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WATCH THIS SPACE every week. It may help a little to keep you posted.

Answer to our **POLITICAL PUZZLE** will be given in the Tribune during April.

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THACKERAY'S SUBSTITUTE.

A Singular Story about a Chapter in "The Virginians."

Many American readers of Thackeray have wondered how he was able to write so graphic and correct an account of George Warrington's escape from Fort Duquesne and his journey through the wilderness to the banks of the Potomac, as Thackeray had never seen the magnificent valley through which his gallant hero fled after his daring escape. It will be a surprise to many people to hear that Thackeray didn't write the chapter at all, but that the well known author, John P. Kennedy, did. This is the story as Colonel John H. B. Latrobe used to tell it:

Kennedy was at a dinner in London, with Thackeray, Anthony Trollope, Wilkie Collins and other celebrities.

The dinner was over and the guests were settling down to the wine and cigars when Thackeray, always at his best upon a jovial occasion like the present, who was entertaining the company with his wit and satire, suddenly stopped, and looking at his watch exclaimed: "Gentlemen, I must leave you. I have promised the printer a chapter of the 'Virginians' tomorrow morning, and I haven't written a line of it yet. I hate to go, but I must. The printer is inexorable. So, wishing you all another meeting when I can be longer with you, I bid you a good evening."

Thackeray had almost reached the door when Kennedy called him back and said:

"Perhaps I can write the chapter for you. What are you going to describe?"

The great novelist seemed a little astonished at this bold proposition, but as he was a perfect man of the world he was too polite to say what he thought.

"Kennedy, you are extremely kind, and gladly would I let you write the chapter for me, for I hate to leave a jolly party in the midst of the fun."

"Then don't," all the company cried. "Stay with us and let Mr. Kennedy write the proposed chapter."

"I am half a mind to let you do it just for the fun of the thing. It is a chapter chiefly of description, giving an account of George Warrington's escape from Fort Duquesne and his journey to the Potomac."

"If that's what you are writing about, I can do it, for I know every foot of the ground."

"All right, then," said Thackeray, resuming his seat at the board. "Let me have it early tomorrow morning."

Mr. Kennedy withdrew, and going to his hotel wrote the fourth chapter of the second volume of "The Virginians," and thus it happened that George Warrington's narrative of his flight was so accurate as to the topography of the country through which he passed.—Baltimore News.

General Banks in Church.

General Banks was as perfect a gentleman in manner as we ever knew, says The Christian Advocate, and his dignity and his grace as a speaker were both commanding and fascinating. His voice was wonderful. In New York during the war he happened to spend a Sunday and went to Grace church, on Broadway, wearing a huge white coat, as the day was somewhat chilly. The "unctuous Brown," the usher of fashionable society, long the sexton of that church, with a keen eye for dignity, missed the mark on that occasion and seated the general near the door in a very unpleasant position.

As the house grew warm General Banks threw open his coat. The moment Brown caught sight of the epaulets of a major general he hastened to the pew and in his most obsequious tones said:

"I can give you, general, a much better seat."

"No," said the ex-speaker, with a voice that sounded like a pedal organ note in E flat. "The seat that is good enough for the white coat is good enough for the blue," and declined to change.

—New York Recorder.

Ancient Razors.

Many razors have been found in the ruins of Pompeii. They are of different shapes, some resembling knives, others being not unlike the razors of the present day. The barber shops of antiquity were also provided with bottles of perfume and boxes of pomatum.

Her Version of It.

"But didn't you promise when we were married that I should smoke in the house whenever I pleased?"

"Yes, but you never please by smoking in the house. You displease me."—New York Recorder.

The Battle of the Giants.

The Battle of the Giants was another name given to the battle at Marignano in 1515 between the allied French and Venetians and the allied Italian and Swiss armies. The latter were defeated with slaughter, over 12,000 of their troops being left on the field. The victors lost 4,000. The battle was given this name by Trivulzio, a soldier and historian, who was present.

No More Four-year-old Mutton.

With regard to mutton, 4-year-old mutton is now a thing of the past. Formerly people could not dine unless a saddle of mutton was cut from a 4-year-old sheep. Now the mutton sent to the table is from 18 months to 2 years old, and the younger generation are not sure that it is not preferable to the much prized 4-year-old mutton. The 4-year-old is still considered the prime joint to serve.—Kansas City Times.

DENNY'S DAUGHTER.

Denny's daughter stood a minute in the field as if upon her bed.
All as quiet as her shadow laid before along the grass;
In her hand a switch o' hazel from the nut tree's crooked root,
As I mind the crown o' clover crumpled under one bare foot.
For the look of her,
The look of her,
Come back on me today,
With the eyes of her,
The eyes of her,
That took me on the way.

Though I seen poor Denny's daughter white as a silk upon her bed,
Yet I be to think there's sunlight falls somewhere on her head.
She'll be single Ave Mary where the flowers never were,
The girl my own hands covered with the narrow daisy quilt.

For the love of her,
The love of her,
That would not be my wife,
An the loss of her,
Has left me lone for life.

—Moira O'Neill in Blackwood's Magazine.

Gordon Cumming, the Hunter.

Gordon Cumming began his hunting in 1843 in the northern part of Cape Colony. At that time the game still swarmed over the parched Karroo plains. Quagga, wildebeest, hartbeest and springbok fell in numbers to his rifle. In the deserts south of the Orange river—now sheep and goat walks in the Hope Town division of the Colony—enjoyed magnificent sport with the gemabok (Oryx capensis), which then abounded there. In those days the "trekboeken," or migration of springboks, was common in the north of Cape Colony. Gordon Cumming witnessed one of these migrations. "I beheld the plains," he tells us, "and even the hillsides which stretched away on every side of me, thickly covered, not with herds, but with one vast mass of springboks. As far as the eye could strain the landscape was alive with them until they softened down into a dim red mass of living creatures."

This "trekboeken" Cumming estimated at some hundreds of thousands. On speaking to an old Boer about it he remarked that "it was a very fair 'trekboeken,' but," he added, "you this morning beheld only one flat covered with springboks. I give you my word that I have ridden a long day's journey over a succession of flats covered with them as far as I could see and as thick as sheep in a fold." I have myself heard much the same account from old farmers, English and Dutch, of the Cape Colony.—Fortnightly Review.

How to Study German.

The study of German is by no means so simple a matter as the words might imply, writes Professor A. S. Isaacs of the University of New York, giving some valuable advice under the title "When Studying German" in The Ladies' Home Journal. It may signify a mere reading knowledge of the language or the most thorough acquaintance with its literature and ability to speak it with absolute fluency and idiomatic accuracy. Naturally the methods of study will vary according to the purpose in view and the age and acquisitions of the student. There is no royal road to the study of German or any language, however glowing are the predictions of some teachers and anticipations of credulous pupils. Success in language study depends upon the student's ambition, industry and ability. It is less a question of teacher or textbook, although these are not to be despised. But, as in everything in life, success must be earned in language study by earnest, well directed and systematic individual effort.

He's Not a Cannibal.

In Jersey City there lives a contractor of Hibernian extraction. He is a gentle and amiable person, but deceives his employees into believing him cannibalistic by his method of expressing himself.

In engaging his employees he arranges to either board them or pay them greater wages and let them furnish their own food. This is the innocently sinister way in which he states the proposition:

"I pay ye \$8 a week and ate ye or \$9 a week and ye ate yerself."—New York Herald.

Of Campbell's lives of the lord chancellors, in the succession of which there was a possibility that he might himself appear, Lord Brougham said that it had added a new terror to death. Life has been so stuffed with new terrors by the bacteriologist that there is hardly room for another, and beside him the most prolific and prosaic historian and biographer becomes an innocent and harmless figure indeed. There is hardly any physiological or moral condition which is not now fitted with its bacillus, the proportion and structure of that microscopic reptile being given with diabolical accuracy and verisimilitude. It would really be a relief not to know quite so much of the minute organizations which accompany morbid pathological states if there were any way of escaping it. The doctors have to know, of course, but the knowledge might be confined to them, as the sacerdotal mysteries used to be to the priesthood. It would save no end of popular anxiety and alarm. With every symptom the patient is now assured that he is assailed by a new and virulent micrococcus, and the constantly published researches of the microscopists tend to inflame his imagination and increase his alarm.

Here is an Italian bacteriologist who says he has discovered the bacillus of old age, and when he has found out the right sort of salt to put on its tail its ravages will be at an end, and old age, as a condition, will pass away, subsisting only as a theory or remote prospect. He has not yet disclosed the structural outlines of this curious reptilian debaucher, and it may be only an after dinner vision, to which science will deny a recognized place, leaving old age, as it was before, an incurable condition, with an invariably progressive tendency, in no need of bacteria to accelerate it.—New York Tribune.

RAILROAD NOMENCLATURE.

The Title Does Not Always Show Where the Road Begins and Ends.

It might be supposed that railroads which bear usually geographical names would show by their titles what points they connect, but there are many exceptions in this respect, and some of them are surprising. The St. Louis and San Francisco railroad, for instance, might be supposed to run from St. Louis to San Francisco. Actually it runs 327 miles west of St. Louis. The Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad would appear to run from Minneapolis to St. Louis. It actually runs from Minneapolis to Angus, Ia., about half way to St. Louis. The Omaha and St. Louis railroad does not run from Omaha to St. Louis, but from Omaha to Patonsburg, Mo. St. Louis is 267 miles farther east. The Toledo, St. Louis and Kansas City railroad, or Clover Leaf, as it is more generally called, runs from Toledo to St. Louis, which is the western terminus of the road. Kansas City is 325 miles away. The Toledo, Peoria and Western railroad does not run from Peoria to Toledo, but from the Indiana state line to Warsaw, Ill.

The New York, Chicago and St. Louis railroad, or Nickel Plate, as it is universally called, does not run from New York to Chicago and St. Louis. It runs from Buffalo to Chicago, and a passenger on it coming east and landing at Buffalo would be over 400 miles from New York, while a passenger upon it going west and landing at Chicago would be 300 miles from St. Louis. The Philadelphia and Erie railroad runs from Sunbury, Pa., to Erie. The Pennsylvania, Poughkeepsie and Boston railroad is 96 miles long, from Slatingsville, Pa., to Campbell Hall, on the Ontario and Western. The Fort Worth and Denver City railroad is wholly in Texas, does not touch Denver city and does not run into Colorado.

These peculiarities in railroad nomenclature are supplemented by another. All the coal carrying roads running latitudinally in the eastern states have as part of their title the words "and Western." Here are some of them: Delaware, Lackawanna and Western; the New York, Lake Erie and Western; the New York, Ontario and Western; the Lake Erie and Western; the Norfolk and Western; the New York, Susquehanna and Western; the Pittsburg and Western. The quantity of coal transported by these railroads collectively amounts to more than 50,000,000 tons a year.—New York Sun.

DANGERS OF PEARL GATHERING.

The Ground Sharks Have a Fondness For the Flesh of Divers.

The islands of Cebu and Margarita were the principal seats of the pearl fishery, which was also carried on extensively in the gulf of Paria itself, on the coast of Cumana. The deep water fishery—that is to say, the fishery in about 12 fathoms—is conducted now pretty much as it was in Columbus' time. Men accustomed from their infancy to an amphibious sort of life and trained to be expert divers are engaged at the work and go down naked into the sea in order to pick up the marvelous pearl breeders which lie at the bottom. In Ceylon the pearl fishers go out in company in their boats. Each boat carries 20 men, of whom ten are rowers and ten are divers. The divers go down to a depth of from four to ten fathoms. To assist them in their descent they use a large stone of red granite, having the smaller end bored so as to admit a rope which is rove through it.

When about to dive, the diver seizes this rope with the toes of his right foot and with the left foot secures a network bag for his oysters. He then takes hold of another rope with his hands and is let down from the boat to his diving ground, the stone helping to sink him. When at the bottom, he casts himself loose from the stone, picks up his oysters, and when ready to return jerks the rope by which he was let down, and he is then hauled up, leaving the stone to be recovered by its own rope.

The chief danger the divers have to encounter after the preliminary difficulties attendant upon diving and working at so great a depth have been got over is from ground sharks. The divers in the Persian gulf resort to magic and to religious enchantments in the hope of guarding against these horrible creatures, but as an additional and more effective precaution they are armed with a short stick, pointed at either end, which they thrust into the shark's mouth, they themselves getting away while the monster is engaged in fretting over his uncomfortable meal.

A story is related of one diver who, having explored a rock on which he expected to find oysters, was about to return to the surface of the water when, casting his eyes upward, he saw a huge ground shark lying in wait for him and cutting off his retreat. Terrified at the sight and unable to get out of range, he was beginning to give himself up for lost when a happy thought struck him. He took his sharpened stake, which was too small to stop the jaws of the shark, and going to a sandy nook of the rock began to stir up the mud and to make such a "dust in the water" as to effectually obstruct the enemy's vision. Having continued this until he was forced to quit for want of breath he swam off hastily in another direction and arrived at the surface exhausted, but in safety. At the top he was rescued by the boat in attendance, practically none the worse for his alarming experience.—Gentleman's Magazine.

JAPANESE HEROISM.

His Body Guarded the Magazine After He Had Been Shot to Death.

In the Japan Weekly Mail are two instances of heroism during the war that illustrate the pluck of the Jap. The best is the story of a brave seaman on board the Itsujushima Kan, who was shot to death while endeavoring to save the powder magazine. The man was a marine who had been told to stand as sentry or guard at the entrance of the powder magazine. During the hottest part of the naval engagement, that of Hai-Yang, the Itsujushima was soostered that the shots of the enemy's small arms seemed to concentrate in the vicinity of this vital point, and noticing this the sentry fearlessly endeavored to cover the whole doorway with his body. In his attempt he was wholly successful, not a bullet reaching the interior of the magazine. When the affair was over, relief was sent to the faithful guardian, who was seen still standing at his post, with a somewhat troubled expression on his countenance. He was discovered to be stone dead and literally honeycombed with bullets, of which no less than 32 had struck him. Of course death had ensued long before his wounds reached that terrible total, but even in death his body had continued to guard the post kept so fearlessly and so well in life.

The Fuzoku Gubo gives an account of a very daring feat performed by an infantry soldier just before the Ping-Yang battle. Boats were imperatively necessary, but every available craft in the neighborhood had either been requisitioned by the Chinese or else moored on their side of Taikong river. One of the Japanese volunteered to go across alone and fetch at least one of these boats, and on receiving permission to make the trial he swam across, mostly under water and in the face of a storm of bullets, unmoored one of the smaller junks and towed her back again to his starting place. He escaped without a wound, much to the satisfaction of his regiment. The bold fellow is said to be the stoutest and most intrepid swimmer in the army.

A CHURCH BILLIARD ROOM.

Novel Departures in the Fitting Up of a New Congregation House.

The Adams (Mass.) Congregational church recently dedicated a congregation house and parsonage containing some radical modern features. One of the house, besides containing more completely the features found in parish houses, has a bowling alley, a well equipped gymnasium and a billiard and pool room, the most radical feature of all. The auditorium has a platform with footlights, as near an approach to a stage as could well be built in connection with a church, even in the midst of liberal Adams folk. The church has a well fitted kitchen, lots of table linen, silverware and dishes. It has reading rooms, classrooms and a study for the pastor. The bowling alley is in the basement and is always full of merry youths at accessible hours. The gymnasium in the attic is constantly patronized. Last week a class of young men was organized, and Professor Seeley of Williams college was engaged for instructor. The young women have become jealous, and it has been decided to prohibit the use of the gymnasium by the boys for several hours each day and turn it over to the girls, who are determined to form an athletic association too.

The church is not selfish. It has thrown open the doors of its fine congregation house to the whole community, believing that a bettering of social conditions is a step toward purification. There are one or two of the old conservative element who look unfavorably upon the congregation house and its well patronized pool and billiard tables. One says:

"By and by there will be a saloon connected with every church. If you put in billiards tables, bowling alleys and gymnasiums and say to me as the boys will play they had better play at church, why not put in a bar, for as long as men will drink why not let them drink at church?"—Boston Journal.

"WHY SO SAD, WILLIE?"

A London Police Court Incident That Made Even Lady Somerset Laugh.

All London is laughing now over a bit of testimony that was given in the hearings on Lady Henry Somerset's crusade against the London music halls. Not to be behind our own Dr. Parkhurst when he began his crusade, Lady Henry Somerset determined to take the bull by the horns and collect evidence herself. She secured another lady as zealous as herself as a companion, and the pair obtained the services of a young curate of their acquaintance as male escort.

Now, it happens that Lady Somerset is a woman of very generous proportions and withal so handsomely made that some of the ungodly have been wicked enough to suggest that her ladyship would make an enchanting living picture herself. It chanced also that the lady who was to accompany her was of a similarly generous build, if anything rather the larger of the two. On the other hand, the young curate was slight and waizen, with a pale, mild face, that bore a perpetual air of melancholy. The trip was made, and when the detective party was placed upon the stand during the hearing the justice asked her ladyship if in her travels about in the slums she had been molested or accosted in any offensive way. Lady Henry was compelled to reply that she had not, but that, on the contrary, she had rather respectful treatment. Her companion gave similar testimony.

When the little curate took the stand, the judge asked the same question of him—if he had been accosted.

"Yes," replied the little man in a shrill voice, "and very offensively too."

"Well," said the judge, "what did the women say to you?"

"Well, sir," the curate declared, with comical indignation, "in one of the music halls a couple of women came up to me, and one of them brazenly chuckled me under the chin and said, 'Why so sad, Willie?'"

Even Lady Henry Somerset could not suppress her laughter.—New York Herald.

A Modest Man.

Dunblaton—An honest man's the noblest work of God.
Flasher—Thank you, old boy. Very few men would have had the quickness of perception to adjust that remark to my appearance.—Richmond Dispatch.

PREAMBLE AND CONSTITUTION

OF THE
Peoples' Party State League of
MINNESOTA.

Adopted January 9, 1884.

PREAMBLE.

Being imbued with the faith of our forefathers that "all men are created free and equal, and are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," and recognizing as we do the present condition wherein central d capital, made possible by corporate monopoly, is destroying individual rights and freedom, we bind ourselves together in a grand fraternity known as the Peoples' Party State League of Minnesota, with the solemn pledge that we shall never cease demanding "inalienable rights," and that we are unchangeably opposed to all governmental and industrial systems that infringe on the same; and that in order to carry out the foregoing, the work of this organization for the coming two years shall be to educate the people on the influence of finance on national prosperity; the injury of commerce by the monopolistic ownership of land; and, in order that the people may reign and maintain their rights and better express their desires, it becomes necessary to elect U. S. senators by popular vote, and believing that the Initiative and Referendum, in conjunction with an equitable system of proportional representation is the best system whereby to accomplish this purpose, we pledge ourselves to use our best endeavors, personal, financial and organic, to educate the people in all great principles of the Peoples' Party, to the end, that all men may be equal before the law.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. The officers of this League shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and an Executive Board consisting of thirty-nine members, as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of this League, and five members from each congressional district, to be chosen by the delegations from the several congressional districts, to be elected annually at each state meeting.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of this League, and one member of the Executive Board from each congressional district, to be elected from and by the members from each district, shall constitute a committee of eleven, and the Secretary of this League shall be governed and directed by said Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III.

SECTION 1. The Executive Board shall have authority to appoint a State Organizer and Local Organizers, as it shall deem best.

To provide for payment of salaries of Secretary and State Organizer.

To provide headquarters, and pay therefor, in their discretion.

To raise money, purchase and distribute literature.

To encourage and sustain a strong local reform press throughout the state.

To form local leagues throughout the state.

To do and perform all other acts which they deem proper for the good of the League.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1. No person shall be a member of this League unless he shall have become a member of some local league organized under the direction of the Executive Board, and all members of local leagues shall be members of this League when the duly elected Secretary of such local league shall forward his name to the Secretary of this League, providing also, that each member of local or township leagues shall be assessed the sum of five cents per month, to be paid into the treasury of the State League.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. Each delegation present at the convention held January 9th, 1884, shall be and constitute a local league for its county, with power to add to its numbers as it shall deem best; and the Executive Board shall take steps to organize local leagues in every county, town, school district and precinct in the State.

ARTICLE VI.

SECTION 1. Regular state meetings of this League shall be called once a year by the Executive Board at such place as they shall deem best, at any time during the second week in January, but at least one month's notice thereof shall be given in advance to each local league. Such meeting shall consist of delegates from each local league, one for each fifty members or major fraction thereof, but each local league shall be entitled to at least one delegate.

ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 1. Whenever one-third of all the members of this League shall petition the President to call a special state meeting for any purpose, it shall be his duty so to do; and whenever one-fifth of the members shall petition him to submit any proposition to the different leagues, he shall do so, and the decision of the majority on such proposition shall be law, and cannot be disturbed, changed, modified or repealed, except in the same manner; otherwise the Executive Board shall have full control, management and supervision of this League within the limits prescribed hereby.

ARTICLE VIII.

SECTION 1. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the league, provided that two months notice thereof have been given to the secretary of each local league.