposed by destiny upon this nation of Christianizing the world. Mr. Hanna does not present these arguments on the floor of the Senate, though he is supposed to do so at committee meetings. It is believed, however, that his Pittsburg speech is a forerunner of a great effort along the same line he will make in the Senate within the next month. Certain it is that he intends to exert his full strength in favor of the Ship Subsidy scheme from now until the close of the session, and it is thought that if he should plead with the Senate for the Christianizing of the world through the means of ship subsidies he would be listened to with close attention.

Wallace to Be Deported.—It is strongly believed that there is something more than idle rumor in the report that Gen. Lew Wallace has been asked by the President to go to Constantinople and collect the small debt owed to Uncle Sam by the terrible, turbaned Turk. Minister Straus left the Sublime Porte in high dudgeons a month or more ago, and it is an open secret that he refuses to return to his post until the wily Sultan disgorges. General Wallace has been in high dudgeons, too, ever since the Oxnard Tariff bill was fastened on Porto Rico, and he has been creating quite as much of a stir among the Hoosiers as Minister Straus has managed to bring about among the Turks. Like most old men, General Wallace is said to talk nearly all the time, and it is stated that he never fails to get an appreciative audience when he walks around among the Hoosiers. The proposition now is to utilize to the best possible advantage this irrepressible garrulousness of General Wallace. As it is desired that men like him should be abroad in Hoosierdom at present, and as it is advisable to send somebody to Constantinople who will talk until the Grand Turk "coughs up," there is excellent reason why General Wallace should be despatched to the Sublime Porte post haste. It is believed the old gentleman will fall into the trap set for him. If he is the only American citizen who can collect the money from the impecunious Sultan without a fight, then General Wallace will dare not refuse to answer his country's call to duty.

FIRED BY A LOCOMOTIVE.

Maryland Timber Lands Swept by the Flames.

SABILLASVILLE, Md., April 30.—The locomotive attached to the train that passes Pen-Mar about noon scattered firebrands in all directions as it passed through the mountains on Friday and set fire to a large mountain north of Sabillasville in several places. William Naylor had 1,600 fence rails, besides firewood and growing timber, consumed by the flames, which were driven by a strong north wind. His neighbors, Alfred Brown and Samuel Arensburger, had great damage done to growing timber. The Pen-Mar Mountain was fired in a number of places, and before the fire brigade could be rallied from section hands the flames had swept a great distance.

The mountains between Thurmont and Sabillasville seem to have been fired by the same agency, and burned briskly Saturday afternoon and night. Farmers complain bitterly of the destruction of timber.

Alleged Assassin Arrested in Italy.

PATERSON, N. J., April 30.—Assistant Prosecutor Ralph Shaw has received word that Alfred Cabrino, wanted for the murder of Secunda Ottino, at Haledon, in August last, has been arrested at Bial, Italy, and is held there awaiting extradition papers from this country. Cabrino, it is alleged, killed a fellow-countryman, Secunda Ottino, after an argument resulting from a dispute over a game of baseball. The alleged murderer was traced to Italy by Luigi Bossi, his bondsman. Ottino lingered a week after receiving the injury, which was at first thought to be slight, and a simple charge of assault was made against Cabrino.

CUSTOMS AT HAVANA.

An Interesting Statement Issued by the War Department.

The statement was made today by the Division of Customs and Insular Affairs of the War Department that the total collections at the customs port of Havana for the twenty-seven working days of March, 1900, were $1,006,269.16. The total collections for the month of March, 1899, at the same port were $897,042.82, showing an increase of total collections for the month of March, 1900, over the same month of the previous year of $109,226.34.

The collections for March, 1900, were: Import duties, $895,421.83; export duties, $58,763.45; tonnage dues, $36,381.42; harbor improvement taxes, $16,633.64; cattle inspection fees, $2,243.38; storage and cartage charges, $2,128.88; capitation taxes, $2,294.90; fines, confiscations, etc., $464.08; overtime work of customs employes, $1,162; consular fees, $120.50, and miscellaneous, $669.60.

During the month of March, 1900, duties were collected on postoffice declarations to the amount of $229.88. The total amount of duties liquidated during the month were $1,005,897.65.

Of the 5,463 entries liquidated during the month of March, 1900, 64 were free and 66 were liquidated with an increase of duty. There were presented at the port of Havana for the month of March, 1900, 4,660 immediate consumption entries of merchandise and 169 manifests.

There landed at the port of Havana during March, 1900, from points outside of the Island of Cuba, 3,599 passengers. Of this number 1,603 came from the United States, 1,976 from Spain, and 320 from other countries.

During the same period there were imported into the port of Havana 18,855 domestic animals. The animals mentioned were divided as follows: Steers, 13,449; horses, 371; mules, 433; donkeys, 37; cows, 516; calves, 157; bulls, 2; sheep, 19; goats, 2; swine, 3,863; the remainder being made up of animals of various descriptions. Of the number of cattle imported, 3,342 came from the United States. Of the number of horses imported 212 came from the United States. Of the number of mules imported, 222 came from the United States. Of the number of hogs imported, 3,842 came from the United States.

During the month of March, 1900, 150 vessels of all kinds, of a total tonnage of 272,314, entered the port of Havana from points outside of the Island of Cuba, and 144 vessels of all kinds, of a total tonnage of 264,734, cleared from that port for foreign ports during the month.

During the month of March, 1900, 154 vessels of all kinds, of a total tonnage of 25,149, entered the port of Havana from ports in the island of Cuba, and 164 vessels of all kinds, of a total tonnage of 27,358, cleared from that port during the month for other ports of the island.

The total number of vessels of all kinds, foreign and coastwise, that entered the port of Havana during March, 1900, was 304, with a total gross tonnage of 297,463. The total number of vessels, foreign and coastwise, that cleared from that port for other ports during the some period was 308, of a total gross tonnage of 292,141.

During the month of February, 1900, only 224 vessels of all kinds, foreign and coastwise, entered the port of Havana, while there cleared from the port named during the month of February, 1900, only 243 vessels, foreign and coastwise, of all kinds.

TO COUNT VIRGINIANS.

List of Census Enumerators for the Eighth District.

WARRENTON, Va., April 30.—Supervisor of Census Robert R. Campbell will officially announce today the appointment of the following enumerators of the census for the Eighth Congressional district:

Alexandria City—Joseph L. Lash, Edgar Snowden, R. T. Cook, Charles H. Appich, William C. Herbert, William H. Quinn, John T. Hunter, and John T. Normoyle.

Alexandria County—C. H. Burroughs, St. Elmo; R. A. Hipkins, Arlington; S. H. Kincheloe, Alexandria.

Culpeper County—R. R. Buckall and Albert L. Whitestone, Culpeper; Edgar Wayland, Crooked Run; C. W. Marsh, Mitchell's; George R. Payne and G. W. Rixey, Rixeyville; R. M. Apperson, Norman; J. W. Colvin, Hudson's Mill; T. L. Allison, Richardsville; G. W. Hume, Raccoon Ford.

Fairfax County—C. J. Mohler, Centreville; E. H. Jackson, Great Falls; George A. Haight, Chantilly; E. A. Hirst, Annandale; J. C. Chichester, Fairfax; J. J. Sangster, Burke's Station; M. M. Davis, Alexandria; Charles M. Pidgeon, Accotink; R. R. Buckley, Clifton; Sta. H. Hawkhurst, Fairfax.

Fauquier County—J. R. Grant, Auburn; Daniel Shumate, Calverton; L. F. Hansborough; E. F. Kloman, and W. T. Follen, Warrenton; Josiah Kline, and R. F. Kane, Bealton; William F. Marshall, Markham; C. M. Smith, Delaplane; C. H. Moore, Orlean; William Skinker, The Plains; C. W. Talbot, Marshall; J. M. Scott, Upperville; T. C. Payne, Shiloh.

King George County—W. J. Rogers, Osso; F. L. Ashton, Owens; E. W. Mason, Comorn; J. F. Jones, Amber; S. M. Weech, Alden.

Loudoun County—C. W. Hutchens, Ashburn; M. F. Wrenn, Waxpool; G. W. Adams, Hillsboro; C. Shawer, Waterford; J. W. H. Crim and J. G. Hough, Lucketts; B. F. Head, Leesburg; L. C. Grubb, Taylorstown; G. W. Taylor, Middleburg; J. D. Moore, Aldie; Edward Potz, Middleburg; G. W. Hoge, Lincoln; E. C. Sine, Philomont; E. F. Powell, Airmount. District No. 51 (Loudoun county) to be supplied.

Louisa County—R. B. Winston, Vigor; W. C. Massie, Oakland; L. L. Loyal, Willowbrook; C. W. Hancock; Trevillians; F. H. Quarles, Gordonsville; Thomas McGhee, Trevillians; Z. H. Meredith, Inez; C. R. Bagby, Locust Creek; L. W. Care, Bibb; G. D. M. Hunter and F. M. Cunningham, Louisa Court House.

Orange County—Thomas Barber, Somerset; N. T. Bartley, Burnt Hill; R. S. Bernard, Madison Run; J. W. Johnson, Orange; William T. Jones, Rapidan; H. H. Martin, Unionville; J. G. Terrill, Labore.

Prince William County—L. D. Muller, Nokesville; E. T. Wright, Voy; J. H. Reid, Forestburg; G. A. Hulfish, Haymarket; G. G. Tyler; Hickory Grove; O. P. Merrit and W. W. Davis, Manassas; J. B. Black, Occaquan.

Stafford County—Charles T. Stone, Brook; T. W. Berry, Stafford; Lee Wallace and J. H. Ball, Montieth'ville; A. M. Stewart, Hartwood; Harwood Simpson, Falmouth; H. M. Folsom, Stafford's Store.

A FIRE IN WESTMINSTER.

Valuable Buildings Saved After a Determined Effort.

WESTMINSTER, Md., April 30.—A large barn on the premises of Mrs. Emily J. Rippard and a stable on the adjoining premises of George E. Matthews, of Westminster, were destroyed by fire Saturday afternoon. The buildings were near the centre of the city and very close to some of its most valuable property, including the Odd Fellows' Hall and the New Westminster Hotel, the Methodist Protestant Church, and a number of fine private residences. The fire originated in Mrs. Rippard's barn. A high wind was blowing and the sparks were carried several blocks away, causing several other fires to start, which were, however, suppressed. The fences leading to the Odd Fellows' building were burned, and the fire was checked in that direction by tearing down all the fences. The live stock of Mrs. Rippard was saved, but a quantity of hay, oats, harness, etc., was destroyed.

The loss on the building is about $700, and is insured for $300 in the Carroll County Insurance Company. The loss of Mr. Matthews is about $150, uninsured. Over a thousand persons witnessed the blaze. John H. Mitten, Manager of the "American Sentinel," had his right hand badly burned in attempting to save some of the property.

THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

Medical Missionary Work in India the Day's Topic.

NEW YORK, April 30.—This morning's meeting of the Ecumenical Conference in Carnegie Hall was opened by prayer, after which the audience joined in singing. Dr. J. Chamberlain, the presiding officer, followed with a short talk on medical missionary work in India.

The chairman then announced that the Rev. George E. Post, M. D., who had prepared a paper on "Medical Work in Relation to Mission Work," was unable to be present and that his paper would be read by L. L. Scudder, M. D., of India. Dr. Post is professor of surgery in the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut. In his paper he said in part:

"We believe that the first aim of medical missions should be the relief of suffering from motives of brotherhood. Nothing is clearer in the story of Christ's life than the fact that human suffering appeals to his sympathy and that the sight of it stimulated him to the exercise of his power."

Other speakers were: C. F. Harford-Battersby, M. D., Livingstone Medical College, England; F. Howard Taylor, M. D., China Inland Mission; O. Ravison, M. D., Seoul, Korea, missionary, Presbyterian Church, United States of America.

EN ROUTE TO THE CONFERENCE.

Baltimoreans to Attend Churchmen's Meeting in Chicago.

BALTIMORE, Md., April 30.—The Baltimore Conference delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to begin in Chicago tomorrow, left here today. These are Rev. Dr. John F. Goucher, President of the Woman's College, who has been a member also of the General Conferences of 1888, 1892, and 1896; Rev. Dr. John Lanahan, Rev. Dr. William S. Edwards, Mr. J. S. Rawlings, of Baltimore; Rev. Joel Brown, Westminster, Md.; Rev. Dr. Frank M. Bristol, Metropolitan Church, Washington, D. C., and Mr. L. M. Bacon, Philopolis, Md.

All the delegates expect to attend the conference. There was some doubt of Dr. Lanahan's being able to go, but he decided that it will be possible for him to attend.

The alternates appointed from the Baltimore Conference are: Rev. J. C. Nicholson, pastor of Harlem Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church; Messrs. W. G. Bishop, Summerfield Baldwin, W. H. Thomas, B. F. Bennett, Baltimore, Rev. L. B. Wilson, Washington, D. C.; C. C. Gorsuch, Westminster, Md.; D. P. Miller, Cumberland, Md.; Alexander Ashley, Washington, D. C.; T. R. Carskaden, Keyser, W. Va.

It is probable that besides the bishop to be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Bishop John P. Newman, who died during the year, other bishops will be elected. Ministers mentioned prominently for the office are:

Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Berry, editor of the "Epworth Herald," Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Dr. Henry W. Spellmeyer, pastor of Roseville Church, Newark, N. J.

Rev. Dr. John F. Goucher, President of the Woman's College, Baltimore, Md.

Rev. Dr. Charles J. Little, president of the Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.

Rev. Dr. John W. Hamilton, secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rev. Dr. David H. Moore, editor of the "Western Christian Advocate," Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rev. Dr. Abraham J. Palmer, secretary of the Missionary Society, Methodist Church, New York.

Rev. Dr. William V. Kelly, editor of the "Methodist Review," New York.

Besides the routine business of the conference a number of anniversaries of the different church organizations will be held and several interesting lectures will be given. The regular sessions will be held in the Auditorium, which seats 6,000 persons, and the Studebaker, Auditorium Recital, and University Halls will also be used. Bishop Hartzell will give a lecture on "The Briton and the Boer in South Africa." Mrs. Maud Ballington Booth will lecture, and Congressman J. P. Dolliver, of Iowa, will lecture on "The Nation of America."

The Apollo Club, of Chicago, will give the oratorio of "Elijah."

CHANGE OF PERSONALITY.

Missionaries in Japan Have to Adopt Entire New Costumes.

NEW YORK, April 30.—In the Thirty-fourth Street Reformed Church yesterday Rev. Harman V. S. Peek gave a description of missionary work as he found it in Kago Shima, Japan. He has been stationed in Japan since 1887, and he said that in order to prosecute his work successfully he had to acquire a Japanese personality.

"The Japanese language," said Dr. Peeke, "is far more difficult to learn than Chinese and its vocabulary is continually shifting. The missionary does well to devote the first two years to nothing but language study.

"The missionary cannot have too high an ideal. The studying of language is really acquiring a new personality, and in my case it was a Japanese personality. Even private devotions must eventually be done in Japanese, and the force of the Scriptures must be felt as strongly in that language as in English.

"In the city it is our custom to rent a store front which opens on the street. We go there in the evening with our organ and books. The audience is afraid to come in and sit on the mats to listen, but about thirty or forty will stop outside. The city has fifty thousand inhabitants, and we hope by means of the street preaching places eventually to get all the people to know that there is such a thing as Christianity.

"This southern part of Kyushu Island, where we are stationed, with the adjacent islands, has nearly a million inhabitants. There are only three hundred Christians here and less than ten Christian workers, native and foreign. We do not see persons becoming Caristians in great numbers in Japan, and we cannot expect it. The change of a man's convictions is a serious thing, eminently so the change of his religious convictions, which is far more serious than the change of his political convictions."

SAVED FROM INSTANT DEATH.

A Thrilling Incident in the Pennsylvania Oil Fields.

FRANKLIN, Pa., April 30.—The coolness of the oil well shooter is proverbial, but one of the most daring acts in the history of Pennsylvania oil fields was performed yesterday afternoon, when, by presence of mind, William Bowers, the twenty-year-old son of Joseph Bowers, of Rouseville, saved his own life and that of several others.

Young Bowers is employed by the Harper Torpedo Company and was sent to shoot a well for William Cormack, a few miles north of here. He filled a shell with eighty quarts of notroglycerine, and had just straightened the long tin tube over the well, preparatory to lowering is to the bottom, when the cap at the top of the shell loosened and the torpedo dropped.

Lying at the side of Bowers was a can containing several quarts of glycerine. He knew that even a slight jar against the casing meant instant death for all present. The forty foot tube was starting down the casing like a flash when Bowers threw his arms about the torpedo and held it until the other shooter could make it fast. In that torpedo was sufficient explosive to have lifted the Bartholdi statue from its base. When praised for his bravery Bowers says: "I wasn't a hero. I just used horse sense. We would have been killed if it had exploded. The only chance I had was to grab the torpedo and I did."

AN INDIANA MYSTERY.

Physicians Puzzled Over Deaths in a Farmer's Family.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 30.—The medical profession of Eastern Indiana finds itself, after a lapse of nearly eight years, confronted again by a singular and seemingly wholly inexplicable fatality in the family of John Davis, a prosperous farmer, living near Liberty, Union county. Some twelve years ago Mrs. Davis, at that time about thirty-six years of age and apparently in robust health, took to her bed and gradually fell into a profound sleep, from which it was impossible to arouse her. Every expedient was resorted to by the physicians of Liberty without success, and the best medical talent, both in this city and Cincinnati, was consulted, but failed to reach a satisfactory solution of the problem.

Day after day Mrs. Davis grew weaker, and at the end of the eighth day expired as though she had simply died from exhaustion. The tests of her pulse from time to time showed that death was gradually advancing upon her, but she could not be aroused sufficiently to take nourishment, and the artificial means resorted to proved unavailing, as her system did not assimilate the food that was artificially administered. Mr. Davis refused to permit an autopsy, and kept the body of his wife several days in the house before burial, and for nearly a month afterward the grave was guarded to prevent ghouls from exhuming it.

Four years after the death of the mother a daughter was affected in the same way, and again the best medical talent of the State was completely baffled by the strange case. All of the manifestations were the same as those in the case of the mother, except that the daughter was not in as perfect health and survived only six days. Her death was perfectly calm, and apparently without pain, and from the time she fell asleep till she died not a complaint escaped her.

The closest attention failed to discover a moan or any evidence whatever of suffering, and she lay for six days as though enjoying the most pleasant slumber. So gradual was her death that it came imperceptibly to those who were not studying her condition and testing her pulse and respiration to note the steps of her approaching dissolution. She took no food during the six days of her strange illness, and every organ seemed to be dormant and utterly incapable of responding to the means that were invoked to arouse it to action.

Mr. Davis would have protested against an autopsy, but the death of a second member of his family under such peculiar circumstances led to a great deal of talk, and he was informed of the suspicions which it had aroused. When the daughter died the father's action in respect to the body of his wife and his guarding of the grave were recalled, and there were the gravest possible insinuations against him, though there was nothing whatever upon which to base them, except his solicitude for the protection of his wife's grave from desecration and his refusal to permit an autopsy.

Immediately after the death of the daughter a request was made by the attending physicians for permission to open the body and examine the organs. This was refused by the father, and the coroner was then asked to take charge of the case and hold the autopsy under the law which requires such action when there is suspicion of foul play. Mr. Davis was still obdurate, but when it was represented to him that the people of the neighborhood were suspicious and excited, and that resistance to law would be useless, he yielded, and the autopsy was held.

But for all that was obtained by it the worry of the father might have been spared, for nothing was found either to justify the suspicions against him or to enlighten the profession in respect to the nature of the disease. When the vital organs were examined each presented a perfectly normal condition, and their examination with a microscope failed to reveal any want of development or any cause for the lethargic condition that must have existed and caused the death of the daughter. Determined to carry the investigation to the greatest possible extent, and sympathizing somewhat in the suspicions of the people, the stomach and intestines were submitted to all tests, but no evidence whatever of poison was found.

There was nothing about the organs or in them to solve the mystery, and diligent enquiry was made with regard to the mental and physical condition of the girl before she went into her unnatural slumber. Her associates testified that she was cheerful and lighthearted, taking part in the social life of the neighborhood, attending church regularly and performing her duties about the home until the day on which she lay down and spoke of being drowsy. Those were the last words she spoke, for she soon fell into a deep sleep, from which she never awakened.

Another member of the family, Asenith S. Davis, died last week in exactly the same way. He was about twenty-three years old, in robust health, and had always led an outdoor life, and seemed a perfect type of vigorous young manhood. He went to bed about 9 o'clock in the evening, and when called the next morning did not respond. Efforts to wake him failed to make any impression upon him, and he lay thus for six days and nights, and died, as had his mother and sister, without any evidence of pain. At no time in his illness was it possible to obtain any evidence that he was conscious of what was going on around him, but his respiration was as peaceful and quiet as a child's, and when his eyelids were raised they gradually fell back over his eyes, as though heavy with natural sleep. When thus examined his eyes seemed to be glazed over, and it is believed they were sightless, for there was no response to the light, and when tested by the glare of a lamp there was no indication that the pupils received the rays.

Physicians have tried to explain the phenomena by saying that there is some inherited defect in the organism of the Davis family, possibly from the mother's side, that leads to exhaustion of all the parts of the body, and that death is the result of a general collapse; but the mystery exists in the person giving no evidence of the impending crisis until it is completely upon him. In the case of the daughter no defect was found, and while the deaths are all unnatural, they are supposed to have resulted from natural causes, but what these causes are the best medical talent cannot tell.

CURRENT HUMOR.

She Won't Have to Join the Club.

(From Harper's Bazar.)

"Now honestly, Maud, didn't Jack propose last evening.

"Why, y-e-e-es! But how did you guess?"

"I noticed that you didn't have that worried look this morning."

Considered Fastidious.

(From the Philadelphia Bulletin.)

"Mrs. Clump says her second husband's awful fussy about his eatin'."

"Don't her cookin' suit him?"

"'Taint that, but good land! he wants a clean napkin twice a week and another plate f'r his pie."

Double Rackets.

(From the Chicago News.)

"There seem to be smiles all over your face this morning."

"No wonder! There's a new baby down at our house."

"Hm!"

"And a new piano."

"Well, you'll get precious little rest in the future."

"Don't you believe it! The piano makes such a racket you can't hear the baby."

Doing Double Duty.

(From the Atchison Globe.)

There is only one family in town extravagant enough to hire a tutor, and he also takes care of the furnace.

Suburban Delights.

(From the Chicago Press.)

"Does your wife take to horticulture, Billy?"

"Yes, indeed; she gets out every nice day with the hoe and chops the head off something I've planted."

NOTES OF THE DAY.

In proportion to his size a fly walks about thirteen times as fast as a man can run.

Three turpentine plantations of 10,000 acres each will soon be started in the South.

A San Francisco lady who owns a hotel in that city has been joined in matrimony to her elevator boy.

In Salt Lake county, Utah, over 90 per cent of the domesticated bees have been killed by the smoke from the smelters.

Senator Platt, of New York is a licensed pharmacist and can put up a doctor's prescription at well as any drug clerk