

CARDS AND DANCING NOT SO VERY BAD

Even Theatre May Help to Instruct People, Says Unitarian Pastor.

BUT KEEP EVIL SHOWS AWAY

Society Amusements Are Harmful When They Are Carried to Excess.

Contrary to the views of hundreds of other ministers who have recently preached strong sermons on the so-called harmful amusements—the theatre in particular—the Rev. John L. Robinson, pastor of the First Unitarian Church in his sermon yesterday on "The Church and the Question of Amusements," argued that those indulging in the pastimes, rather than the form they took, were responsible for what evil there was in them.

Mr. Robinson took up theatre-going, card-playing and dancing specifically, these being most widely discussed from the pulpits of the various denominations. Primarily he admitted the bad features of each, but only in cases where they were carried to excess—only where each under improper conditions was perverted and failed to serve its original end, ceasing to be beneficial either as an amusement or relaxation only or to be instructive to the participants.

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POWHATAN MURDER TRIAL BEGINS TO-MORROW



WALTER G. JOHNSON, Who Was Murdered.

FLAREBACK SNOW COMES IN SPRING

Ground-Hog's Revenge Was Sweet, and the Streets Made Him Joyful.

Determined to get even with those who had maltreated him, the ground-hog came back yesterday with a whirlwind of sleet and snow, which was a trifle out of season.

The man who purchased a new spring suit for St. Patrick's Day signed heavily and spoke feelingly of hopes long deferred as he turned on the steam when he had planned to be swaggering on the street as betis sport in "the latest thing for the first warm days."

Everybody grumbled, not because it was an unheard-of thing to have a big snow in the middle of March, but because he had hoped that a spasmodic and unsatisfactory winter and entirely given away to early spring, which seemed to have been intended to be semi-humorous cracked the old jokes about the ground-hog's revenge, while others made none too complimentary remarks about the beautiful.

Mr. W. Overbey, the convicted cashier of the Mecklenburg Bank, who arrived at the penitentiary last Tuesday to serve a sentence of three years, has not yet been assigned to regular work.

SKYSCRAPER WORK HALTS TILL MAYOR GETS A LOWER BERTH

Rush of Tourist Travel from Florida Ties Up All Pullman Reservations on Atlantic Coast Line—Hence Charleston's Wonder Cannot Be Erected Now.

They are coming back from Florida these days by the car load, having literally been driven away by the heat. You may not notice it here, where many railroads offer many accommodations, but if you happen to be in the South and try to move northward, sleeping overnight, en route, you must wait, for there is not even an upper berth to be had.

The Mayor of the quaint old city of Charleston happened to have a national prominence the other day when he was in a hurry to reach New York to close a contract for the erection of an eight-story office building, which will be the first of its kind in that good man's town.

William A. Webb III, formerly of 9 South First Street, this city, were notified in a telegram received yesterday of the serious illness in the University Hospital, Charlottesville. An operation has been performed, but it will be impossible to tell if its success or failure for several days. A brother, Shepherd Webb, left yesterday to be at the bedside. Mr. Webb was in business in Charlottesville at the time he was stricken.

WATSON MYERS TO QUIT BOARD

Madison Ward Wants Man Equally as Good to Serve as Police Commissioner.

Police Commissioner Watson Myers, of Madison Ward, has announced that he will not be a candidate again for the position after his present term of office expires on July 1, as he will move out of the ward. There will be no lack of candidates for the place, a position coveted by many, and seven men of solid standing in Madison Ward are being urged to make the race.

DOG OWNER COMPLAINS

West Grace Street Resident Will Prosecute Thief Who Killed Spauld.

Joseph Wallerstein, of 1837 West Grace Street, complained to the police several days ago, that in his neighborhood it is almost impossible to keep dogs supplied with medals or collars.

HOLD UP TWO CLAIMS

Saunders, Leary and Winston Overdraw City Contingent Fund.

Report has it that two claims, approved by the City Council, will be held up by Auditor Warren when the bills reach his office.

THE WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for various locations including Richmond, Ashville, Atlanta, and others.

MURDERER PAYS PENALTY TO-DAY

Negro Convicted in Twenty-One Minutes, Makes Full Confession of Terrible Crime.

Arthelous Christian, colored, convicted in Botetourt county for the murder of Annie May Debbis, a fourteen-year-old girl of Glen Wilton, will be executed at the penitentiary this morning.

WOULD EXTEND WORK

Huguenot Society Sees Opportunity for Spread of Religion in France.

The tenth annual meeting of the Huguenot Society in this city was held last night at the Second Presbyterian Church in the presence of a large audience.

SCARED BY BATTLE IN CLOUDS

Sham Fight of Troops, Reproduced in Movies, Scared German Villagers.

TO ERECT STATUE AS A MEMORIAL

Charitable Organization of St. Peter's Parish Plans to Honor Its Founder.

Impressive services were held last night in St. Peter's Catholic Church, under the auspices of the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Peter's Parish, Bishop Van De Vyver leading in the solemn vespers service.

DISCUSS BONDS FOR NEW SEWERS

Three Council Committees Will Take Matter Up in Joint Session.

Two meetings of unusual interest and importance to the welfare of the city are on this week's calendar.

DON'T NEED TROOPS AT MURDER TRIAL

Powhatan Citizens Want Court to Deal With Prisoners According to Evidence.

TO GO THERE UNDER GUARD

Henrico Officers Leave To-Day With Negroes—Grand Jury Ready to Act.

Five alleged accomplices in the Skipwith-Johnson murder case will be taken to Powhatan Courthouse from Richmond this morning, leaving by the Southern Railway train at 11 o'clock in charge of Deputy Sheriff Traylor and Constable Birch, of Henrico county, and Policeman C. M. Johnson, of Richmond, brother of Walter G. Johnson, and who was most actively engaged in working up the case and running down what appears to have been a gang of assassins who were to have committed several more murders before their bloody work was done.

The trial will not begin until tomorrow morning. Six of the fifteen negroes who have been arrested as chief conspirators or accomplices have yet to be indicted. A special grand jury is now in session, and it is expected that it will return true bills against the accused to-night. If there is any delay, there will be plenty of time to-morrow morning before the trial begins.

Through the crime, which also included the burning of Mrs. Skipwith's house after she and Johnson had been murdered, is probably the worst in the annals of Powhatan county, no mob violence is apprehended. The people realize that justice will be meted out as quickly as possible, and that the usual delays of the law will not be allowed to in this case.

There was a wild rumor to the effect that some negroes had threatened to take the prisoners from the county jail, but that has proved to be untrue. The military forces of the State will not be called out, unless the unexpected should happen.

Though there are fifteen prisoners, the trial will, it is said, be finished inside of two or three days. The two Taylors and Lewis Jenkins will be convicted beyond a doubt, as they are said to have been the leaders of the gang.

WOULD REGULATE CITY'S TRAFFIC

Suggests That Board of Police Comm. Draw Up Ordinance to Suit Conditions.

An ordinance to regulate traffic has been suggested by several prominent men who are acquainted with traffic regulations in the larger cities of the North, where, as for instance in New York, special police squads are provided for the purpose.

AMUSEMENTS

Academy—Matinee and Night, Ben Greet Players.

A distinct novelty in dramatic productions will be afforded at the Academy to-day, matinee and night, when Ben Greet and his company present "The Merchant of Venice" and "Macbeth."

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WISE MAN WINS BY DOPING AGE OF FOOTLIGHT STARS

Took Bet Promptly When Other Fellow Declared That John Drew Is as Old as Crane, Then Gives Facts About Some Other Favorites.

Bets were made yesterday by a man who claims to know everything about the stage that John Drew was as old as Johnnie Crane, and that Nat Goodwin was older than Rose Coghlan.

"You are on," said the wise man, "and I'll show you how you are in wrong. Drew's raiment may be him more snugly than that which is made for old man Crane, but old man Crane has him skinned when it comes to age."

Several books were made, after which the wise man proceeded to rattle them off, just as a child would repeat the multiplication table.

"For instance," he said, "Crane was born in 1845, while Drew is only fifty-six years old. Can you count the difference? Well, let's proceed. Rose Coghlan is fifty-nine, while Nat Goodwin is but fifty-two. When Lillian Russell was here you didn't notice any wrinkles, did you? Of course not, and yet she tips the scales at forty-nine years, even if she did look as fresh as a daisy. You can't tell their ages by the way they look on the stage. Now I'll wager that when Edna Wallace Hopper comes along and you see her on the stage you'll miss her age by ten years. She is thirty-five; Nazimova is thirty; and Edna is twenty-eight, according to the way I doped it, and Margaret Illington is twenty-eight; May Robson was born in 1868; Eleanor Ross first saw the light of day in 1859; Anna Held? Thirty-six, or I'm no judge."

When he had walked away the others who had paid up cheerfully on the Crane-Drew proposition were inclined to say things, "I'd rather lose money than win it by being wrong. I'd rather be a fool than a wise man," said one, "and it's no cinch now that he gave all of that list correctly."

But they looked in a reference book and found that the wise man had called the turn.

WOULD REGULATE CITY'S TRAFFIC

Suggests That Board of Police Comm. Draw Up Ordinance to Suit Conditions.

An ordinance to regulate traffic has been suggested by several prominent men who are acquainted with traffic regulations in the larger cities of the North, where, as for instance in New York, special police squads are provided for the purpose.

Richmond has no traffic regulations worthy of note, though the increase in the number of vehicles, especially automobiles, in the past few years would seem to make the passage of some ordinance relating to the subject an essential part of the city's laws.

It is believed that proper regulations strictly enforced would prevent numerous accidents to vehicle passengers and pedestrians.

There would be a rule on the turning of corners, on speed at certain congested points and general rules as to how to pass other vehicles going in either direction.

REBUKED BY TEACHER

Young Boy Grows So Despondent That He Commits Suicide.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 21.—Despondent because his teacher had scolded him for dawdling during school hours, fourteen-year-old Attilio Galliano committed suicide to-day by taking sulphate of strychnine.

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