

In the street corner, deliberating, stood Jim. The cold wind tore round the angle and threatened to snatch the cap from his head. Jim did not mind the wind. He had had an unusual streak of good luck this afternoon, and sold off all his papers early, and now stood jingling several coins in his pockets, coins which meant for him a good hot supper and a night's lodging.

He turned and sauntered along, crossing street after street, till he had wandered into a section of the city where he very rarely came, a most prosperous section, judging from the fine broad avenue.

Jim was cold by this time, and thought that he would retrace his steps, when his attention was attracted by the sound of music. It came from a church close by, the door of which stood invitingly open. It looked nice and warm inside; there was no one in sight, and Jim softly stepped in and sat down at the back of the church, which was in semi-darkness.

The only lights were away down at the other end, where were gathered a group of boys about Jim's age, and a man seated at an organ. Soon the man began to play and the boys to sing. Now one would hardly have guessed on seeing Jim that he was a musician himself, but he had a great reputation among his friends, who were sure that not one of the famous singers of the day had a voice that could compare in sweetness with Jim's.

Jim was interested at once when he heard music in the church. Oh, the beautiful music! He had never heard anything like it in his life. It made him almost unhappy at one moment, and he would rise to go, only it held him so that he could not.

But the boys! His astonishment rose as he heard and watched them. The man was evidently trying to teach them something; but some were careless and would not listen, and others were stupid and could not learn. Finally the boys became so restless that the man rose, and closing the organ, told them all to come the next afternoon; and immediately there was a wild scramble for the door.

That night Jim would neither play nor whistle for his friends, to their great surprise; but the grand, uplifting strains which he had heard that afternoon still lingered in his ears.

The next afternoon, as soon as his papers were sold, Jim started again for the church, and the next, and the next as well. Every afternoon found him a quiet, unnoticed listener at the back of the great church.

The master went over and over the strains, slowly, carefully and patiently, while the boys blundered and hesitated. Jim had learned the whole thing by the second afternoon, and could have sung every note of it.

Jim was completely out of patience with one boy. He had a beautiful part to sing alone, evidently the climax of like a skylark, so pure and clear; but the whole piece, and he had a voice it was such a task to teach him anything!

What he apparently learned one day was forgotten the next, and Jim fidgeted and muttered to himself in disgust

at the bungling work which he made of it.

They were getting ready for an Easter celebration, as Jim learned from the conversation, and he made up his mind that he would be there on that day himself. He had attended so many of the rehearsals by this time that he felt quite at home in the church; but it seemed a very different place to



A VOICE OF WONDERFUL STRENGTH AND SWEETNESS FILLED THE CHURCH.

him in the light of the bright spring morning, when Jim walked up to the door on Easter Day.

The many carriages, the throngs of gaily dressed people so abashed him that he hardly dared go in, but he finally found an opportunity to go in unobserved, and slipped quietly into his accustomed seat. The church quickly filled, even to the corner where Jim sat.

Easter Dreams

Of for the eyes of a little child, the eyes of a child for an hour.

To gaze on the wide expanse of blue, And the stars, where the Angels are peeping through, To search for a glimpse of the nimble sprite that hides in the heart of the flower!

But I am a woman grown, you see, and my sight to these things is blind, Yet sometimes I will seem to me, — Though really, I know, such things can't be — That I hear the rustle of fairies' wings — no more — in the passing wind!

After a while there was a sound of distant singing, and soon the boys came walking in procession, and singing the music that Jim had heard them learning.

In their choir garments they looked little like the rough, careless boys of the day before. He did not know that the boy with the beautiful voice, who was to have sung the solo part, had suddenly been taken ill, and that the organist, in despair, had been obliged to substitute in his place one of the other boys, who was not capable of filling it, but was the best that the organist could find on such short notice.

So Jim did not know what to make of it when he saw the boy evidently preparing to sing alone. Jim knew each boy's capabilities in a musical way by this time as well as the organist himself did, and he knew that this boy could not sing the music properly. The organist began to play; the boy looked frightened. It was time for him to begin; he hesitated and choked. The organist turned partly around. The next instant a voice of wonderful strength and sweetness filled the church.

After a single start the organist played steadily on. He did not know from whence or whom the heavenly voice proceeded, but it was God-sent. Through to the end, without fear or faltering, glowing and thrilling with joy and love and devotion, Jim poured out his soul.

When the last pure tones had died away, and he realized what he had done, he would have rushed out if possible, but kindly hands gently detained him till the service was over, and the surprise and wonder and admiration of the people could find expression.

Of course that was the beginning of a great change in Jim's life. The nightingale in his throat could no longer be hidden; it had brought to him friends and fortune. But in the future years people liked to tell the story of his first public appearance, when he sang because his bursting heart could not contain its wealth of melody. — Youth's Companion.

Easter Sunday.

Easter is unique among the world's festival periods in having its origin claimed by many nations and races. The English name of the day is derived from that of the Teutonic Goddess of Spring—Ostera, whose name signified "The Arisen," a mythical being who was worshipped before Christianity was thought of.

The Druids, who seem to have been the only religious sect in Britain before the Roman conquest, held yearly a spring celebration in honor of the vegetable world, and religious rites were part of the ceremony.

Similar observances were general among the older Asiatic races, and the Egyptians, Greeks and the Romans, as well as the Teutonic tribes of Europe in pre-Christian times.

All Peoples Appear to Celebrate.

All peoples appear to celebrate Easter in one shape or another, the festival signifying a rejoicing at the re-awakening of nature in spring. Though associated in this manner with the vernal equinox, it is nevertheless particularly a moon festival, and most of

its folk lore has to do with the lunar orb in one way or another. The Council of Nice, in the year 351 A. D., decided that Easter day should be the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox; and if the full moon fell on Sunday, then Easter Sunday was to be the Sunday after. The moon suggests a likeness to an egg, which is the symbol of resurrection, and the rebirth of things.

Only the Man Who Does Things.

"You have been with that firm a long time," said the old school friend.

"Yes," answered the man with the patient expression of contentment.

"What's your position?"

"I'm an employe."

"But what is your official title?"

"I haven't any official title. It's like this: When the proprietor wants something done he tells the cashier, and the cashier tells the bookkeeper and the bookkeeper tells the assistant bookkeeper, and the assistant bookkeeper tells the chief clerk, and the chief clerk tells me."

"And what then?"

"Well, I haven't anybody to tell, so I have to go and do it."—Judge.

FOR FAIR LABEL LEGISLATION.

Pennsylvania Press League Gets Ready For Business.

The Press League of Pennsylvania announces that its preliminary organization has been completed with the election of John R. Farr of the Scranton Courier-Progress as general secretary. In a letter to members the officers of the league say:

Mr. Farr will at once take up the duties of his place and give them his full, continuous and earnest labors. His efforts will be directed to the organization of the newspaper interests of the respective counties into county leagues with a view to applying their united influence to the nomination and election of members of the legislature friendly and favorable to the label legislation whose importance we all recognize. For this purpose he will personally visit the counties as rapidly as he can, and will put himself in communication with publishers and editors throughout the State.

The State league is designed to rest on a solid foundation of county leagues. The success of the broad object depends on the thoroughness and efficiency of the county work.

We do not need to impress on you the vital necessity of obliterating the present injurious and unjust label law and superseding it by a law which shall be fair, reasonable and equitable. The existing statute, enacted in caprice and intended as a club, is a constant menace. It applies to newspaper property an arbitrary and unregulated rule of action and judgment which does not apply to any other interest. The newspapers of the State owe it to their dignity and honor as well as to their protection and safety to unite in an irresistible movement to right this great wrong.

The key to such a movement is the co-operation of the newspapers within each county to secure friendly representatives from that county. They ought to stand together for their common interests. If the newspapers will exercise their legitimate influence and insist on what they are entitled to demand in defense of their rights, they can achieve this object. The time is ripe. The conditions are favorable. The public temper is right. A united and well-directed effort will win.

The officers of the league are Charles Emory Smith, Philadelphia Press, President; C. A. Rook, Pittsburg Dispatch, First Vice-President; Dietrick Lamade, Williamsport Grit, Second Vice-President; A. Nevin Pomeroy, Chambersburg Repository, Treasurer; H. B. Cochran, Lancaster Examiner, Recording Secretary.

Personal Power.

That a straight body has much to do with worldly success is the opinion of a writer in the Outing Magazine, who says: "I shall try, in the briefest manner possible to make clear two things of which I am firmly convinced. First, that there are possibilities of physical development far beyond the present achievements; and secondly, that there are certain very simple methods by which these possibilities may in every case be attained. The first object of physical methods should be to straighten and expand the body. The world may, in a broad, general way, be divided into two great classes—the erect and the in-erect, the strong and the weak. The epoch makers, the Cromwells, Luthers, Napoleons, Wellingtons, Washingtons and Websters, have been men marked by a straight spine and a broad, high, deep chest. The mastered millions, the defeated ones, have been the in-erect."

Captured a Rare Fox.

James M. Gant, an expert trapper and naturalist in the employ of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, has been working in this vicinity for several weeks and has at last succeeded in trapping a full grown specimen of the Valley red fox, which has become a rarity in this section.

In pioneer days many of these animals were killed in this region, but this will be the first specimen ever in the possession of the Department. It was captured near St. John, in Glenn County, and is now en route to Washington. This particular fox is brown on the belly and has a silver tipped tail. In size it is nearly as large as the gray fox and by some has been called "the swift."—Chico (Cal.) Correspondence Sacramento B'e.

How to Use Brains.

A head man in a manufactory was watching a drayman tugging at a heavy case one day. The drayman's face was red and the muscles of his neck were bulging. The overseer thought it was the right moment to offer practical assistance.

"Wait a minute there," he said. "Let me show you how easy it is when you use a little brain with your muscle." And he grabbed a hook, stuck it into the case, gave a yank, and went sprawling into the gutter under the dray. He got up, looked at the hook and said, "Confound it, the handle comes off!"

"Yes, sir," said the drayman, respectfully. "My brain told me that, and I didn't use it."—Youth's Companion.

Financier's Preference.

A conservative New York financier, who has amassed a considerable fortune, was recently approached by a friend whose business experience was limited, and who desired his advice upon an investment which he was contemplating.

"Jones wants me to take some stock in a mining company, which he says will pay fifty per cent. per annum and is a sure thing," he said.

The financier stroked his mustache.

"Well," he said, slowly, "personally, I believe I should prefer five per cent. and a little uncertainty."

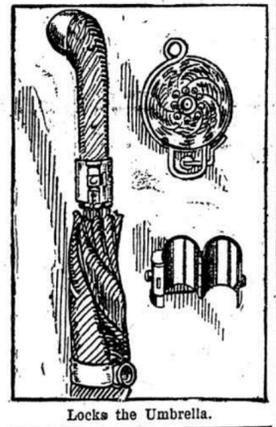
President Roosevelt's Cabinet



THE PRESENT HEADS OF THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WASHINGTON.

UMBRELLA LOCK.

A New York man, realizing the annoyance and inconvenience experienced by the owner following the theft of an umbrella, has designed a simple device

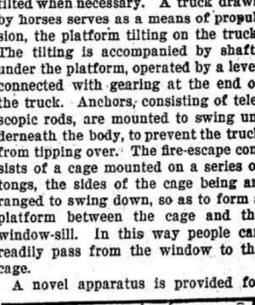


Locks the Umbrella.

intended to prevent the taking of umbrellas, accidentally or otherwise, from umbrella stands and similar places. As umbrellas are usually taken from umbrella stands when it is raining, and as they are usually taken not for their intrinsic value, but simply on account of the immediate protection which they offer from the rain, it follows that when it is discovered that an umbrella cannot be raised and will be of no use the person taking the same will return it to the stand. On this supposition the umbrella lock shown here would be of immense value, as it can be attached to any umbrella. It is made in the shape of a sleeve divided into two sections, connected by a hinge. Opposite this hinge is a lock, which co-operates with a catch in such a manner as to enable the sections to be locked together. For this purpose the lock has an opening through its casing, which enables the catch to pass in. At the extremity of one of the sections is a flange which projects inwardly. In applying the lock to the umbrella the sleeve is snapped over the end of the cover, the flange lying between the handle and the ends of the ribs, which will evidently effectually prevent the removal of the lock. When it is not desired to lock the umbrella the device can be applied in an inverted position on the handle. In connection with the lock is a keyhole, which enables the lock to be opened only by means of a key, which will, of course, be carried by the owner of the umbrella.—Philadelphia Record.

NEW FIRE-ESCAPE.

In the illustration is shown a fire-escape invented by an Idaho man. It is so constructed that it can be quickly raised and lowered, and also leveled or tilted when necessary. A truck drawn by horses serves as a means of propulsion, the platform tilting on the truck. The tilting is accompanied by shafts under the platform, operated by a lever connected with gearing at the end of the truck. Anchors, consisting of telescopic rods, are mounted to swing underneath the body, to prevent the truck from tipping over. The fire-escape consists of a cage mounted on a series of tongs, the sides of the cage being arranged to swing down, so as to form a platform between the cage and the window-sill. In this way people can readily pass from the window to the cage.



Fire-Escape Readily Raised.

A novel apparatus is provided for operating the tongs to raise and lower the cage. Levers on each side of the truck furnish the power.

In case of fire the cage is raised to the window, and the occupants of the dwelling lowered to the ground, the cage affording ample room for a half-dozen or more persons.

English Snuff Slaves.

Snuff-taking is a common habit among certain classes of the London poor. It shows its effects in rambling speech, pallid aspect and dejected demeanor, resembling the symptoms of the morphia taker. The practice is especially common among women and an observer says that women in the prison are said to have their hair decorated with curl papers which contain each the pinch of snuff needed for consolation.

BITS OF NEWS

WASHINGTON.

Some Southern Congressmen are advocating an appropriation by Congress of \$200,000 for the purpose of exterminating the cotton tick.

President Roosevelt's second daughter, Miss Ethel; Secretary Taft's daughter, Miss Helen, and a daughter of General A. W. Greely, of the army, were among a class of about twenty-five young people who were confirmed at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Sheriff F. J. W. Fox and his bondsmen have paid the Government \$3000 for having allowed Harvey Logan, a convicted train robber, to escape at Knoxville, Tenn.

Republican Senators believe they will have a majority for a judicial review provision in the Railroad Rate Regulation bill.

A delegation of cement manufacturers and jobbers saw the President with reference to exclusive use in the canal zone of the American-made product.

Whether Secretary of War Taft will go on the Supreme Court bench is still uncertain, and decision has been indefinitely postponed.

Justice Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, denied the writ of error applied for in the case of Charles L. Tucker, of Massachusetts, under sentence of death for murder.

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS.

The adoption of the metric system of weights and measures in the Philippines has met with complete success.

Five Koreans on the Island of Hawaii have been accused of a murder of unusual atrocity. Their alleged victim was a fellow countryman suspected of beating and cutting. Salt is said to have been placed in his open wounds. He died when a fire was kindled under his body. Besides the five men indicted, four others are in custody.

The vacancy in the Bishopric of Porto Rico, through the appointment of the Right Rev. James H. Blenk as Archbishop of New Orleans, has given rise to the ecclesiastical question whether Porto Rico is under the jurisdiction of the Congregation of the Propaganda or under the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs.

DOMESTIC.

Bourke Cockran before the Tammany General Committee in New York City outlined the Wigwam's position as one of opposition to W. R. Hearst and the Municipal Ownership Forces in the fight for the Governorship.

R. E. Govin, who represents the Chicago Union Traction Company, says that the effect of the Supreme Court decision affecting its franchises was more sentimental than real.

William Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, was reported incurably ill of cancer of the stomach.

The Carnegie scheme of spelling reform was adopted by the principals and superintendent of the public schools at Plainfield, N. J.

The special Grand Jury at Toledo, Ohio, probing graft reported twenty-six indictments for violation of the Valentine Anti-Trust law.

The Baptist and Methodist ministerial conferences decided to wage war on the "white slave" traffic in New York City.

With a bullet hole in his chest, Samuel Krabill, one of the wealthiest farmers of Loudon, Ohio, was found dead in the woods.

Fraud in police examinations in New York City was discovered and the eligible list for captains was cancelled.

Mrs. John Alexander Dowle has published at Chicago a refutation of a report that she has turned against her husband.

A dispatch from Cambridge, Mass., announced the appointment of Bliss Perry as professor of English literature in Harvard University.

Convicted of perjury, Attorney Geo. Collins has been sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment at San Francisco.

In an address in Charlotte, N. C., former Judge Alton B. Parker called upon the South to assert its supremacy in the Democratic party and name the next candidate for President.

Lawrence Rogers, who made affidavit in New York City that there was a plot to murder the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, testified that he had committed perjury and denied the existence of a conspiracy.

The Columbia River Falls at Kettle Falls, Wash., have been sold to J. P. Graves for \$77,000 to develop electric power.

Congressman Blackburn, of North Carolina, charged with practicing before the Government departments for pay, will be brought to trial at Greensboro, N. C., on April 17.

Standard Oil attorneys tried to figure

FOREIGN.

News received from Seistan, in Eastern Persia, says that a pest is spreading, that the populace is becoming panic stricken and that many persons are fleeing.

The American famine fund so far cabled to Japan amounts to \$50,000.

French peasants, mistaking some sappers and miners engaged in maneuvers for troops coming to aid in taking a church inventory, attacked them, wounding twelve and breaking a service wagon.

Social Democrats in St. Petersburg are printing a paper for circulation in the barracks to spread their principles among the troops.

The Hungarian revenue decreased \$32,120,000 during 1905, as a result of the non-payment of direct taxes.

Four hundred military executions, have occurred in Livonia as a result of the Government's repressive measures.

Thirteen soldiers of the garrison at Bobrinsk, Russia, have been condemned to death for mutiny.

At Rawul Pindli, India, the Prince of Wales reviewed 55,000 British and native troops, all mobilized and ready to take the field.

The plague has reappeared at Sydney, New South Wales.

A new source of rubber supply is reported in Liberia, being about 20,000 square miles covered with virgin trees.

Countess Boni de Castellane's divorce arrangements provided for settling a large sum of money on the Count.

Christian Haug, at present Charge d'Affaires of Norway at Washington, will be appointed Norwegian Minister to Washington.

Advices from St. Petersburg say that the elections, as far as the radical elements are concerned, are farcical, the laboring classes fear to vote, and many charges of intimidation have

