



**AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.**

Son of British Colonial Secretary Who Has Been Appointed Postmaster General.

Austen Chamberlain recently succeeded Lord Londonderry and with his father, Joseph Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, now occupies a place in the British cabinet. He is a "chip of the old block" and a young man of great promise. He was educated at Rugby and Trinity college, Cambridge, and has already served as civil lord of the admiralty and as financial secretary to the treasury.

Mr. Chamberlain's appointment has some direct interest for the United States, for there has been a lot of complaint about the delay in getting American mails through to London from Queenstown, and it is expected that the new man will look into the trouble. Furthermore, the question of a parcels post with the United States is up for discussion, and Mr. Chamberlain is known to be deeply interested in that subject.

It speaks well for the younger Chamberlain that his father's bitterest enemies—he has a wonderful collection of enemies—have had little criticism to offer over the son's appointment to succeed the marquis of Londonderry. The rich and ornate marquis got the place because he had a political pull, was rather sore at the government, and had to be placated. Even the conservatives admit that he was about the most inefficient postmaster general St. Martin-le-Grand had ever seen.

Young Chamberlain, on the contrary, is a quiet, level-headed business man, who can be depended upon to make the fusty permanent officials in the post office sit up. Their motto apparently is: "It must be done thus, for this it always has been done."

Postmaster General Chamberlain, who will be 40 next year, is about the same age as his second step-mother—the third Mrs. Chamberlain—who was the daughter of Judge Endicott, of Massachusetts. He lives with his father and is unmarried. He is not at all a bumptious young man, and is making his way largely on his own merits. He has a wonderful opportunity for cutting out a great future for himself by reforms in the post office.

**ADVENTURE IN MIDAIR.**

Young Man Caught in a Balloon Rope Rises 3,000 Feet and Escapes Without Hurt.

Louis Ward, of Milford, Mass., aged 20 years, made an involuntary and thrilling acrobatic balloon ascension the other day. His left foot caught in the guy rope of a balloon and he was carried into the air and suspended head downward. After being carried up 3,000 feet into the air and directly across Hoag lake he landed unhurt 15 minutes later in a tree top a mile from the point where he went up.

Ward was assisting Prof. Hillman, a professional aeronaut, who has been giving balloon ascensions and parachute exhibitions at Hoag park. Hillman's balloon, a massive hot air one, was being prepared for the afternoon exhibition, and Ward and others were assisting. Everything ready, the professor gave the word, the balloon was released, and swiftly mounted into the air with the professor hanging to the parachute.

Ward started to get out of the way as the balloon was released, but his left foot caught in one of the guy ropes, and to the horror of the several thousand spectators, he was carried into the air suspended head downward. His weight held the balloon on its side, in danger of an immediate collapse and certain death to both men. Hillman acted quickly. Ward dangled from the balloon about ten feet above the aeronaut, and beyond his reach. If the balloon was brought to an upright position there was some chance for Ward, so, after a few words of advice as to how to secure himself and draw himself upright, Hillman released the parachute when but 200 feet in the air and came safely to the ground.

The balloon, freed from this weight, righted itself and shot upward and across the lake, which is about half a mile wide. The balloon soon began its descent, coming down easily and gracefully, and Ward landed in a tree unhurt.

**A Long Way from the Finish.**

The Cape-to-Cairo railway would be 5,700 miles long in a direct line between Cape Town and Cairo. At the present time the rails are laid to within 200 miles of the Zambesi, or about 1,500 miles from Cape Town, and there is now a railway from Cairo to the junction of the blue and white Nile, or 1,400 miles from Cairo. It is thus seen that a line 2,800 miles long must yet be built to connect these terminal systems. The Uganda railway is built, connecting the port of Mombasa, on the Pacific ocean, with Port Florence, on Lake Nyanza; the length of the line is 500 miles. The Bulawayo-Beira railway connects the system with the ocean at the last mentioned port. At Bulawayo the line is 4,469 feet above sea level.

**CAMEL A CURIOSITY.**

One with Two Humps Creates a Sensation Among the People of Cairo, Egypt.

One would hardly expect to hear of a camel being an object of public attraction in Egypt. That such is the case, however, is vouched for by the Egyptian Gazette. "The ship of the desert," or the one-humped dromedary, is very common in the streets of Cairo and other parts of the Nile country, but when the zoological garden at Ghizeh secured a specimen of the two-humped Bactrian camel there was indeed a sensation.

The double-decked ship of the desert was the most interesting animal in the menagerie to the native Egyptian who had been familiar all his life with the one-humped variety. Strange as it may seem, this particular specimen was bred and secured from the Rotterdam zoological gardens, where the well-known Swiss naturalist, Dr. Buettikofer, is rearing the species with success.

What the dromedary is to Sahara's parched sands, says the Philadelphia Record, the Bactrian camel is to the dreary stretches of Asia. As the dromedary may be likened to the swift and safe passenger ship, so may the patient Bactrian beast be referred to as the slower but all the more important deeply laden merchantman, for centuries on centuries, generation after generation, these patient creatures have been transporting the wealth of China, farther India and the orient generally to Russia and thence throughout the occident.

**ENGLAND'S GREAT BACHELORS.**

Four Leading Men of the British Kingdom Are Unmarried at Middle Age.

This is the age of bachelors in England. The women are discussing with keen interest the fact that four of their great men are unmarried. Arthur Balfour is a bachelor, and indeed the first bachelor to become premier since the time of William Pitt.

Lord Kitchener, England's most notable soldier, and Lord Milner, her most prominent administrator, are both unmarried.

Completing the notable four is the bishop of London, who is not far from being the most prominent man in the church. The men on the other side, says the Philadelphia North American, are declaring that France "has long been cursed with petticoat influence in politics, and England has had some experience of the plague of women behind the scenes at the war office." They believe that "the triumph of the four great bachelors points to a quiet and effective revolt of man."

**Egyptian Papyrus.**

The National museum at Washington helps with funds to support the explorations in Egypt which Dr. Finders Petrie, the great Egyptologist, is making. As its share of this year's finds it has just received ten papyrus manuscripts, dating from about the birth of Christ. They are mostly bills of lading for camel trains, receipts for goods, etc.

**REVISING THE BIBLE.**

Bobby Understood What the Term Meant and Alred His Knowledge Before Mr. Slow.

"Have you a revised copy of the New Testament in the library, Miss Reid?" asked the young man who was making an evening call.

"No, Mr. Slow," she replied, "I regret to say we haven't."

"What's a revised copy?" asked Bobby, who had been permitted to sit up later than usual.

"You are rather young yet, Bobby, to understand such matters," said his sister, kindly. "A revised copy means that certain changes have been made in the Bible which were considered necessary to a better understanding of the text. Now, you had better run off to bed—there's a good boy."

The young man could scarcely conceal his admiration.

"Well, if that's what it is," said Bobby, "our family Bible is revised, 'cause pa changed it the other day. He scratched out the date of your birth and made it three years later. He told ma something about you and Mr. Slow, and said that it wouldn't do any harm now, and, if Mr. Slow wanted to look at it, it might do a deal of good."

Presently the young man went away, and a family consultation was held. It resulted in Bobby's passing a sleepless night.

Mrs. Wassling—Did your husband get anything from the railroad company for the scalp wound he received when he was in the wreck?

Mrs. Pemberton—No. The attorney of the road said it served him right for buying a scalper's ticket.—Judge.

**Unselfish.**

Mr. Smith—You are looking for work, are you? Well, I think I can find a slight difference.

"Of course, it won't go any further," promised Mrs. Black, when a secret had been confided to her keeping. "What I heard just goes in one ear 'n' out 't'her."

"No, it don't!" cautioned her bosom friend. "It often goes in one ear 'n' out your mouth."—Woman's Home Companion.

**The Son's Choice.**

Son of the House—Won't you sing something, Miss Muriel?

Miss M.—Oh, I daren't after such good music as we have been listening to.

"But I'd rather listen to your singing than to any amount of good music."—London Punch.

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—OF—

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- Ladies' Solid Gold Rings, \$1, \$1.50, \$2.50 and \$3.50; worth twice the price;
- Ladies' Genuine Diamond Rings, \$5 up to \$100; all of them gems.
- Ladies' Solid Gold Lorgnee Chaines, \$7 up to \$16; all the latest styles.
- Ladies' Solid Gold Brooches, \$2.50 up to \$25.
- Gents' Solid Gold Dumb-bell Sleeve buttons, \$3.50; a useful present.
- Gents' 14k. Gold-filled Chains, \$2.00 warranted for five years' wear.
- Gents' Diamond Sleeve Buttons, \$5 up; a little gem in each button.
- Gent's Diamond Studs, \$7.50 up.
- Gents' Solid Gold Rings, with genuine stones, from \$4 up.
- Solid Silver Thimbles, 25c.
- Solid Silver Teaspoons, from \$4.00 half dozen up.
- Ladies' Silver Watches, \$4 and \$5

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Miss M. L. Jordon is quite sick at her home.

Mrs. Lizzie Middleton who has been quite sick is improving slowly.

Mrs. Hyler Waugh of Greensboro, formerly of this city is visiting her mother Mrs. Paanell of C street south west.

Mr. Alexander Middleton who has been quite sick for several weeks, is able to be out again.

Prof. Ferris of the Boston Guardian will remain in the city several days longer.

Mrs. Annie Dillard of Goldsboro, North Carolina, is in the city, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Mamie Adams of 519 and street southwest.

Miss Blanche Colder was called to Philadelphia this week to attend the funeral of her cousin, Mrs. Bessie Curtis, Nee Cowdry.

Mr. Reuben West whose limbs were crushed by a fall in the elevator at the Raleigh Hotel several weeks ago, was compelled to have one limb amputated to prevent blood poison.

**The Pen and Pencil Club Special.**

Is the front piece of a unique invitation card just issued by this popular organization of newspaper correspondence, announcing the second annual dinner in Grays Banquet Hall this evening in honor of the 86th Anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass. Covers have been laid for fully two hundred of the most distinguished men in the country. Mr. Robert Pelham, Jr., chairman of the literary bureau, and who will present the funny thought will far surpass any that has yet been expressed. The schedule time is 7:00 o'clock p. m. look for The Bee for particulars next week.

**The Sec-To-No Musical Club.**

The greatest innovation that has been made in the musical circle will be the presentation of the Sec-To-No Musica Club, composed of young misses, at Grand Army Hall, Friday evening, April 10th. It is the first of its kind that has ever been organized in this city by any one. The young misses range from 8 to 15 years of age and they will play some of the most difficult pieces written by the most eminent musical composers. The Club was organized by Mrs. A. V. Chase and it has been under her personal supervision. Full particulars will appear in The Bee next week.

**RED, BLACK OR BLONDE.**

Dark-Haired Children Have the Most Imagination, But Red-Headed Get the Good Marks.

Some curious statistics relating to hair have been collected by the school authorities at Lille. It is found that suburban-haired boys are generally at the head of the recitation classes, and blonde girls come out highest as arithmeticians. But in composition they are nowhere, says the London Express.

The dark-haired children of both sexes have the quality of imagination, and in their compositions know how not to fatigue the attention, and as compared to the auburn and blondes are born stylists.

I dare say the auburn boys and blond lasses in the Lille elementary schools are of Flemish—that is to say, phlegmatic—race. Their brains do not grow at once congested when they stand up to recite, and for that reason they keep the mastery of the vocal organs. In short, they continue to know what they are about. The dark children are probably of Celtic—that is to say, Gallie—origin. The blood comes with a rush to their brains, and they grow confused, splutter and break down. If they could only be taught to remain silent for a few moments they would be all the better for this rush, as the confusion would have passed away, leaving only stimulated mental organs.

Finally, on the subject of hair, says a writer in Truth, I am sorry to say that the red-headed boys and girls in the Lille schools are at the bottom in everything, save in good conduct, marks. Nor are they remarkable for good health. The dark boys behave better than the auburn or the fair, and are more sensitive to praise or blame.

**Oyster Bed in a Well.**

Robert Douglas, a colored man of Paris, Tex., has an oyster bed in his well. Two years ago he brought home an oyster which was covered with little oyster shells, and one of his children threw it into the well. Now the bottom of the well is an oyster bed, and often the well bucket is found covered with young oysters.