

HIGH LIFE HAS ITS TUMBLES

Pointed Lessons in the Downfall of the Blairs of St. Louis.

SOCIAL IDOLS SHATTERED IN A MOMENT Manifest Folly of Preaching that Which One Falls to Practice— Pathetic Features of a Domestic Tragedy.

The most amazing domestic tragedy in high life that has furnished successive chapters for newspapers for weeks past is the swift, unbroken downfall of the Blair family in St. Louis. A month ago James L. Blair and his wife were acknowledged leaders of St. Louis society. Today the husband occupies a hospital, dangerously ill, and the faithful wife is by his side. Their famous country home, "Airdrie," is stripped of its luxurious furnishings, tenanted and for sale to satisfy a mortgage. The post of general counsel for the fair association, paying \$15,000 a year, has gone to another lawyer, and Mrs. Blair has retired from the presidency of the ladies' board of managers of the fair. One insurance company is seeking through the courts to cancel a policy of \$200,000 on Blair's life, and the local grand jury is searching for evidence of alleged crooked transaction, the publication of which practically wrecked the family, socially and financially.

Apparently Exemplary. The career of Blair in St. Louis has been that of an exemplary man, and to such an extent has he been honored that when reports of his trouble first became noted about some of the most prominent bankers and capitalists went to him and asked aid. He told them the reports were false and he would be able to disprove them in proper time. He has been stricken ill since the excitement became intense in his case and has not appeared at his offices for several weeks.

When he wanted money he found no trouble in getting it. It is said he borrowed \$5,000 from Dick Bros. & Co. after the St. Louis cyclone on his personal word, stating he had received severe losses from the storm. He sustained no losses, but paid back the money in due course. In February, 1902, Blair went to several business friends and told them that he was placed in an embarrassing position by the peculations of a brother. These men rated \$15,000 to make good these losses. James Campbell, the broker, is one of the heaviest backers of Mr. Blair. In 1902, when the first rumors were floated in business circles about Blair, he was requested to withdraw his account from a local bank and did so. After that he began to lose the hold of confidence possessed by business men, although a vast majority remained with him to the last, and are yet willing to aid him in this matter.

Too Much Society. James L. Blair's downfall is attributed to his love for society and to his beautiful wife. Mrs. Blair, as president of the board of lady managers of the World's fair, is known nationally. He, as general counsel for the exposition, was equally well known and honored. Husband and wife held two of the most honored positions in one of the greatest exposition enterprises the world has ever known. Their entertainments given at their beautiful home, "Stancote," in Kirkwood, a St. Louis suburb, was far-famed and many a small fortune has been squandered by them on these social functions. The home itself cost a fortune, but was recently placed under mortgage for the purpose of meeting certain obligations which Blair could not otherwise fulfill. One of the social functions at the Blair home this summer was a children's party, where men and women prominent in St. Louis social circles dressed as boys and girls. This party was afterward aped in Newport and the east. Blair spent as much as \$5,000 per annum for photographs of his wife and himself to distribute to the newspapers and friends. Reporters who called at the Blair home during the heyday of Mrs. Blair's career, seeking information about her social life, were treated in royal fashion and given pictures of her that cost as much as \$5 each. Some of the more favored were driven back to the city in the Blair carriages. They courted newspaper notoriety.

A Power in Politics. Not only in society did they lead, but elsewhere. Blair was the first man who secured the chairmanship of the committee on Joseph W. Folk for governor. It was he who began the move to raise \$15,000 to buy a home for Folk, but the latter refused the gift. He is a member of the public welfare commission of the state, and he framed several charter amendments to the city that would tend to improve conditions politically. He was the man who secured the juvenile court law and courts for Missouri, thus following in direct lead of Illinois and New York and giving separate courts for children accused of crime. He was a member of the police board and always worked hard to the interest of the reform movements. This is why his downfall has created such consternation in St. Louis, where he was born and reared to a high estate in the city's organization.

Blair's love for his wife is well known. Mrs. Blair, having organized several singing societies in the city and always popular in musical circles, often appeared before the footlights to sing. The most expensive flowers were always handed to her at the conclusion of every effort, and these came from but one source—her husband. He seldom went home without some token for his wife; he never stayed at the club, but preferred to spend his time at her side; he shadowed her at social functions; in fact, he was madly infatuated with her grace and beauty.

Leading Extravagant Lives. Mrs. Blair was equally devoted to her husband and aided him in building up his reputation. Some accuse her of having been his downfall, but it is said by intimate acquaintances that Mrs. Blair always chided her husband for spending so lavishly for her. She kept him from so doing as much as possible. The extravagance of the couple, who are both in middle life, was commented upon by the entire city, and even multi-millionaires did not entertain half so lavishly. But every one believed that instead of a \$25,000 income he was sharing a \$100,000 income.

When it came to the entertainment of guests from abroad by the city's well set the Blairs were considered indispensable. All of the prominent people who have visited the city from abroad in the interest of the World's fair have been entertained at the Blair home instead of elsewhere, because of the elegance of the place and the social standing of the family.

Blair is a grandson of Francis Preston Blair, the one editor in whom General Jackson had complete confidence, and Jackson's literary executor; son of that Francis Preston Blair, known to the country as Frank P. Blair, Lincoln's strong friend and confidant, to whom is credited the saving of Missouri in the early days of the con-

federacy. A shining example of the poor, studious youth who rose to be nearly St. Louis' most prominent citizen; who lived cleanly and bravely through days of poverty; who became a generous host and patron of all that is good and lovely in days of prosperity; who outraged no conventions, but was a model son, husband, father, citizen, making his home the haven of all his endeavor and the center of his influence. He was a lecturer on civic righteousness and a hundred other allied subjects; a politician who constantly preached and worked for reforming his party and in the affairs of the city, state and nation; a bitter, irritable fighter; waspish, shrewd and persistent in his enemies and political policies; the driving power of many a campaign undertaken by right-seeking but impractical advocates of good government; strong in his dislikes, cold to those he neither hated nor loved, and warm enough for comfort to his friends.

All St. Louis knew this man thus. He was a member of the rich and exclusive St. Louis club, of the University club by reason of his connection with Princeton, a member of the Noonday club, where the wealthiest and most prominent business and professional men of the city gather each day at luncheon; a member of the Country club, the first and most exclusive of these luxurious suburban resorts where wealthy St. Louisans play golf and polo; also a member of the Mercantile club and other organizations in which public-spirited men of influence and riches are gathered.

Family Prominence. Blair is 49 years old. His father left no great estate, and there were many among whom it was divided. James was educated in the public schools of St. Louis and was barely able to take a short course at Princeton. Then he was compelled to undertake bread-winning. It is said of him that though his family gave him a social position he was unable to avail himself of many invitations on account of his poverty.

He studied law while serving as a court clerk and began practice with only the advantage of a somewhat larger acquaintance among influential persons than is usually the fortune of a poor beginner in the law. It was through his family connections that he was enabled to secure practice which became lucrative. The Alexanders and Fynes of New York were influential in securing for him a position as the legal representative in St. Louis of an insurance company and other legal business, which brought large fees. Throughout his career as a lawyer he has been seen in court but few times, his practice being principally advisory.

Mrs. Blair has long been recognized as a leader. Handsome and of a stately bearing, well trained and of unusual artistic culture and aspiration, she has, in fact, made for herself a place so distinct as to cause her personality to assume an exceptional and peculiar prominence as that of a high-class representative of the best element. It is quite generally conceded that no other St. Louis woman has done so much for the advancement of musical interest and the development of music in St. Louis as has Mrs. Blair. Her efforts and achievements in this line have been characterized by a deep earnestness which amply proved her sincerity as a lover and patron of music. It is certain that prominent as she is in society, she values more highly her station in the world of local lovers of music and is more ardent in work on behalf of this art than in that pertaining to her position as a social leader.

President of the board of lady managers of the World's fair and of the Woman's club of St. Louis, both positions testifying to her occupancy of the foremost place as St. Louis' representative woman, it is certain, nevertheless, that Mrs. Blair found an even greater satisfaction in her position as president of the Morning Choral society and as the founder and director of the girls' classes in music, to which she gave so much of her time, thought and money.

Revival of the Red. A united appeal for the restoration of the red in the public schools was made by the French principals. At present the Board of Education prohibits the use of corporal punishment in the schools, although previous to centralization the principals in Brooklyn were allowed to use their discretion. In the Manhattan schools corporal punishment has been abolished for many years. The principals in boys' schools, those who come in daily contact with the children and know what conditions they have to meet, declare that the present system has been a failure, and that the rule of the moment has been a complete failure. On the other hand, the officials of the board, or at least some of them, claim that the schools should be governed by moral suasion. For nearly a year the principals, through their associations, have been conducting investigations into the discipline in the public schools and the result has been a complete report has been submitted to the Board of Education, asking for the abolition of the rule prohibiting corporal punishment.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY. The per capita consumption of potatoes in the United States is 20 bushels per annum, while in Germany it is 100 bushels. An acre in potatoes in Germany yields 500 bushels, while in the United States it yields only 100 bushels. As Mrs. Jacob Sanders of Lancaster, Pa., gave a yawn after returning home, her physician worked three hours trying to replace the jaw, but they were unable to give her an anesthetic before it could be replaced. Isaac T. Pratt is the champion bear catcher in the world. He has killed a bear for each year of his life. This year, just as he was taking down his just-when-it-was taken down, he was shot and killed by a bear. He was regretfully given up hunting for a time. Joseph Bramwell and his wife celebrated the silver anniversary of their marriage in Fishing Neck, N. Y., on Sunday. He was 60 and she was 59. They were in arms when their parents carried him out to see the coronation procession of George V. William S. Tuttle is making arrangements to raise Benedict Arnold's flag ship Royal Savage from Lake Champlain, where it was scuttled in the war of 1812 in the battle of Plattsburg. Among the relics supposed to be aboard the craft are Benedict Arnold's uniform and valuable government papers. Just to prove that her husband, Edwin D. Moore, is fully able to pay \$5,000 a year alimony Mrs. Moore has introduced in New York city court the testimony that his million bill alone amounts to \$60 a month. The defendant is the son of a Texas millionaire and is said to own mining stock valued at \$700,000. Three times last week the stork visited the home of Municipal Court Judge George F. Rosch of New York City, and each time on election day. The latest advent was the honor's family arrived Tuesday morning, November 2. The judge and his wife have always taken a deep interest in political affairs. Mrs. Rosch having given valuable aid to the Democratic party. The most abject slave to the morphine habit who ever entered the Cincinnati hospital, so far as the records that institution show, is James Gates, aged 67, who admitted that for twenty-two years he has averaged ten strains a day. It is thought he cannot survive many days. According to the latest statistics, the population of the administrative county of London is 4,538,541 and of Greater London, which includes the area of the city and the suburbs, is 5,100,000. The population of which the whole is within fifteen miles of the City of London, is 6,000,000. The rate of increase of the population in London is the latest showing down, having been only 1.8 per cent of the ten years, 1901-1903—a smaller percentage than has been ever previously been recorded.

Can you find the mis-spelled Words? The Bee is going to give two hundred valuable prizes to the people who find the greatest number of mis-spelled words in its Want Ad pages, beginning Monday, November 16th, and ending Sunday, November 22d. If your sight is good and you know how to spell, it is an easy way to win a prize. Watch the Want Ad pages on these days.

CREATOR OF NEW IRELAND Sir Horace Plunkett an Effective Force in the Irish Revival. PRACTICAL REMEDIES FOR ANCIENT ILLS Untrifling, Boundless Sympathy for the People in Their Struggles Against Poverty—An Orator Not Born but Made. The fortnightly Review contains a very interesting article by Katherine Tynan on "Sir Horace Plunkett and His Work." Sir Horace, "the most unselfish man we have ever known," as his friends characterize him, might be classed as a semi-occasional resident of Omaha, possessing large property interests here, which he has handled with the intelligent progressiveness of a regular resident. At home he is putting in operation practical measures for the benefit of the people of Ireland, and is undoubtedly the most remarkable and most effective figure which the Irish revival has produced. What sort of a man he is is told by Miss Tynan: "They are very proud of their participation in the management of the banks and kindred societies. The resident magistrate at Belmullet had a car-driver who was a director of the Belmullet bank. 'I'd be obliged to you, sir,' the car-driver would say on Mondays, 'if you'd hurry up the business of the court today, for there's a bank meeting tonight and a power of important work to be got through.' "Sometimes the banks have odd applications for loans. It is understood, of course, that loans are only given for reproductive purposes, such as for buying a pig or seeds or manure or farm implements. One evening, a young man came before the committee of a bank in the County Mayo, and requested a loan of £2. He was asked for what purpose he required it, and answered that it was to buy a suit of clothes. The committee demurred at first that they had no money to lend for this purpose. "Well," said the applicant, "the case is this. I'm fond of Nora Carty, and she has a nice little farm as well. I'm going to ask her tomorrow, and if she says no to me I'll be off to America. Now, I'd have twice as good a chance with her if I had a decent suit of clothes to my back instead of these rags." The committee reconsidered the matter, advanced the money, and the boy won Nora Carty and her farm. Any Other Name. The young boy agent entered the obscure saloon at the corner. The proprietor's wife, a big German frau, came out, with arms akimbo, to meet him. "Good morning, madame," he began. "I would like to call your attention to this Shakespeare." "Jake's beer? Vot kind of beer is dat? I never heard of dat brewery before." "Madame, this is Shakespeare." "I haf heard of Schiltz beer, and Seipp's and Engel's beer, and Keeley's beer, and others, but I haf never heard yet of dat Jake's beer. Vot is dat?" "You are laboring under a mistake, my dear woman, this is a bottle." "Yah, dat is all right, but I haf book beer, too."—Chicago Chronicle.

Prizes for finding mis-spelled words on The Bee Want Ad pages. The Bee is going to give two hundred valuable prizes to the people who find the greatest number of mis-spelled words in its Want Ad pages, beginning Monday, November 16th, and ending Sunday, November 22d. If your sight is good and you know how to spell, it is an easy way to win a prize. Watch the Want Ad pages on these days.

Prize	Value
1st \$10.00	\$10.00
2nd 1 Dinner Set	10.00
3rd 1 Dinner Set	10.00
4th World 1 Set "Living Animals of the World"	6.00
5th 1 Set "Life of Napoleon"	6.00
6th 1 Set "Life of Napoleon" three volumes	6.00
7th 3 Copies "Great Pictures by Great Painters"	1.50
8th 1 Copy "Great Pictures by Great Painters"	1.50
9th 1 Copy "Mother Goose Paint"	1.50
10th 1 Copy "Great Pictures by Great Painters"	1.50
11th Book "Mother Goose Paint"	1.25
12th 1 Copy "Mother Goose Paint"	1.25
13th Book "Mother Goose Paint"	1.25
14th Book "Mother Goose Paint"	1.25
15th Book "Mother Goose Paint"	1.25
16th to 25th New Books and Novels	12.50
26th to 35th Fountain Pens, worth \$1.50	7.50
36th to 50th State Maps, worth \$1.00	15.00
51st to 200th Pictures, worth 50c	75.00
200 prizes	170.25

The Conditions: The person finding the greatest number of mis-spelled words will be awarded the first prize. In case of a "tie," the person making answer first, according to the postmark on the envelope, will be given preference. All answers must be sent by mail. Cut out the advertisements and paste them on a sheet of paper. Underline the mis-spelled word with a pencil or ink, and write your name and address at the top of the sheet. No person connected with The Bee Publishing Company will be permitted to enter this contest. No abbreviations will be counted as mis-spelled words. The 1903 edition of Webster's dictionary will be taken as authority. Cut out the ads each day, mark the mis-spelled words, paste them all on a SINGLE sheet of paper and send the whole thing in complete after you have studied the Sunday, November 22nd edition. Don't send in your answer until the end of the week or they won't be counted. If a mis-spelled word occurs in an advertisement which appears more than once, but only one copy of the "ad" on your list.

BEST PAID MAN IN THE BUNCH Morocco's Potentate Takes the Bakery and Sequesters the Dough. MORGAN AND SCHWAB OVERSHADOWED Salaries of Other People Put on a Comparative Scale—Talent, Skill and Headship Command Liberal Checks. The biggest "official salary" paid any one on earth, so far as records show, is that collected by the grand vizier of Morocco. In a country with a high standard of ethics and a lofty plane of morals—does not salary might find a plainer name of "graft," but in eastern eyes it is the lawful stipend of the office. In comparison with this official's revenue the president of the United States and the president of France are paid like messenger boys. Ben Hamed amounts to \$5,000,000—not made in speculation or business ventures, but saved out of his salary. And yet they say that a man on salary can't get rich. Ben Hamed kept his savings in gold bullion stacked away in the cellars of his palace at Marrakesh. Two other high salaries paid for daily service seem on paper, to be ridiculously out of proportion to the work, but a correct understanding shows that they are well earned. Talk to the mail carrier on your route and ask him what he would think of receiving \$5,000 a year for his work. He probably would laugh at you. Yet this is the actual figure paid to the man who carries the mail between Eagle and Valdez in Alaska. The distance is 44 miles and the postman makes two journeys a month, carrying 300 pounds of mail at a time. He uses an immense number of dogs, and good sled dogs are costly, to say nothing of their food. Steel Roller Gets \$25,000. Almost equally absurd does it sound to say that the remuneration of a laborer is \$21,000 a year. That is the sum paid to A. J. Day, employed as a roller at the Pittsburg mills of the United States Steel corporation. He was formerly one of Mr. Carnegie's men. He is said to be the best man at his work of rolling steel rails and is paid accordingly. Patti's salary for her approaching American tour is worthy to be classed among the high salaries of the world. She will receive \$100,000 a concert for sixty concerts, in addition to her expenses. Her record was \$5,000 for a single concert, paid once in New Orleans. But neither she nor any other prima donna ever kept up that sort of thing as a steady income. Possibly the best paid woman in the world is Mme. Hignou of the Paris opera. She is paid \$25,000 a year, and the second

TURN Your Old Stove Into Cash! What is the use of letting it stand and rust. You might as well have the money. A Bee "Want Ad" will sell it for you. You can run 12 words two times for a quarter. Telephone 238. Bee Want Ad Dept.