SPARKS THAT FLASH FROM THE ANVIL OF POLITICS.

A Succession of Public Matters That Will Keep the Leaders Busy All the Year.

GOSSIP ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE LEGISLATURE.

Never before in the history of Virginia's statehood has there been a year in which the people have been so crowded with important political matters as the present one. Indeed, since the opening of the extra session of the Legislature last January, there has been no surcease, and the end is not yet. The election of members of the Constitutional Convention will take place next Thursday, and in less than three weeks from that time the convention will assemble in this city.

Long before its adjournment, many, if not all, of the nominations for the next Legislature will be made, and the Norfolk Convention will meet and nominate candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Attorney-General.

Meanwhile the fiercest contest over the election of delegates to a gubernatorial convention that ever took place in the State is in progress, and the Democrats all along the lines are stirred to the very highest pitch of interest. But with the settlement of the gubernatorial struggle and the adjournment of the Constitutional Convention, activity will not cease. A Legislature qualified to meet the delicate task of properly adjusting the statutes in conformity with the new organic law must be elected, together with the ticket to be named at Norfolk; and the work of the Constitutional Convention itself will have to be ratified by the people before it will become operative as a Constitution.

So not until after the 5th day of November at least will there be any rest for those who are interested in the political affairs of the State.

Already there is much gossip concerning the probable personnel of the next General Assembly. Almost every one concedes that it will be a most important body, and one that will call for the best and ablest men in the old Commonwealth.

There are two bright young lawyers now in the House from this city, who will in all likelihood stand for re-election, and who are in every way equipped for this most important work. They are Delegate Samuel L. Kelley and Colonel George Wayne Anderson. Indeed, it does not seem at all unlikely that Mr. Kelley may be called upon to preside over the deliberations of the House branch, for he is receiving a most substantial boom for the speakership. Colonel Anderson is undecided yet whether he will stand for the House or the Senate, but his friends say he would be an ornament to either body.

Mr. L. O. Wenderburg is a candidate for the Senate from this district and several other prominent gentlemen are being urged to run.

Mr. Thomas W. Gardner, it is understood, will stand for the House in the county. He is an able young lawyer, and his friends will give him enthusiastic support. Delegate Felix M. Jones and 'Squire J. T. Lewis are also in the race.

Some prominent figures in the last Legislature will not come back this fall.

Delegate Edmund W. Hubard, of Buckingham, will, in all probability, be elevated to the Senate, to succeed Mr. Flood, who has been elected to Congress, and a new man will take the place of Mr. Maynard, of Portsmouth, who is also in Congress. Franklin county will have a new man to fill the seat so long occupied by Judge E. W. Saunders, now on the Circuit bench, and Dr. A. S. Priddy, of Charlotte, and Delegate John W. Price, of Bristol, will both decline to stand for re-election. Senators Sands, of Henrico, and Fairfax, of Loudoun, will not come back, and Judge George W. Morris, of Charlottesville, like Judge Saunders, is wearing the judicial ermine.

It is likely that a number of the members of the Constitutional Convention will be sent to the Legislature this fall, if they can be prevailed upon to accept the nomination. Senators Keezell and Glass and Delegate Boaz will certainly come, and it is urged that there should be many others here who will be thoroughly familiar with the convention work. The friends of Mr. John Garland Pollard are anxious for him to stand for one House or the other, but as yet he has given no intimation of his intentions in the matter. If Mr. Pollard measures up to the standard fixed by his friends for him in the convention, he can have further honors if he will.

There is some talk of the introduction of a resolution upon the assembling of the Constitutional Convention, providing that no member who is an office-holder shall draw pay from the State both as such officer and as a member of the convention. It is argued that the body is called to reduce the expenses of Government, and that it would make a poon start should the numerous office-holders therein be paid double salaries while members of the convention. It is not known that any member proposes to offer such a resolution, but the matter has been freely discussed in political circles.

GORGEOUS FLORAL DISPLAY AT THE BIG BUFFALO SHOW

Magnificent Tropical Products Scattered All Over the Exposition City.

FINE MUSIC AND ART THERE.

Many Well-Known Artists Have Exhibits—The War Department Well Represented.

By CHARLES EDWARD LLOYD.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)

BUFFALO, May 18.—Palms and cacti from Florida, Louisiana, Texas and other Southern States are now growing out of doors in the Exposition grounds. The grass is the setting, and these splendid palms and other tropical products form an ideal frame for the gorgeous floral displays scattered with lavish hand and exquisite taste all over the Exposition City. The flowers at the Exposition deserve an especial article. They seem to have bloomed out i na single nglit. Today the air was heavy with the perfume of hyacinths, buttercups, lilies of the valley and other early spring flowers. There were mammoth beds radiant in tulips of many hues. This profusion of flowers—and I understand there are half a million now blooming—the statuary, the fountains, the gaudily-painted palaces, combine to make an ensemble which suggests the hand of a magician. Wonderful progress has been made in putting on the finishing touches since the 1st of May, and by the 20th everything will be in good shape.

WAR DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT.

The exhibit of the War Department in the Government building is a very interesting one. In one corner of it is a reproduction of the shores of the Mississippi river. Here it is shown how rocks and logs of wood are strapped together and buried in the sand to make the levees near New Orleans as strong as possible and repel the encroachments of that mighty "Father of Waters." Another feature of this exhibit is a group of dredge-boats used for clearing the channel of this unruly stream.

Captain J. P. Wisser's company of Coast Artillery (Seventy-third Company) will encamp on the grounds and each day give exhibition drills with fine and varied collection of guns exhibited by the War Department, including the 12-inch gun on disappearing carriage. Lieutenant R. H. C. Kelton, who has charge of mounting these guns, is first lieutenant of this company. A brigade field hospital will be exhibited south of the Government building. Captain E. L. Munson, assistant surgeon of the United States Army, is in charge of this exhibit. He will have under him twenty-four enlisted men of the Hospital Corps, U. S. Army."

BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

Mr. J. C. Boykin, a native of Georgia, has charge of the exhibit of the Bureau of Education. He has installed the finest exhibit I have ever seen at any exposition. A unique and original feature of it, which was designed by Mr. Boykin, is a phonographic representation of school work in the United States. He has had a dark room built, and the phonographs give representations in many branches of education. He secured these in the best schools in Washington, and the effect is very entertaining, and sometimes very laughable. To heighten the effect of the reproduction of daily recitations, he has photographs of the teachers and pupils taken. These photographs have been put on slides and, with the use of a stereopticon, are thrown on a large screen in this dark room. This will certainly prove to be one of the greatest attractions in the Government building.

Miss Alice Fletcher, who was for many years connected with the Indian Bureau in Washington City, is here and has installed in the Government building one of the most interesting Indian exhibits in the history of expositions. It is arranged in systematic order, beginning with the earliest data obtainable about the American aborigines. One case contains many relics of the time antecedent to the discovery of America. These are worthy of serious study. They show in a most striking way the peculiar trend of the Indian mind. Many of these are artistic and highly interesting. Indian relics and specimens are grouped in separate cases from this primitive beginning to the present day. Finally there is displayed, enclosed by wooden grill-work, carved by an Indian, the interior of a modern dwelling. In this miniature apartment is beautifully carved and inlaid furniture, a collection of paintings, an illuminated frieze, an artistic dado made of dyed grasses and a fire-place that is a poem in itself.

INDIAN GIRL'S DESIGN.

This fire-place was designed by an Indian girl, Angel de Cora, a graduate of the Indian school at Hampton, Virginia, now an art student in Boston. She uses a very light and a very dark wood. Just under the mantel a "thunder bird" is inlaid in dark wood. This "thunder bird" is our eagle, so called by the aborigines because his eyrie is among the clouds—the home of thunder. It is placed over the fire-place because it is also the bird of the sun—the original source of all heat and fire. An artistic border is carved from the sacred fire-sticks arranged in conventional form, because the Indians produced fire by rubbing these sticks together.

Over the mantel is a hand-painted panel representing a fiery sunset on a western prairie. To the left is a group of Indian tents through which glows the light of the evening fires. In the centre an Indian brave woos a maiden of his tribe, thus giving promise of the establishment of another hearthstone. This attractive exhibit will be under the charge of an Indian author—Francis La Flesche—whose recent book, "The Middle Five," is receiving compliments from the press of this country and Europe. Mr. La Flesche is from Omaha. The book is dedicated to "The Universal Boy," and gives a picture of the Indian boy's life and character. Miss Fletcher is a well-known authority on Indian affairs, and has done this work with her customary enthusiasm and thoroughness.

PHILIPPINE INSTRUMENTS.

In the Philippine exhibit is a collection of musical instruments, which I neglected to include in my last letter. Among these is a harp of narra wood and ebony, seven guitars, a violoncello, a mandolin and a series of reed instruments which suggest the modern organ. There is a collection of cannon and rapid fire guns on an elevated platform in the centre of the Philippine exhibit, which excite much interest. The rapid fire gun is borne on a most primitive wooden gun-carriage. There are two antiquated cannons made of bamboo, with a gas pipe through the centre, the bamboo being held together by bands of manila hemp. One gun is made of iron tubing enclosed in wood and bound with rattan or wire. It was taken from the Filipino arsenal at Talavera, Luzon Island, by General Lawton's troops in 1899. This interesting collection of antique guns, mortars and rapid fire guns were presented by General Otis to the Smithsonian Institution.

Some of the botanical specimens from the Philippines are presented in better shape than asy we have in this country. Photographs of local scenes are very picturesque and very well done, especially those around Manila. The picture of the "Caromata" looks very much like the old barouche once extensively used in this country. Some of the avenues in the Island of Luzan are bordered with stately palm trees and make a very handsome photograph. There are one hundred samples of native woods obtained at Manila. Among these are Marra, Ebona, Yacal, Betis, Palma-Brava and Palo-Maria. These are of fine grain, are beautifully colored, and must be of considerable value. There is a native loom on which a Filipino woman is weaving a kind of cloth called Cinamay. The Pima cloth, made from cocoanut fibre, is beautiful. There are great ropes of Manila hemp and a hammock made of twine in different colors by Filipino convicts in Manila. Needle work done by a Tagal girl in the public schools of Manila will compare with any of this country. A center piece made of cloth with figures in silk made by natives of Luzon is equal to anything of the kind done in Paris. The specimens of lace compare favorably with any in the world. Altogether this Philippine exhibit is a wonderful one and it cannot fail to attract many visitors.

MUSIC AND ART.

The music of the exposition is winning compliments on every side. Fanciulli is here with his famous Seventy-first New York Band. This band, with the Seventy-fourth and Sixty-fifth Regiment Bands of Buffalo, entertain the crowds every day at the Exposition. Fanciulli will be remembered as Sousa's successor in the leadership of the Marine Band of Washington city. The Seventy-first Regiment Band is composed of sixty artist, any one of whom can play a difficult solo at sight.

The art exhibit at the Pan-American will contain examples of the best work of nearly every prominent artist. There will be 650 exhibitors, about 1,600 exhibits including 900 pictures in oil, water colors and pastel. The Art Gallery will not be open to the public until June 1st on account of unavoidable delays in getting the building ready. Cecilia Beaux exhibits a splendid painting, for which she received the gold medal at the Paris Exposition. It shows the figures, life size, of mother and daughter standing in evening gowns with opera cloaks about them as if ready to go to some evening entertainment. There is a strong resemblance in the features of both women though the older one has white hair and the daughter's is jet black. There are three pictures by Ross Turner, one a magnificent marine that makes you realize the weight of the water and yet is wonderfully transparent. A large glistening ship is riding over the waves and the atmosphere of the picture is so real that one can almost feel the swell of the sea. The other two pictures are Mexican scenes, one representing a brilliantly-colored flower market and the other a Spanish mission remarkable for the brilliancy and clearness of color.

SOME FINE PICTURES.

Howard Pyle will be represented by a series of six pictures illustrating the pilgrimage of Truth through the world. The first shows Truth as a tall, graceful woman about to leave her home, her sisters and friends gathered about her to say good-bye and wish her bon voyage. In the second picture, Truth is represented as going before the king and her rejection by him. In two of the other pictures she is rejected by the high priest and the wise man, and the last shows Truth as received by none but the jester. That series and four other small panel pictures in black and white oil show Pyle's wonderful imaginative genius. One of the panel pictures, called "The Spark of Life," is a fascinating picture. It represents a woman flying through the air with outstretched arms. On the tip of one finger is a spark of fire, the spark of life with which she is about to touch some object on the ground.

Alexander Harrison exhibits several marine views, recently finished in a studio in Paris. These have received the usual favorite criticism which every canvas from his brush usually gets from the most fastidious critics in that great art center.

The comparatively small exhibit of miniature would indicate that not many American artists have taken up that branch of the work, but though the collection is small it contains some beautiful work. Miss Laura Hills Combs, of Boston, will be represented by four or five portraits that will be as fine as any in the collection of miniature. M. H. Tannhill, of New York, has one of the largest miniatures, representing John Burroughs sitting in an old-fashioned arm chair by the fireside. Other miniature exhibitors are Martha S. Baker, of Chicago; Emily Drayton Taylor, of Philadelphia; Leona Hope, of Providence, R. I.

FROM A BACHEMOR'S VIEW.

It isn't always the best woman in the world that's best for a good man.

Emerson said that all healthy things are sweet-tempered. Emerson never had a baby.

No experience meeting is half so intimate as two women who have found that they each lost all their hair in exactly the same way.

Every woman over thirty at some time in her life has opened somebody else's letter after making up her mind to think it was meant for her.

You can generally buy a man for a lot less than his wife thinks he's worth.

A woman's political opinions are almost as easy to understand as a Chinese laundry ticket.

Self-possession in a woman is knowing that her dress fits her better than any other woman's there.

In every woman's club there are three mortal enemies—the woman who is president, the woman who was president last and the woman who is bound to be president next.

A woman's conscience is generally more than half cunning.

When a baby is a certain age it gets colic whenever you look at it.

There is no fool like the old fool who thinks he knowsm a young fool when he sees one.

When everything else fails, a man can generally make a woman love him by making her suffer.

An ideal dress-maker is one that can make a woman look either fat or thin where she has no business to.

The greatest friend to love is lonesomeness.

Every woman ought to be at least twice os good to her husband as he will let her be.

The reason why there are so many old bachelors is that there is no place like home.

Only about half the women who have beauty enough to go to the devil have got brains enough to take a man along.

No matter how old she is, a woman will always claim that a man never begins to be really dangerous till he is past her own age.

Little Truths.

A rolling stone gathers no microbes.

Even a red-headed man shudders at his first gray hair.

The man who revolves around himself soon wears out his cogs.

The best way to have a good time is to carry it around with you.

Music makes the contented discontented and the discontented contented.

—Chicago Record-Herald.

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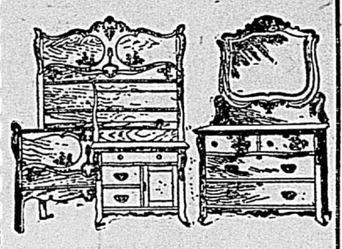

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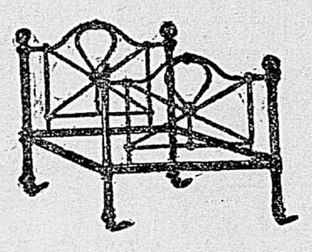

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A very pretty golden oak Sideboard, like cut—French plate mirror, three drawers and cupboard, serpentine top,

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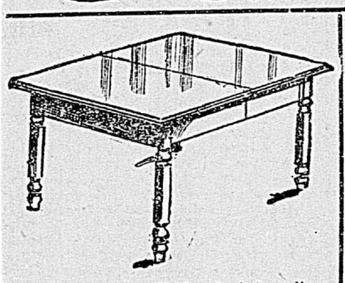

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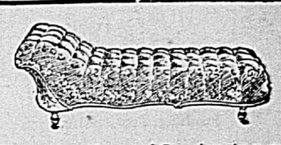

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SOME FUNNY LITTLE STORIES THAT WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH

Mark Twain, Lillian Russell and Hetty Green Are Good Subjects to Start With.

A Joke on Mark Twain.

Mark Twain once had an engagement to lecture in a small town and was met at the railway station by the minister, as the leader of intellectual society in the place. The minister welcomed the distinguished visitor, and as they walked up to the parsonage, where Mark was to be housed and fed during his stay, his host conversed on several topics, and finally said:

"Mr. Clemens, it has always been our custom in this little town to open every entertainment given here with prayer, and I should like to do so to-night, if agreeable to you. Would you have any objection to my doing so?"

"Why, my dear sir," replied Mark, warmly, "on the contrary, it will give me great pleasure—I should be very glad to know that the lecture was going to be started right, anyhow."

So with this understanding they went to the lecture-room that evening, and the minister left the lecturer sitting in the corner of the platform, took the center of the stage himself and proceeded to offer a prayer about half an hour long, in the course of which he gave his views on all current affairs of interest, and concluded by saying:

"And, now, O Lord, we have with us to-night a man who is known throughout all the world as the great American humorist. Help us, O Lord—help us to understand what he is about to say to us, and to be amused by it; and, if possible, grant that we may derive some real benefit from his lecture."—Western Reserve.

Lillian Russell and Christian Science.

There are few people willing to credit the fact that Lillian Russell is an enthusiastic believer in the doctrine of Christian Science. It is, nevertheless, true that the beautiful "queen of comic opera" has for more than a year studied the creed closely and practices its teachings assiduously.

"I am not sufficiently up in the subject to speak about it, and it is too sacred to me to have it ridiculed," is her invariable reply to would-be interviewers.

But behind the scenes of "Fiddle-Dee-Dee" it is a different matter.

"I don't know how I can sing to-night," declared Fay Templeton recently. "My throat is sore, and I am all choked up with a cold."

"Don't think about it and your throat won't trouble you," responded Miss Russell promptly. "Keep your mind away from the trouble. Just say that you are not ill, and superior to such a trifle. Compel your throat to obey you, and not let your throat dictate to you what it will do."

Then, for at least five minutes, Miss Russell preached Christian Science to Fay Templeton, persuading her to believe she was not ill. Whether the lesson was efficient or not, Fay declined to commit herself. The fact remains that she sang that night and sang as well as ever.—Boston Herald.

Not a Linguist.

He pulled himself up at the hotel table, tucked his napkin under his chin, picked up the bill of fare, and began to study it intently. Everything was in restaurant French, and he didn't like it.

"Here, waiter," he said, sternly, "there's nothing on this I want."

"Ain't there nothin' you would like for dinner, sir?" inquired the waiter, politely.

"Have you got any sine qua non?"

The waiter gasped.

"No, sir," he replied.

"Got any bona-fide?"

"N-no, sir."

"Got any semper eadem?"

"No, sir, we haven't?"

"Got any jeu d'esprits?"

"No, sir, not one."

"Got any tempus fugit?"

"I reckon not, sir."

"Got any soirees dansants?"

"No, sir."

The waiter was edging off.

"Got any sine die?"

"We ain't, sir."

"Got any pluribus unum?"

The waiter's face showed some signs of intelligence.

"Seems to me I heerd of that, sir," and he rushed out to the kitchen, only to return empty-handed.

Maybe you've got some beef and cabbage and a gooseberry tart?"

"Sure we have, sir," exclaimed the waiter, in a tone of the utmost relief; and he fairly flew out to the kitchen.—London Tid-Bits.

Poor Hetty Green!

There is a shoemaker who lived at one time in Far Rockaway, who has a stock story to tell of the melancholy time when he cheated himself, says the New York Times. There lived in his neighborhood a poor woman who had rented one of the summer cottages which she was able to hire at a low sum for the winter because no one else would take it. She lived in only a few rooms of the house, the kitchen and a little room out of it, a dining room, where she had a small, smoky stove which had gradually darkened the walls to a cloudy gray. Everything about the house was of the simplest, even of the poorest, and the kind-hearted shoemaker felt sorry for the poor woman who lived in this uncomfortable fashion. She brought him a shoe to mend one day. He did the work in his best fashion, and when she came for it refused the money.

"It is nothing madam," he said, cheerfully. "I was glad to do it" The woman thanked him and left.

"Why didn't you charge her?" asked an astonished witness of the scene.

"She is such a poor woman I didn't like to," answered the shoemaker, apologetically.

"Poor!" cried the spectator. "She is the richest woman in this country. That was Hetty Green."

BROKE HUSBAND'S SAFE.

Makes $40,000 Clear and Gets His Congratulations.

The wife of a merchant in Yonkers was moved to attempt safe-breaking by the craze to speculate, says the New York World. Her husband is in Europe. In his safe were 500 shares of Northern Pacific. A Wall Street man who had sold them to him rushed to the wife and offered her $60,000 for the bunch, which represented a profit of $40,000.

"But I don't know the combination of the safe," expostulated the wife in answer to the Wall Street man's frantic appeal for the stock.

"Well, blow it open, send for a professional cracksman, hire a safe expert. I'll pay any man $1,000 to get the safe open."

The wife protested, but the Wall Street man finally induced her to consent to the burglary and he got the stock. The wife spent $15 cabling the news of the transaction to her husband and got this reply:

"Good; give him the safe, too."

Using Texas Oil for Fuel.

Already several steam plants have made experiments with the newly developed oil found at Beaumont, and so far the tests appear to have been satisfactory. The Jennings Electric Light and Power Company put in the necessary apparatus for using the oil as fuel, and last week began its use in its large plant, which supplies the town with light and power. At Houston also experiments have been made in the same direction and with satisfactory results, while several of the canal pumping stations in south-western Louisiana are getting ready to change their fuel from coal and wood to oil. If after full and sufficient experiments it is found that the Beaumont oil will be as cheap and as satisfactory in other respects as coal, there is no telling the extent of the demand that will be made upon the oil wells for steam-boating purposes.—New Orleans States.