

TRUE TO HER LOVE OF 65 YEARS AGO

Aged Woman Remembers First Beau With Greetings on Anniversary Buggy Ride They Took.

San Francisco, Cal.—The saying that "the constancy of a woman runs but three years and a day" has again been refuted, for out of the past there has flickered a message from Ohio to California that tells how an affection once planted in a woman's heart never ceases to burn, though the winter of life weaves the frost halo in her hair and though vast mountains and numerous miles are thrust between the young emotion and the old.

On a summer day in 1849 Stephen T. Gage, 18 years of age, took Mary Stevens, 16, for a ride along the beech and maple uplands of Ashtabula, Ohio, and boy and girl together they picnicked by a leaf-embowered stream. There was a spark that went with the glances of the two, but Fate swung their lives far apart.

A strapping, six-foot-three youth, he joined the pilgrimage to the west, while she remained in the comparative quietude of the old Ohio home.

He went into freighting over the big Sierra divide from Hangtown (Placerville) into Nevada, and in 1856 was sent as an assemblyman on the Know Nothing ticket to represent his country, then the "Empire county of the state," in the Legislature—the legislative session of which he is now the sole survivor.

In his freighting he charged "all the traffic would bear" and he grew in influence and confidence in the transportation game. When it came time to organize the building of the great transcontinental railroad, young Gage was a factor to be reckoned with, and he joined the Crockers, Stanford, Colton, Huntington, Hopkins and Judah in carrying the project to its conclusion.

Then he became a commanding figure in the politics of California and Nevada—the confident and right hand of Stanford in carrying forward the railroad's manifold policies. He made governors and judges, assessors, secretaries and controllers with a nod and unmade them with a wink. Men fawned for his favor and scurried from his frown.

He married, but not the girl of the picnic of Ashtabula in the far dim Ohio of his youth. Death made him a widower—twice. Age came, and with time the companions of his youth, his mature manhood and his achievements went their way. But that age left him ruddy and rugged—quick of eye, firm of step, patriarchal as to beard, but still such a figure that has made him called "the handsomest man in California."

But all these years in the far-away Ohio a woman remembered that picnic out of Ashtabula beneath the beeches and the maples, remembered a gleam in his eye, recalled the pressure of his hand.

Three years ago Stephen T. Gage went back to Ohio and there he took Mary Stevens for a ride and picnic over the same old road out of Ashtabula—a ride under the beech and maple shade, a picnic by the same leaf-embowered stream.

On the anniversary of that first ride in 1849 there came to Stephen T. Gage, 83 years old and a resident of this city, from Mary E. Stevens, aged 51, a telegraphed message reading:

"To my first and only beau," wired Stephen T. Gage in reply, and he hummed an old love tune.

WALKING SUIT OF BLUE WOOL



A walking suit of blue wool with sailor collar. Standing collar of white maline. Sash of black silk with frogs.

Blind Inventor May Become Rich

Makes Models for Three Practical Devices—Ambition Is to Protect Bottle Workers.

Though he has been sightless for more than thirty years, Patrick J. McNamara, who lives in a home for the blind in New York City, may become wealthy as a result of his energy and ingenuity. He has just completed the tedious task of making models for three practical bottling inventions and friends have interested capitalists to assist him in developing the contrivances.

McNamara is 58 years old. He lost his sight in a bottling factory accident. He was filling an imperfect bottle with ginger ale when it exploded. Ever since he has been devising means of protecting other bottling workers from accident and perfecting means which will enable brewers, restaurateurs and hotels to keep liquors continually fresh and druggists or chemists to employ simple schemes by which poisons may be kept from careless or irresponsible persons.

The most interesting of McNamara's new inventions is what he calls a lock stopper. It may be fitted into the neck of a medicine bottle and then locked with a key. The liquid may be poured without removing the stopper after it has been unlocked. The invention is designed to keep persons from obtaining poisons from bottles in the night.

Another invention is an automatic check-valve or vent peg, which will keep barreled beer from turning stale through the loss of gas. The usual barrel of beer, ale or cider, after being tapped has a small hole left open in the top, so that air may enter, with the result that the gas evaporates and allows the liquor to become flat. McNamara's vent peg is a simple device which automatically allows fresh air to enter the keg or barrel the instant the spigot is turned. When the faucet is closed, the valve immediately closes, thus permitting no gas to escape.

Of similar use is a stopper he has devised for highly carbonated liquids and champagnes. It is a metal stopper, which when inserted in the neck of a bottle will keep the liquid full of gas all the time it is being served.

McNamara is frankly grateful to all those in the home who have looked after his safekeeping and says that whatever measure of success comes to him the loyalty of his home will be shown in more ways than one.

LOFTY BUILDINGS MOVED BY WIND AND SUN RAYS

Heat Expands Tops of Skyscrapers Many Inches—Structures Also Sink in Ground.

All tall buildings are moved by the rays of the sun and the wind. The rays are strong enough to move the immense dome of the capitol at Washington, D. C., six inches every day. The movement was proved by suspending a twenty-five pound lead plumb from the top of the dome, a pencil touching a piece of paper being attached to the weight. In the morning the sun caused the west side of the building to expand. As the rays reached the other sides of the dome, the expansion moved with them and at the end of the day the pencil had traced an ellipse six inches long.

Often the tops of skyscrapers are swayed several inches by strong gales, but a movement even less perceptible is their settling into the ground. Unless erected on bedrock buildings will gradually sink. In Chicago some of the buildings constructed ten years ago have settled five inches. One skyscraper only 12 years old was found to be thirty inches out of plumb at the top and had to be bolstered up with huge jackscrews.

Curious Condensations.

The United States produces more corn than all the rest of the world.

The use of the metric system of weights and measures will be compulsory in the Philippines after the first of next year.

Genuine ruby glass owes its color to the presence of particles of gold too small to be seen without the aid of the strongest microscope.

Before the Russian war the street railway system of Tokyo was less than one mile in length. Now the mileage is 100 miles, with a revenue last year of \$775,000.

M. Clemenceau, the French Premier, is a martyr to indigestion, and has been a regular visitor to Carlsbad for 20 years, finding it easier to direct a government than a stomach.

Japanese army officer students are allowed \$1,150 a year while learning the English language. Others get from \$1,000 to \$1,500 a year while learning Russian, \$1,050 for French, \$950 for German and \$700 for Chinese.

The combined imports and exports for the 12 months ending June 30, 1908, were \$3,055,000,000. It compares favorably with the total for the preceding year, in which our foreign trade was \$3,315,000,000, and \$2,571,000,000 two years ago.

Doors that swing of themselves are the latest. At the Hotel Astor the attendant who stands at the main entrance merely has to press a bulb and the door, which is operated by electricity, revolves. This plan has the advantage of keeping the speed uniform.

Tomatoes are imported in increasing quantities into England from Italy. The quality of these tomatoes is stated to be good and the prices low. Large quantities of canned tomatoes are also shipped now each season from Italy to the eastern part of the United States.

NEW ORLEANS BEAUTY TO WED SOON



Miss Elaine Pujo.

Miss Elaine Pujo, daughter of former representative in congress and Mrs. Arsene P. Pujo of New Orleans, it is announced, is to marry Mr. William Beattier Reilly, Jr., also of New Orleans. Miss Pujo was educated in Washington, but spent last winter with her mother in New Orleans.

ODD DISCOVERIES MADE ABOUT RATS

Aged Rodent Gnaws Through Oak Door in Twenty-Five Minutes—One Gets Through Concrete.

In the work of "rat-proofing" the harbor districts of Southern ports, interesting discoveries are being made of the ingenuity and resourcefulness of the rats. The appearance of bubonic plague in New Orleans resulted in a strenuous campaign to drive out all the rodent nomads which carry the disease. The government public health service has many of its men aiding in the work.

One of the oddest of the incidents is reported from Mobile, Ala., by Oliver Whitehead, an inspector. He was in charge of the "rat-proofing" of an old store. In clearing away debris and other material a rat's nest was found which had been made of \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills.

At the Windsor Hotel an aged rat established a record for gnawing a hole through an oak door. It was exactly twenty-five minutes after the rat commenced to eat its way out that it appeared through the aperture it had contracted.

Contractors and others who are interested in concrete are still talking about a rat which ate its way through three inches of concrete in a new building in Mobile, the concrete being four hours old.

THE PASSING MAGICIAN

Astounding Performances of Miracle Workers No Longer Awe the General Public

Once looked upon as the possessor of some occult power, openly regarded with respectful awe, but in secret envied and feebly imitated, the magician's miraculous faculties seem to have dwindled until he is merely a surprisingly dexterous human, quick and adroit and very clever, but still just a plain man. His magic wand is no longer the dwelling of an obedient witch, but a plain stick with no qualities more supernatural than the orchestra leader's baton. Open cynicism is the prevailing expression upon the faces of the spectators at an exhibition of magic; and a child gazing in saucer-eyed wonder is about the only surviving reminder of the time when the magician was a man of clammy secrets known only to the elect of his immediate circle. Living, hopping rabbits drawn from the air no longer stun the mind of the spectator until he questions no further than the fact, as likely as not he will wonder if the magician feeds them well and gives them enough exercise. Perhaps this is a cynical age; perhaps the magician has lost some of his skill. But probably the wonders of everyday life—the telephone, the phonograph, the wireless—are so much more mysterious than the arts of the magician seem puerile and false by comparison. On the other hand magicians have given up their secrets, and books have been written revealing their methods, ostensibly to instruct the proselyte but really to satisfy the curiosity of the public. However astounding the performance, the spectators appear to believe they have been sold; and therein lies the difficulty. People attend magic performances in order to

see through the trick rather than to be impressed by it, and therefore to enjoy it. This phenomenon may be one of the manifestations of a hyper-critical age, an age in which the usefulness of the watch is destroyed by a disposition to tamper with the inner works. Disillusionment may be good for a limited number of over-credulous persons, but for the run of men it means one less resource of enjoyment. Realism on the stage is suffering from its own excesses, and a return to different exploitation of details. It may be that a public apprised of the magician's secrets will regret its curiosity and forget what it knows for the sake of thrills and exclamations of wonder which those secrets once enabled it to enjoy. But it remains for a new generation to restore the magician to his former pristine glory.—Indianapolis News.

SEEDS ARE CARRIED BY BIRDS

Plants Spring up From Soil Attached to Partridge's Feet.

The way in which feathers and other foreign matter will adhere to the feet of birds is well known. The most famous is that quoted years ago by Darwin.

This was that of a red-legged partridge, which was found to have a ball of earth measuring $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches in circumference and weighing 6½ ounces around one of its feet. After softening the earth a number of seeds were removed therefrom and sowed. No fewer than eighty-two plants came up, representing at least five species. This experiment demonstrated one of the many ways in which birds may disseminate seeds.

That Was Enough

A young Frenchman in the sophomore class of an American college was invited to a musical entertainment given by his classmates, where there were sung, in honor of the foreigner, a number of French songs, and they were given in the best American French.

"I say, old man," observed one of the sophomores, after the entertainment, "I suppose the French songs made you feel a little homesick, eh?" "No," responded the Frenchman; "only sick."

HOMES OF GERMAN WORK-PEOPLE.

The great increase of population and the rapid development of the commercial and manufacturing systems of Germany since 1870 had a bad effect on housing of working classes. At one time one-family houses were the most common kind of dwellings, but now except in Bremen, the vast majority of working people in cities, both large and small, occupy flats in large tenement-houses. In some of the larger cities these erections often resemble large barracks built round small paved courtyards, there being in addition to the block fronting upon the street another block lying behind and parallel to it, and not infrequently also one or more side blocks either isolated or running back from the front block and connecting it with the one at the rear. The rents in these back and side houses are as a rule

lower than those paid in the front blocks. In the modern erections there are many variants of this plan, tending on the whole to the elimination of either the back or the side blocks, or of both. In most cases the working class dwelling in such a house consists of three rooms, but very frequently of two rooms only. Tenements of one room cannot be regarded as constituting an important type. Four-roomed workmen's dwellings are rare, while dwellings of five or more rooms are scarcely to be found.

There are purely working class districts in all large cities, but generally the working classes are scattered throughout the whole of a city. Rich people and moderately rich people live in the lower stories of tall houses, in the upper stories and in the back buildings of which, entered by means of different doors and staircases, live much poorer people. This system has advantages. The houses are well built, well drained and sewerage, and surrounded with an amount of open space which insures that air and light are not cut off by neighboring buildings. But there are also disadvantages. The dwellings in the back buildings, getting their air and light from courts, of which many are too small, and often unwholesome, and it is far less wholesome for women and children to live in upper rooms of tall houses than in a one-family house, from which the children can easily run into the open air, and which has no other dwellings above or below it, from which injurious exhalations may come. As already mentioned, the dwellings consist of few rooms only. If there are but two rooms, one is used as a living and bed room and thus occupied by day and night all the year through, and the other is a small kitchen, which is likewise made to serve as a bedroom, and here may be crowded together a family of four, five, six or more persons.—H. FeHLinger in the Bricklayer and Mason.

A MOTHER'S GRATITUDE

Many a Loving Mother Will Appreciate the Following.

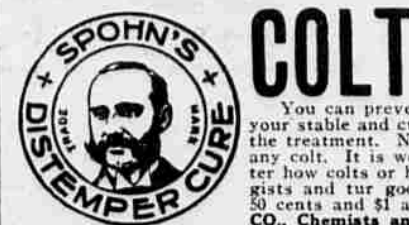
Many a strong man and many a healthy woman has much for which to thank mother. The care taken during their childhood brought them past the danger point and made them healthy men and women. Thousands of children are generally bothered with incontinence of urine, and inability to retain it is oftentimes called a habit. It is not always the children's fault—in many cases the difficulty lies with the kidneys, and can be readily righted. The following statement shows how one mother went about it:

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