

The San Francisco Call

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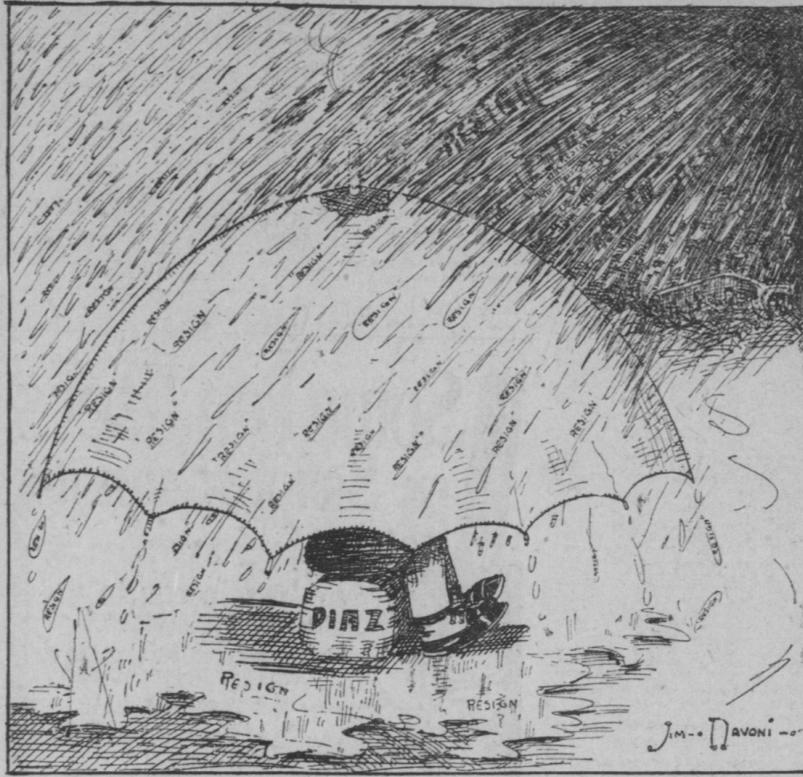
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A Wet Day for Diaz



Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

The children are swinging and dancing and singing, and playing with marbles and rolling their hoops; they're laughing and leaping, their festival keeping, they run past my cottage in jubilant troops. I look and I listen and briny tears glisten and roll down my whiskers and fall on my feet; the children are playing, and my thoughts are straying to days when I gambled, as gay and as fleet. Men say I've succeeded; all things that I needed I've managed to capture, with Fortune to thank; I've lands and I've houses and horses and cows, and motors and diamonds and cash in the bank. My butler's imported, my daughters are courted by princes and nobles with eyes on my stack; but youth is departed! I'm sitting, downhearted, a stitch in my side and a crick in my back! For fame I have striven, for wealth I have driven—I got them, and now I would give them away for one hour of swinging and dancing and singing, as young and as blithe as the children at play!



WALT MASON

Copyright, 1910, by George Krehmer Adams
Oak Mason

The Morning Chit-Chat

A GREAT many parents take a positively unfair advantage of their little helpless babies. "If there were fewer cute babies there would be fewer fretful and nervous children."

"The baby under a year old who can do any sort of a cute trick hasn't had a square deal."

Such are some of the statements I recently heard a mother, who really thinks, make about babies.

In the course of the conversation someone had spoken of a baby who happened to be the first grandson and nephew on both sides of the family and who, at Christmas time, when he was only 5 months old, received nine toys, five picture books and eight rattles from admiring friends and relatives.

The mother who really thinks said she pitied both the mother and the baby.

"We asked why."

"Because too many toys spoil the child," she answered, promptly.

"I think this crowding little babies with toys and teaching them tricks is positively wicked. You know that a baby's brain isn't its full size until after he is a year old. Well, just think of all that growing brain has to assimilate without our distracting it with playthings or confusing it with rattles or forcing more efforts in the way of tricks upon it."

"Perhaps you've heard what a good baby my Gretchen is. Every one thinks it's remarkable how little trouble she's and says I'm very fortunate."

"I don't think it's wholly that I'm fortunate. I think it's partly because I'm sensible. Because I've applied what I learned from my other babies to her."

"My baby is 8 months old and all the toys she has ever had are two spoons and a blue celluloid ball."

"I think if you don't give a child so many playthings it will be not only better off, but happier."

"You know how it is with the average child—he is put down in a chair with a tray full of playthings. He looks at them a few minutes and then there are so many that he gets confused and fretful, and begins to throw them all on the floor."

"Now, this is the way I do with Gretchen. Say I'm getting dinner. I put her in her chair, where she can watch me and don't give her any playthings at all. Then she is quite content to watch me for about half an hour. When she begins to get restless I give her her spoons and she plays with them for awhile, and when she is tired of them she has her blue celluloid ball tied to a string and hung from the ceiling. She is happy with that at least half an hour and by that time dinner is probably gotten and eaten, and Gretchen, instead of being nervous and cross and tired, as she would have been if I had piled her with playthings and talked to her and shaken a rattle at her half the time, is as good as a kitten."

"People think she is a remarkable baby. I don't. I think any baby would be just as good if its parents gave it a chance from the beginning."

"I don't think there is any excuse for those mothers who can't find time to do anything but take care of one baby. It's bad for them and bad for the baby. Except for her washing, Gretchen isn't much more bother than if she wasn't in the house at all, and I think almost any mother could have things just the same way if she would only train her baby right from the beginning."

Perhaps every mother won't agree with all these conclusions, but surely she will find this an interesting and suggestive point of view.

Ruth Cameron

You May Be a Late Bird, but The Early Worm Awaits You

Ordinarily the early bird, perhaps animated by a desire to substantiate the old adage, gobbles the early worm. But all worms are not early worms, and the late worms may be just as fat as the more active ones that arise and are eaten before broad daylight.

In other words, contestants may enter The Call's Booklovers' Contest right now, and have just as much chance to win any of the 530 superb prizes as have those who have followed the contest from the first picture. You can enter right now and get all the back pictures free, besides enough other free pictures to cover all the extra answers you will desire to make.

The contest, you see, has just fairly begun. Today the thirty-first picture is published. There are 77 pictures in all to appear during the contest.

This means that the contest is not nearly half over. It means that you have 46 days more—46 days in which to look over the pictures just as carefully as have those who started with the first picture.

The problem of securing the back pictures, with their coupons, is solved by The Call's plan for subscribers, or those becoming subscribers during this contest. The contestant sends or brings in \$1 as a deposit on a book of 20 booklovers' certificates, each certificate of which is good for five pictures and coupons of any dates you ask for. Thus the book is good for 100 pictures and coupons of any dates. You use the certificates as you need pictures and coupons, and at the end of six months send us the cover of the book, with receipts showing that you have taken The Call for those six months, and we will return the \$1 deposit to you. If you take The Call by mail, it is not necessary for you to send in receipts—just send in the book cover, in which your name is written.

For a \$2 deposit you can get a book good for 200 pictures and coupons. The \$2 is returned to you at the end of 12 months, under conditions similar to those just told.

If you are not a subscriber to The Call, you can buy a book good for 100 pictures and coupons for \$1, and a book good for 200 pictures and coupons for \$2. As pictures, with their coupons, are regularly sold for 5 cents each, you are paying the price of 20 pictures and getting 80 free, or paying the price of 40 and getting 160 free. But if you do not subscribe, you will not get your money back. Money back is granted only to subscribers.

If you do not understand this plan, send for a circular which tells about it in detail. This circular also gives you information about the Booklovers' Contest catalogue, which can be had from The Call for 35 cents, 40 cents by mail. It is from this catalogue that the contest editor will take all the titles which will be represented by the 77 pictures to appear in this contest.

Have you seen the prizes The Call is offering in the contest? The three automobiles—the Vellie five passenger touring car, first prize; the Ford five passenger touring car, second prize, and the Ford racy runabout, fourth prize—are all on exhibition in the showrooms of the Standard motor car company, Van Ness and Golden Gate avenues.

Kohler & Chase, either at their San Francisco address, 26 O'Farrell street, or the Oakland store, 1015 Broadway, will be glad to show you the three superb player pianos offered in the contest. The third, fifth and sixth prizes are Kohler & Chase player pianos, valued at \$850, \$750 and \$675, respectively.

"What about yearly subscribers, who don't get any monthly receipts?" asks one contestant, who wants to take advantage of the free picture plan.

Those subscribers taking The Call by mail, whether they take it for periods of one year, more than one year, or for periods of one month, three months or six months, need not send in any receipts in order to have their deposit on coupon certificate books returned to them. Mail order subscribers do not get receipts, so they could hardly send in any.

All mail order subscribers need to do is send in the cover of the coupon certificate book. On this cover their name has been written when the book was sent to them. On receiving the cover we will look up the name in our list of mail order subscribers, see that the contestant has taken The Call for six months, and refund the money immediately.

NO material improvement of conditions in Mexico is effected by the promised resignation of President Diaz. When that promise is kept it will be not willingly but as a measure of necessity. If any means can be found to avoid fulfillment, the pledge will not be redeemed at all.

Breakdown of Government in Mexico

It is apparent, however, that Diaz' day of power is done and that he will have to make way for his successors. He hoped, if possible, to bring about an American invasion, because he was persuaded that in this event the patriotic sense of the insurgents would consolidate the nation and bring them over to his side. But Mr. Taft has made it plain that no American army will be thrown into Mexico.

Diaz, then, must resign, and the question arises, Who will succeed him? It is not to be expected that the "cientificos" who have grown fat on the spoils of office and the incidental graft will surrender power without a struggle, and doubtless they will have the support of Diaz in the forthcoming conflict for power. The resignation of Diaz at best means a period of armed politics mixed with extensive brigandage which the insurgents will not be able to keep down. Mexico has always been full of potential brigands, whom nothing less than the summary justice administered by the rurales could keep in order. Under a lame and uncertain government doing politics with one hand and trying to keep order with the other, it seems that a satisfactory condition of pacification in Mexico is still far distant.

The present condition is little short of anarchy. The whole country is filled with armed bands of marauders, and considerable bodies of insurgent troops are within a few miles of the capital. There is deep and widespread disaffection in the City of Mexico, and the safety of Diaz is assured only by the presence of the major part of his army.

In fine, there is a complete breakdown of government in Mexico for the moment. It is a situation that calls for the highest patriotism to pull the republic out of the morass into which the corrupt regime of Diaz has plunged it, and it is quite doubtful whether that quality of statesmanship can be expected from the grafters by whom the president of the republic has been surrounded. In the meantime, it is for the United States to keep out of the mess.

THE action of a complainant judge in blocking the way of inquiry into the Lorimer bribery charges in Illinois makes it certain that the matter will be taken up once more by the United States senate with less likelihood of judicial interference in the course of investigation. The Illinois inquiry has developed a considerable body of new and important evidence, but it appears to have reached the limit of its powers, and the matter will now come before a superior tribunal constituted from the body in which Lorimer sits. A senator interested in the proceedings is quoted:

Lorimer Again Before the Senate

It is understood that there are witnesses outside the jurisdiction of this committee who can not be compelled to testify, and there are other witnesses in the jurisdiction of Illinois who refuse to testify in accordance with the orders of the committee. These men can be made to testify in Washington. In the interest of the whole truth their complete stories should be known. It will be a sorry day for this country if it shall ever be demonstrated that we have a form of government under which men might hide evidence of criminality in the face of a demand by an arm of the government itself.

Something will depend on the committee to which the investigation shall be referred. It ought to go to a special committee constituted of new men, but the effort of Lorimer's friends will be to send it to the committee on privileges and elections, which is understood to be evenly divided. In the final resort, however, the controversy must be settled on the floor of the senate, where the whole membership can be put on record for or against.

IT appears as if the infant industry of the Standard oil company is once more threatened and put in danger—not exactly by foreign pauper enterprise, but by an alien group of capitalists who are buying up things right under the sanctified nose of the Standard. Therefore a cry for protection against this invasion is raised. Thus the Indianapolis News:

Needs No Protection From Competition

Really things are becoming serious in this country. Now the Standard oil company is in danger of being wiped out of existence by a foreign oil invasion. A very short sighted congress withdrew a countervailing duty on petroleum after being warned that such action would hazard the future welfare of this country, and now two things have occurred in proof of the far sightedness of that warning. Some time ago the Royal Dutch Shell oil company landed a cargo of oil in Philadelphia, and now it proposes to open an office in San Francisco. All of which leads the Oil City Derrick again to warn us that "it is fair to state that the retention of the countervailing duty would have been wisdom on the part of the American government."

The Call some time ago reported the sale of the Associated oil company and its vast holdings in California to a group of foreign capitalists. We believe the transfer was a good thing for the oil interests of the state, but we fail to realize how the restoration of the countervailing duty could affect the situation. At the present rate of production California does not fear any sort of competition in oil, and a tariff on the product would be as purely ornamental as the duty on wheat.

If the suffering Standard or the Shell group or any of the others would like to see the countervailing duty restored, there is no reason why they should not be accommodated. Oil is so plentiful in California that it needs no protection from competition.

IN the momentous debate now raging over beards and bald heads, Uncle Joe Cannon, in his capacity of philosopher on the spot, failed to discover the stuff of humor. We need not blame the venerable argumentator for this incapacity, because his carefully selected comrades in this competition of wits and beaux have labored hard and produced nothing but leather and prunella.

Find It Hard Work To Be Funny

The business of being funny on demand and by order is rarely prosperous, and the results, as in the present instance, are usually melancholy. The only glint of humor cast on the affair came from Mayor Gaynor of New York, who was a volunteer without invitation to the competition. The pastor of a Brooklyn church complained to the New York executive that he had been made the subject of insult because of his luxuriant black beard, and he got this reply:

It is not a crime in the city of New York to wear a full beard. I wear one myself, and nobody takes any notice of it. How is it that they take notice of your beard? Have you trimmed it in some peculiar way contrary to the scriptures? The scriptures say: "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shall thou mar the corners of your beard." Yes, if they assault you and throw empty cans and rubbish at you and otherwise assault you on account of your beard, you have a right to defend yourself to the last extremity; but if you find it necessary, I will have a detective go around with you for a few days until we arrest some of those who are wronging you.

Are you certain that it is your beard which is the cause of the trouble?

Blame not the beard. If perchance you find yourself a mark for public contumely or derision, search your soul for other cause, and if you still feel bad about it you might take consolation from reading Hon. Nick Longworth's apology for a bald head, on which that statesman labored so hard and accomplished so little.

SAN MATEO'S new county government is different. When the old crowd was in control everything was for sale. The northern part of the county, marching with San Francisco, was made a chartered refuge for gamblers, bunco men and white slavers operating wide open under official protection. Of course the vicinity of a great city made this commerce in vice exceedingly profitable for the officials as well as the operators, but one sort of corruption breeds another, and the tax payers saw their money squandered to fatten favored contractors. It was notorious for years that no man could get a contract in San Mateo county who did not belong to the ring. The whole thing gave the county a bad name, and hindered the settlement and development of the most delightful suburban residence quarter to be found anywhere in California.

The New Spirit in San Mateo

Now there is a new order of things, but the gamblers are slow to be convinced that it is different. The Chinese opened negotiations with the sheriff and with District Attorney Swart in the expectation that they could buy protection for a big gambling house in Visitation valley, just over the line from San Francisco. Mr. Swart and the sheriff tried to entrap the bribe givers, but failed of success in this. The Chinese began to suspect a trap and drew out in time to escape prosecution. The negotiations are at an end, and there will be no gambling house.

It is a good report that gives evidence of the new civic spirit in San Mateo which is resolved to stop official corruption and proceed to the improvement of the roads and the general development of the county's great resources.

THE American Economist, organ of the high protectionists and the standpatters, continues to shed bitter tears over Mr. Taft's backsliding. It sits in sackcloth and ashes deploring the unhappy future of a party whose leader is, in the standpat lexicon, no better than a democrat.

The Bitter Backsliding of Mr. Taft

This is the style of oburgatory remonstration that relieves the Economist:

Never in the history of the republican party has there been such an exhibition of want of leadership by the head of a party as has been displayed by President Taft in dealing with the tariff question and the principles for which his party stands in its platform. Indeed, so lamentable is the situation that few republicans at this time are found willing to hazard any prediction other than that President Taft must be the nominee of his party in 1912, because no other republican will accept the nomination, and that Mr. Taft will be the worst defeated candidate since William J. Bryan ran for the office in 1896!

Worst of all, Mr. Taft continues to smile and smile. He is giving, says the Economist, "a splendid imitation of that famous emperor of Rome who is said to have performed on a violin while a conflagration was in progress."

It seems that the special fiddle on which Mr. Taft is "performing" is the reciprocity agreement with Canada, designed to double our commerce with that country and reduce the cost of living. To discredit this beneficial measure the standpatters are busy with the ancient bunco game played on the farmers, who have for 30 years been persuaded that they were getting the benefit of inoperative duties on their products by way of consideration for paying heavy taxes on everything they use. By this time the farmers are beginning to realize that the duties on their products are enacted only for purposes of fraud on them. As the price of their products is fixed by foreign markets, where they get no protection, they are beginning to turn a deaf ear to the frenzied appeals of the standpatters. And Mr. Taft continues to smile.

Persons in the News

ALFRED RONCOVIERI JR., son of Superintendent of Schools Roncovieri, who will be graduated from the senior class of the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania in June, has been appointed a resident physician to the Episcopal hospital in Philadelphia.

A. PANTAGEA, who is interested in a string of vandeville houses on the coast, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Pantagea, registered from Seattle.

JAMES WILLIAMS, a mining engineer associated with the Seol mining company of Hartford, is at the Stewart on his way to Korea.

F. D. RYAN and J. Azevedo, bankers of Sacramento, are at the Turpin, accompanied by Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Azevedo.

F. S. HUGHES, manager of the American bonding company at Los Angeles, is at the Palace with Mrs. Hughes.

DR. H. V. BERTHAUME, who is interested in real estate in Bakersfield, is at the Manz with Mrs. Berthause.

C. C. SIBLEY, a manufacturer of electrical supplies in New York, is at the Fairmont with Mrs. Sibley.

C. R. MURDOCK, a mining engineer of Fairview, Nev., is among the recent arrivals at the St. Francis.

G. M. WILSON, a real estate operator of Los Angeles, is among the recent arrivals at the Argonaut.

WILLIAM CONDOM, a mining man of Weaver, is among the recent arrivals at the Stewart.

W. H. MORRISON and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Morrison Jr. of Indianapolis are guests at the Manz.

W. H. McKITTRICK, oil operator of Bakersfield, is at the Fairmont with Mrs. McKittrick.

J. A. PATTERSON, an oil operator of Bakersfield, is at the Argonaut with Mrs. Patterson.

E. J. GILLIES, a tea and coffee importer of New York, is at the Palace with Miss Gillies.

D. L. BLISS JR., a hotelman of Lake Tahoe, is at the St. Francis with Mrs. Bliss.

C. T. MOORE, a timberman of Seattle, is among the recent arrivals at the Palace.

DR. F. L. ATKINSON and Mrs. Atkinson of Sacramento are guests at the Palace.

A. H. HEWITT of Yuba City, former speaker of the assembly, is at the Turpin.

HENRY WILLARD, a real estate operator of Los Angeles, is at the Palace.

W. R. HARRIS, an attorney of Fresno, and Mrs. Harris are at the Turpin.

G. W. HUNTER, an attorney of Durak, is a guest at the Argonaut.

DR. W. A. BRIGGS and Mrs. Briggs are guests at the Union Square.

S. D. ROBERTS, a rancher of North Dakota, is at the Stanford.

GEORGE F. FELL of Washington, D. C., is at the Union Square.

J. K. CAMPBELL, a merchant of Oroville, is at the Von Depp.

W. L. BARNES, a publisher of New York, is at the Colonial.

R. HARBELL of the United States army is at the Cadillac.

D. DROYDALE of British Columbia is at the Bellevue.

A. S. DICK of Redding and Mrs. Dick are at the Cadillac.

MRS. W. REED of Capitola is at the Arlington.

Abe Martin



Tawney Apple is almost ugly enough to be a good stenographer. Our bank was robbed yesterday, this time by outside parties.