



Lighthouse Improvement

Change that have been made in lights and lenses.

An article about lighthouses, entitled 'The Light That Guides in the Night,' is contributed by Lieutenant John M. Elliott to St. Nicholas.

The article tells of the growth in the number of lighthouses steadily improved. The open fire gave place to the oil lamp, then a curved mirror, called a parabolic mirror, was placed behind the lamp to bring the rays together in a powerful beam.

Modern lamps with mirrors were grouped about a central spindle, and some such lights are still in operation. The greatest stride came when an arrangement of lenses known as the Fresnel lens, in front of a lamp replaced the mirror behind it. This lens was rapidly improved for lighthouse purposes, until now a cylindrical glass house surrounds the lamp.

The Fresnel lens has been improved, which bend all the rays to form a horizontal cone of strong light which pierces the darkness to a great distance.

The rapid increase in the number of lighthouses has led to the necessity of some means of telling one from another, or, as it is termed, of giving to each light its 'characteristic.' Coloring the glass used in the light diminishes, and so reduces most nearly to white light in brightness some light red lenses. The latest and best plan, however, is to set upright prisms at intervals in a circular framework around the lens and to revolve this frame by clockwork. Thus the light is made to flash every time a prism passes between it and an observer. By changing the number and places of the prisms or the speed of the revolving frame flashes for any one light can be made to occur at intervals of so many seconds for that light. Putting in red prisms gives still other changes. Thus each light has its 'characteristic,' and this is written down in signs on the coast and fully stated in the light lists carried by vessels. Thus, on a chart you may note that the light you want to sight is marked 'F. R. V. 71, 10 sec. which means that the light flashes every 10 seconds, and that the light is red.

When a light is sighted, you see if those are its characteristics, and if so you have found the right one.

The people of Delaware must be proud of their legislature. In Delaware divorces are obtained by having the state legislature pass a special act to that effect in each case. There is accordingly among the legislative committees a special one called the divorce committee.

This bears evidence in divorce cases and makes recommendations to the general assembly accordingly. It is now charged that members of this committee refuse to act favorably to the applicant unless they are handsomely paid for it. Testimony in two different suits is to this effect. One applicant's lawyer says he is ready to appear before the general assembly and give the names of men whom he is convinced would have recommended a divorce for his client if he had paid them \$250 apiece. In other words, it required in his case about \$2,500 to get the divorce bill through the legislature. In another case the charge is made that members of the legislature demanded \$6,000 from a lady of Cleveland before they would vote to pass her bill. It is to be hoped that the legislature prove the charges not to be true. Lawmakers who would take bribes for giving people divorces are undoubtedly as low down as lawmakers in any country could be.

There is only one house in the Greek legislative body, the boule. Its members are elected by votes of the people and serve a term of four years. There is nothing to correspond to the upper house in ordinary legislative bodies, except a committee which is called the council of state. This council numbers from 15 to 25 members, who are named by the king and serve two years. To the council of state are submitted for approval all laws passed by the boule. In case bills meet its disapproval it returns them to the lawmaking body with amendments and suggestions.

Effect of a European War. There has been much speculation as to what would be the industrial effect on this country of a general European war. Many, forgetting the dictum that the good of one is the good of all, believe that a conflict in which two or more of the leading nations of Europe were engaged would make a brisk market for American products and thus mean prosperity to us.

In the New York Sun Matthew Marshall balances the industrial pro and cons of a general European conflict. He shows that the gain we would make in one line would be offset by losses in another. He writes:

We should gain something from the increased demand for our products to supply the deficiency resulting from the diversion of industry abroad from agriculture to war, and we should lose the market for our securities which we now possess and upon which depends the continuation of the New York Central and the Harlem railroad companies. It is hard to see how we have left here for the sake of the higher interest rate in Europe, and it is equally hard to see how we should gain from the loss of the market for our securities if the war should be the benefit of the South.

The two rival political statements of Greece were Trioupioti and Delyanisti. Trioupioti headed the Conservative party. Delyanisti headed the Progressive party. His death was the hardest blow Greece could have received. The Delyanisti following called itself the party of progress and talked always of the glories of ancient Greece. The Delyanisti party, having been brought into power by the outbreak of politics, rushed the country into war with Turkey. It is now transparent, without any adequate preparation or appreciation of what it was doing. The revolution in King George's cabinet brings the party of the lamented Trioupioti again into power. All friends of Greece hope that the new prime minister, Balli, may prove a second Trioupioti. He and his friends, the members of the new cabinet, will certainly have opportunity, likewise use, for all the ability they possess.

The town of Guthrie, O. T., wiped out by a wall of water, the Oklahoma river, 90 persons being drowned in the flood; a tornado and cloudburst in Kansas, a hailstorm killing 41 people in San Luis Potosi, Mexico; a water-spout striking and destroying two other Mexican towns, Santa Clara and Pedro Jalisco, near the capital city, several lives being lost—this is the record for one day of nature's wrath on man.

Prime Minister Hanotaux of France is one manly man in the councils of the European powers. He shows it by declaring that, so far as his country is concerned, the intervention of the powers shall not be for the propping up of the Ottoman empire.

It took over a year, 173 ballots and the expenditure of \$100,000, to elect Hon. W. J. Deboe Republican senator from Kentucky. It is a bad thing for a state to have too many great men.

Bank Wrecker Kennedy Pardoned. Washington, May 25.—The president has pardoned, in order to restore to citizenship, Harry H. Kennedy, sentenced in Pennsylvania to ten years imprisonment for misappropriation of national bank funds. Kennedy was sentenced in 1892 and President Cleveland commuted his term to five years imprisonment, with deductions for good behavior.

A young wife, attired in 'widow's weeds' shed tears over his grave and

at the spring-time comes waters the and decorates the resting place of the one who has gone on before.

But Morza, the murderer awaits the day of his release. He should have been hanged, or certainly confined in the penitentiary for eighteen years, but he counts the days in glee and awaits the hour when he shall walk forth a free man.

But he is satisfied with human blood. Eternity black for him and the torments of the hereafter will cause him to atone for the murder of Johnson.

They say that heartless murderers are haunted by the shadows of their victims. That grim specter appear in their dreams and make life on this earth a burden, and rest an impossibility. It is well, if this is so. White murderers of colored men go 'unwhipped of justice' in this world, by the strong arm of the law.

But Morza, the murderer has brought sad news to the home of Johnson. He has robbed the hearthstone of a familiar figure. He has injured the community in which he lives. It won't be always thus. Times will change and God's promises will be made manifest. Whispering through the trees, seen in lightning and heard in the running brooks, Morza will hear the angels utter the warning, 'He murdered Johnson! He murdered Johnson!'

As To The Baptists. [New York Age.]

Rev. T. J. Morgan, the secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, has written a letter in which he declares that he does not consider it good policy to place Afro-Americans in charge of educational institutions under the control of the Home Mission Society.

These schools are donated by white Baptists, who would not donate it if the money was to be controlled by Afro-Americans, as the schools, controlled by the latter, Secretary Morgan declares, are not self-supporting and are a charge upon the Home Mission Society.

Editor John Mitchell, Jr., of the Richmond Dispatch, himself an influential Baptist, does not see with Secretary Morgan, and riddles his argument with hot shot.

As long as the black Baptists of the country allow themselves to be dominated in their church government by the white Baptists, they will have to take a back seat, even as the black members of the Methodist Church do.

The only thing for the black Baptists to do is to accept the situation gracefully or go into business on their own account. There is a considerable sentiment in favor of this latter course in all parts of the country.

A DISGRACEFUL SIGHT. A Negro handcuffed and led through the streets with a rope about his neck by J. C. Green, a deputy sheriff of Wayne county, was captured at Baton Rouge.

The deputy sheriff not only handcuffed the prisoner and tied the rope around his neck, but exposed his buttocks to full view, which also had a tendency to make people think the prisoner was one of the most disgraceful criminals in existence. The prisoner was lodged in the parish prison for safe keeping—February 27th.

We reproduce the above to show the bloodthirsty brutes in official garb in Mississippi. While upon this subject, we were told by a reliable party from Vicksburg that during the recent overflow in that section, three Negro women, averaging 107 years of age, were brought to that city from Davis Bend who did not know anything of the emancipation, having been in slavery in the backwoods of Mississippi. If this state of affairs exist within a few miles of Vicksburg, can the Times wonder at the brutal conduct of deputy sheriff J. C. Green? New Orleans Leader.

JURY DIDN'T AGREE. J. H. Mills, the man who killed John Rakes near Cave Spring on May 10th was tried in the county court last week.

The case was begun Friday and occupied the attention of the court until Saturday afternoon. The commonwealth's attorney was assisted by J. W. Hartwell of Kosciusko and the prisoner was represented by Henderson Lee and R. O. Stearns. The principal witnesses in the case were the children of Mr. J. J. Beckner, the unfortunate man who was killed at his home.

The jury were given the case Saturday just before dinner, but were unable to agree. After dinner they were called out for the morning and 4 o'clock when they returned to the courthouse without reaching a verdict. They were discharged by Judge Moffatt. Eight of the jury were in favor of a sentence of one year in the penitentiary and the other four for acquittal.

Mills was liberated from prison after giving a bail of \$500 and a rehearing of the case was set for the 2nd day of the June term of the county court.

The history of the case is briefly as follows: John Rakes, an imbecile went to the home of Mrs. Trout, a widow after being released from Cave Spring and threatened to kill her daughter and burn her barn. The frightened woman's screams were heard by Johnston and Mills, who live a short distance away. Rakes seeing the men approaching ran across the field holding a pistol which he fired at the men. Johnston caught him but he broke loose and fled and started viciously towards Mills while Johnston was in the act of striking Mills about him in the stomach with the pistol given him by Mrs. Trout. Rakes only fired a short while after being taken to jail and then he shot himself in the stomach and died.

Even the election law would have been changed, no doubt to the injury of the machine. So the word was passed against a constitutional convention and the decree was recorded and the ring breathes easier.

A MURDERER'S SENTENCE. Romeny Will Not Be Dismissed. Washington, May 25.—The president has permitted the president to impose by court martial on Captain Romeny, Fifth infantry, who after a summary trial was convicted recently of assault on Lieutenant O'Brien of the same regiment at Fort McPherson, Ok. In view of the fact that Captain Romeny will retire by operation of law on June 1, the president believes that the ends of justice will be secured by his severe reprimand.

No Chapel at West Point. Washington, May 25.—In response to an application by Secretary Alger the attorney general has rendered an opinion as to the power of the war department to issue permits for the erection of religious chapels on military reservations. The attorney general deems that the law will not permit the erection of such structures. This will prevent the building of a Catholic chapel at West Point, as proposed by Archbishop Corrigan.

Archbishop's Wholesome Murderer Caught. Houston, Tex., May 25.—A man thought to be J. O. Dugham, who perpetrated a family of six people at San Jose, Cal., has been arrested at Los Angeles, Tex., and now awaits identification by California officers who are on their way to Texas. His description accurately tallies with that of Dunham, for whose capture a reward of \$15,000 is expected by the officers here.

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