

Public Library

VOL. L. NO. 38 WHOLE NO. 4489.

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

Woodstock, Vermont.
Printed Saturday Morning
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

WOODSTOCK NEWS.

The Hartland Nature Club.

The annual supper and roll call which closes each year's work of the Hartland Nature club, was held this year on Friday evening, January 10th, in the vestry of the Methodist church.

Some mounted birds, with collections of plants from Serbia and those gathered by the club during 1912, decorated the walls. In cases were beautiful exhibits of Hemlock marine life, contributed by Mr. Whiting, and butterflies—and other insects—contributed by Mrs. A. J. Hurd. The supper tables were laid in green and white and lighted by green candles.

After a social hour, the supper was served in a very efficient manner by five Queens of Avalon, Mrs. Ruggles reading a story at the close. Then followed the literary program, Mr. Whiting presiding.

The report of the president for 1912, Mr. Underwood, made special mention of the finding in Hartland of the cardinal flower, Aster laevis-foolius, and the walking fern. It acknowledged the receipt of several nature books and pamphlets—presented by friends of the club—and the gift by Mrs. Hurd of the collection of insects above mentioned, worth ten dollars to be expended on Deane mountains as needed.

At Mr. Underwood's suggestion, it was voted that the club join the New England Federation of Natural History Societies.

Miss Elinore Webster, the acting secretary-treasurer, reported an average attendance of seventeen to the meetings of the year and the largest meeting at Sumner's Falls, with an attendance of fifty-two, sixteen being children.

Mr. Whitney, as editor-in-chief, read the bulletin, which this year included the reports of the various sub-editors. Then followed the roll-call, to which all responded entertainingly by giving either sentiments or observations on nature.

All who were present pronounced the occasion most enjoyable.

The first working meeting of the new year is appointed for Saturday, February 8.

TRY WHITE TURKEYS

Bronze So Much Inbred on Farms that Wild Blood is Needed.

The white Holland turkey has yet to come to its own, and it is the farmer who is having so much trouble with his bronze turkeys would get some whites he would find out that trouble practically is ended. The bronze has been inbred too much on the farms. The only way they can get back to strong vitality is to infuse wild turkey blood into their flocks.

But not so with the whites. They have been bred by a few persons in scattered parts of the country and have all their natural stamina. They weigh nearly as much as the bronze. Many toms attain thirty pounds and over in their second year and hens eighteen. They are kept easily at home, are not the rammers that the bronze are, although good foragers and find a lot of their own food. They are handsome to look at and make a splendid picture on a country estate when out on the green meadows. In England they are getting popular. There is a great demand for the feathers which grow from under the tail to the leg for making maribou muffs and neck pieces. The other feathers also bring good prices.

Elisha May of St. Johnsbury, has been appointed a delegate to the second World's Christian Citizenship Conference to be held at Portland, Ore., June 29 to July 6.

WINDSOR COUNTY COURT

DECEMBER TERM 1912.

Hon. Wm. H. Taylor, Presiding Judge
Hon. Chas. H. Maxham, Assistant Judge
Hon. Milo S. Buck, Clerk
Jay Reed Pember, Clerk
Carl A. Pember, Assistant Clerk
James H. Kinty, Sheriff
Paul C. Tinkham, High Bailiff
John H. Mumms, Stenographer
Fred'k C. Southgate, Probation Officer

Court took a recess from January 16th to February 10. Before taking the recess, the court granted 14 divorces as follows: Carrie P. Eubar of Rochester from James John Eubar for intolerable severity with liberal alimony. This was a contested case. Wallace Batchelder for petitioner, John J. Wilson for petitioner.

Emily L. Adams from Ellsworth M. Adams, for refusal to support. A. G. Cox for petitioner.

Ethel S. P. Gill of Ludlow from James S. Gill for intolerable severity. Wilcox for petitioner. Stickney, Sargent & Skeels for petitioner.

George W. Harwood of Springfield from Julia Herwood, for adultery. A. G. Cox for petitioner.

A. M. Houghton from Edna M. Houghton, for intolerable severity. E. W. Gibson for petitioner.

Harry Johnson from Lucy Johnson, for desertion. A. G. Cox for petitioner.

Eugene P. Putnam from Winnie Putnam, for desertion. S. E. Emery and Gilbert A. Davis for petitioner.

Nadine A. Parker from Allen E. Parker, for refusal to support. E. E. Moore for petitioner.

Fred W. Partridge from Nora P. Partridge, for adultery. F. C. Davis for petitioner.

Phema W. Gilson from M. W. Gilson, for refusal to support. William Batchelder for petitioner.

Herbert L. Richardson from Vera L. Richardson for adultery. R. Trainor for petitioner.

Ethel C. Semmitt from Arthur K. Semmitt, for adultery. D. A. Pingree for petitioner.

Myra A. Perkins from Otto H. Perkins, for desertion. R. Trainor for petitioner.

Archie G. Savage of Windsor from Susie N. Savage, for adultery. F. H. Clark for petitioner.

In the case of State vs. Bean, in which there was a disagreement of the jury, the court fixed the bail at \$1000.

In the case of State vs. Irvine, receiver, vs. Hennessey of Windsor, the chancellor granted leave to amend the bill as prayed for. Davis & Davis for orator. C. C. Fitts for defendant.

Two Italians, charged with breaking into a freight car at Bethel with intent to steal, were surrendered in court by their bail and they were remanded to jail. It is expected that these men may have a trial by jury at the adjourned session.

In the case of E. B. Watkins vs. George C. Sutherland of Reading, judgment was rendered for the plaintiff for the amount claimed. Davis & Davis for plaintiff, B. E. Cole for defendant.

There are 33 divorce cases on the docket not disposed of. Judge Maxham is somewhat improved, but is still critically ill at the New Park Hotel.

Two divorce cases are held under advisement, that further testimony may be presented, and other cases stand continued.

In the case of State vs. J. W. Drown of Chester, who was convicted of criminal assault, but was granted a new trial by the supreme court, the state's attorney has entered a nolle prosequi and the respondent has been discharged.

The state's attorney has also entered a nolle prosequi in each of the following in which had been made, as stated: Harvey Blanchard, adultery; Antoine Homay, for peddling without a license, and Tama Homay for the same; Myra Perkins, for adultery; Gladys Withington, obscene literature; John Danber, liquor.

From a hasty examination of the docket it appears that 48 criminal cases remain to be disposed of.

MOON'S INFLUENCE ON TIDES

Survival of Old-Time Superstition Which Has Been Found Impossible to Eradicate.

The influence of the moon upon the weather was in ancient times assumed in much the same way as the influence of the moon upon the tides of the sea was assumed. There was no proper knowledge of the facts in either case, and it was accepted in both cases merely because the regular changes of the earth's shadow on the moon were used as the great primitive time-keeper, and any frequent changes in other things must happen after some of the moon upon the tides of the sea.

The barbaric guess, "Post hoc ergo propter hoc" proved, when careful study of the matter was made and Newton's law of gravitation was applied to it, to be right in regard to the tides, but wrong in regard to the weather. The "banking up" of the sea in a moving hood which passes, as it were, "over the face of the waters" twice (approximately) in the 24 hours is now known to be due to the "drag" or gravitational attraction exerted on the heavy but mobile mass of the ocean by the moon as it circles round the earth, with a returning change in its relative position to earth and sun, the phases of which occupy a month.

But it has no such action on the flimsy vapors of the air. An immense number of exact numerical details, depending on the weight of the moon, its position, and movements in relation to the earth at successive moments, consequently of its action in producing the tides of the sea, have been ascertained with astounding accuracy. At the same time astronomers and meteorologists (those who study the atmosphere of our earth) have come to the conclusion that what we call "the weather" is not affected by the position of the moon in regard to the earth, either at any hour of the day or any part of the month (phase or "quarter" of the moon), or at any part of the year.

BEAT STREET CAR COMPANIES

Standard of Height Set for Children Does Not Always Work Out With Exact Justice.

"In cities where the street car companies attempt to determine the age of a child by its height some pretty complications ensue," said the traveling salesman. "Forty-one inches has been established as the average height of a child of five years, but the injustice of that rule is frequently demonstrated in cities with a large foreign population.

"Into the car of a western city whose street railway has adopted the forty-one-inch gauge came a child carrying three books. His mother refused to pay fare.

"If that kid's under five what's he doing with all those books?" the conductor demanded.

"The mother was serene in her right. 'Measure him and see,' she said.

"He marched the child up to the door jamb. The youngster fell a quarter of an inch below the topmost notch.

"Seven, if he's a day," the conductor growled; "but she evades payment because of his nationality. He's Italian, and Italians run small. On the measurement basis half the Italian children could ride free till they are twelve years old."

"In that same town they have a large Bulgarian and Greek population. They are mostly undersized. A Swede, on the other hand, would overtop the mark so much that even a birth certificate would not entitle him to a free ride."

Potpouri of Peoples.

In this most cosmopolitan of cities (Buenos Aires) the foreigners foregather in little worlds of their own. Most are represented by newspapers published in their own languages, most have clubhouses more or less pretentious.

On the same evening one season recently "The Merry Widow" was produced in Spanish, French and Italian in as many different theaters. And there are all sorts of places of amusement where foreigners can enjoy themselves each after his own fashion—from an immense artificial skating rink (a very fashionable resort by the way) to a tropical coffee house, from a golf or race course to a poolroom or bowling alley, from the most attractive and elegantly equipped of modern cafes to a little French domino parlor or German beer saloon, from a magnificent opera house to a cheap vaudeville or moving picture theater.

From "Through South America," by Harry W. Van Dyke.

Loved for His Infirmity.

A case where bodily and not moral weakness brought happiness was that of Sergt. Thomas Plunkett of the Twenty-first Massachusetts regiment during the Civil war. In a charge at Fredericksburg the color bearer was among the first to fall. Seizing the flag Sergeant Plunkett bore it almost over the ramparts, where he fell with both arms shot away.

When the news was carried by his sweetheart, so the story goes, she protested that she could never marry him. "Then 'I be proud to," declared her sister. They were married as soon as he recovered. He was voted a medal by congress and made a messenger in the Massachusetts state house, where he served for many years.

HELLBOY HANDCUFFS SELF

Omaha Lad Gets Out of a Predicament With Hammer and Chisel—Police Unable to Aid Him.

Omaha, Neb.—When Frank Sullivan, a bellboy at a local hotel, found a pair of handcuffs in a room by a government detective, he thought they made a nice plaything and tried them on. Instantly his hands were locked hard and fast in the manacles. He hurried to police headquarters, but the police had no key which would unlock them, and the youth was compelled to submit to having the handcuffs removed with a hammer and chisel.

PLANS A MARRIAGE CURB

Helen R. Robinson to Introduce Bill in Next Assembly Requiring Health Certificates.

Denver, Colo.—Helen R. Robinson, who was elected Colorado's first woman state senator at the last election, will introduce a bill at the next assembly requiring health certificates before marriage. It is understood that Mrs. Robinson has the backing of prominent women club members.

RING SPREADS WOE

Misfortune Befalls Possessor of Beautiful Diamond.

Man Takes Solitaire From Woman's Finger and Pawn for Constable Defies Gun and Carries Circuit to Court.

Denver, Colo.—Misfortune has befallen each for the last three possessors of a beautiful diamond ring which now rests in the safe at the office of the district attorney.

One married woman mourns the loss of the ring and loss of gentlemanly friend; the aforesaid gentleman mourns the fact that he will have to stand trial on a charge of larceny; a pawnbroker mourns the fact that the ring was snatched from him by violence by a constable and the constable, although he is not doing any particular mourning, declares that he came near losing his life in an effort to capture the ring.

It all started in a private dining-room of a downtown hotel. Jack Chandor held the bejeweled hand of Mrs. Estelle Croxon in his own. In a playful mood he is alleged to have slipped off the diamond ring and placed it on his own finger, after which he was unable, it is alleged, to get the ring off. The lady waited for several days and the ring was not returned. Chandor was arrested and a pawn ticket on the Newton Loan company was found in his pocket.

Papers to get the ring were sworn out and a constable started to the shop to get the ring. The constable says he was refused the possession of the ring and that when he tried to get out of the safe the son of the proprietor of the shop drew a gun on him. After considerable skirmishing he declares he succeeded in disarming the pawnbroker.

Upon the refusal of the pawnbroker to open the safe the constable delivered an ultimatum to him. Either the safe must be opened and the ring delivered to him or he would go for a moving van and transport the entire safe to the court of Justice Mills.

Facing the possibility of losing a ring, and it was turned over to the district attorney. Providing no further misfortune overtakes those in possession of the stone, it will be used as evidence in the Chandor trial.

264 POETRY BOOKS A YEAR

That is London Review's Estimate of Output of Season in England.

London.—A statement recently made in a daily paper that present-day "British poets are few, and their output small," is taken exception to by several literary reviews, one of which says that 65 books of poetry were received by it for review during three months, and infers that modern English poets place at least 264 books, many of them containing good poetry, in the hands of the public every year. On this the Academy comments that few of these 264 volumes contain good poetry, many of them contain very moderate verse, most of them are negligible from a critical standpoint, and a few of them contain doggerel that is simply pathetic, written by persons who never had and never will have the remotest idea of what poetry is or means, that is to say, real poets are few and their output very slim.

HAS 16 TRUNKS; IS DETAINED

American Woman Who Married a Frenchman in Peck of Trouble at San Francisco.

San Francisco, Cal.—Mrs. Lorton Blair, who says she was born in Janville, Ohio, was taken into custody by immigration inspectors as she stepped from the Pacific mail liner Persia to the Orient. In Danville she was married four years ago to a native of France and because she thus acquired the nationality of her husband she must remain in detention until details concerning her papers can be investigated. As baggage she has sixteen trunks and she wore expensive furs and many jewels.

DEATH BETRAYS EX-CONVICT

Denton, Tex.—The death of John Ellis, for 35 years a resident of this city, resulted in the revelation that Ellis was really Joseph G. Addison, who was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in Buchanan county, Ga., in 1873, and escaped after serving three years of a 15-year sentence. Five years ago Ellis told his story to a friend with the request that it be given to the world after his death.

No Coffin Nails for H. S. Boys.

Shenandoah, Pa.—High school boys have found an anti-cigarette association and declare they will use no more "coffin nails." Those who consider tobacco an absolute necessity will find solace in pipes.

FIGHTS AGAINST HER BABIES

Children, Two, Three and Four Years Old, Are Kept at Cradle Age by Mother.

Cleveland, Ohio.—In a little kitchen at her home, Mrs. Mood Thol has battled with nature for years secretly in an effort to keep time from touching her babies.

Around her feet creep three children, two, three and four years old. Victims of a strange code her ingenuity devised to prevent them advancing beyond the cradle, they laughed, kicked their feet and waved their hands as she crouched over them.

The eldest boy did not creep faster or with greater ease than the younger ones. He mumbled incoherently, and tugged at his mother's dress and slobbered over a little bib, when she tickled him beneath the chin. He is barely larger than a child of two years and apparently has not advanced intellectually beyond the cradle.

To further defeat their development, the mother has never fed them anything except baby food. What lay beyond the door, through which a stranger never passed, they had no idea.

Neighbors say the woman never took her children away from home. Occasionally in the hot summer, they say, she would wheel them away in the darkness, but always guarding them closely from the gaze of any persons.

"She has a strange desire to always keep them babies," Deputy Sheriff Sobczak said. "The four-year-old boy cannot talk or walk. He is not as large as an ordinary youngster of eighteen months old."

Several days ago William James, clerk of the probate court, discovered the plight of the children and investigated. He continued the investigation until he made sure the children were not imbeciles.

James and Sobczak went to the house, arrested the woman and took her to the City hospital. The children will be placed in an infant institution.

MAKES MASTER SAVE HIM

Dog Clings to Boy's Coat by His Teeth When Both Fall into the River.

New York.—Arthur Johnson, seven years old, was thrown from the deck of the large Lima, of which his father is captain, when a light rain hit the large sea as it was entering Pier 67, North river. His fox terrier, which stood beside the boy, was also knocked into the water by the collision.

Louis Johnson, head stvedore of the French line, and his assistant, Harry Smith, who had been standing on the stringpiece of the pier, saw the boy fall into the water and disappear, while the terrier swam over the place where he had sunk. Johnson took hold of Smith by the feet and let him down from the pier near the place where the boy had gone down. As Smith was waiting to seize the boy when he should reappear, his head came near the end of the pier, showing that the boy was rapidly floating away.

The two men ran to the end of the pier, and as they did so a tugboat arrived with Capt. William Johnson, father of the drowning boy, on deck. He threw a rope to the two men at the end of the pier. When the boy rose for the third time he was between the tugboat and the pier. The boy threw his arms over the rope and so worked his way to the pier. The little dog, which had been swimming from the side of the tug to the pier without being able to land, made his way to the boy and clung to his coat with his teeth. When the two got to the pier they were quickly lifted to safety.

GIRL ROBS IN MALE ATTIRE

Young Woman Arrested as Burglar Says Man Induced Her to Commit Crime.

Danbury, Conn.—Disguised in male attire, Amy Trumble, a pretty 22-year-old girl, entered the apartments of George Trumble shortly after midnight and stole \$22 from the pocket of Mr. Trumble, who was asleep in the room.

The girl, who had never been arrested before, accused George Smith of having induced her to commit the crime. Smith has a criminal record in Connecticut cities. The girl said she retained only \$4 of the stolen money, giving the remainder to Smith. The man denied this, but the police found the money in his shoes.

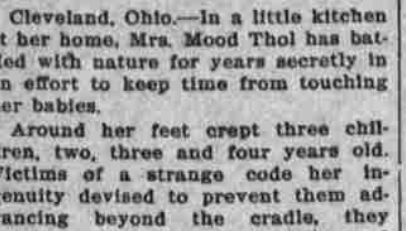
Miss Travers was released on bonds furnished by a relative. She will be arraigned in the police court Monday. Detectives who have been investigating a series of burglaries arrested the girl at her home this afternoon.

She said Smith furnished her with the clothing she wore when she visited Trumble's apartments. She denied having participated in any other burglaries.

BUYING RAILWAY TICKETS.

In buying tickets at a Russian railway station, one soon learns also that it is wiser to book them in advance, for the drawbacks of the "Nichevo" system of philosophy are nowhere so conspicuous as at a crowded ticket office. To the writer it has happened on nearly every railway in Russia, including the Trans-Siberian at Moscow, and at Kharbin, that, after being informed at the ticket office that no sleeping-car accommodation was available, a coupe has been forthcoming on the train as the result of largesse to the conductor and other donors. On one occasion, boarding the Revel-Petersburg express at Weimarn station at 4 a. m., I was informed by the conductor that there were no spots except in the top

RAILWAY TRAVEL in RUSSIA



WHEN CZAR GOES TRAVELING

THINGS that were wont to figure as bugbears in the old day travel of Russia are now but memories. The ways of the bureaucracy have become more liberal and less rigid, so that traveling today in that country is as pleasant and comfortable as in most countries, and a good deal less expensive than in many. Besides no other country in Europe "can offer more beautiful scenery, more objects of new interests, or pleasanter conditions of life and climate" than some parts of Russia that are quite accessible to the tourist.

The only difficulty a journey in Russia occasionally presents, in places off the beaten track, is that of the language.

Railway travel in Russia leaves much to be desired, however. For example, accommodation on one much-traveled road last summer the demand for first-class space was so pressing that travelers were sometimes compelled to wait their turn for a week, while the demands of officials for "tea-money" increased with the competition. This train has neither restaurant nor sleepers.

Nothing Really Matters.

Russia is the land of "Nichevo," the country where nothing really matters, even as Spain is the land of the tomorrow that never comes. Let the traveler realize this at once and for all; let him recognize the fact that he has left behind him, at the German frontier, businesslike habits, punctuality, scrupulous accuracy of statement and all such commercial virtues. Let him in their place accept and enjoy the easy-going and tolerant attitude of a people which faces life and all its problems with a certain leisurely and speculative stolidism, an attitude which, after all, has much philosophy and a good deal of religion in its favor. Let him adapt himself to his Slav environment and he will speedily find himself enjoying the human comedy from a new and instructive point of view—"thinking children," for whom the world of ideas is more than all the cold facts and figures of trade.

The man who must needs carry with him on a journey his own country and all his fixed habits had better remain at home, for the science and fine art of traveling consists in reducing our material necessities and local fads to a minimum. For all that, those whose pleasure it is to journey with "all the comforts of a home" can do so today on all the main lines of travel in Russia—from Riga to St. Petersburg, Moscow, Nizhni, Rostov-on-the-Don, and Odessa. International wagon-lits, polyglot porters, electric lifts, and meals served to the walling of Hungarian music, all are there, combining the creature comforts of a trip to Paris with a rapid impression of the landscapes and people of Russia. But for the man who can doff on occasion his garments of custom, to whom the cities of men offer something more than museums and meals, the byways of desultory travel in Russia open up a new and inspiring field of recreation and knowledge. Especially wondrous are the unfrequented beauties of the Caucasus and the Armenian highlands: all that fertile and historic land which lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian; and the journey thence, from Tiflis by railway and steamer, to Tashkend and Fergana, Bokhara and Samarkand. Here, in a summer vacation's wanderings, one may see Europe and Asia overlapping and dovetailing, their conflict of ethics and economics acting and reacting at a thousand points of absorbing interest; and all in comfort quite sufficient for any sensible man.

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WOMAN RULES INDIAN STATE

Begam of Bhopal Has Governed Country Wisely and Well for Eleven Years.

There have been a few opportunities to know something of that interesting and unusual woman, the Begam of Bhopal, who has for the last eleven years been ruler of her country, the small state of Bhopal, in the middle of Central India.

The Begam was born in 1858, and the free, independent spirit of her family is shown by the fact that though a girl her advent was not unwelcome.

When she was seven years old arrangements were made for her marriage, and the boy selected for her husband was brought to the court and shared her studies. When the Begam was fifteen they were married, and strangely enough, the marriage was a happy one. The Begam found in her husband a faithful friend, and it is said that she mourned his death very deeply.

In 1888 the Begam's eldest daughter died. She would have been her heir, the first born, irrespective of sex, being in Bhopal the heir apparent.

In 1901 she became ruler owing to the death of her mother and at once set about improvements and reforms in all the various state departments. One of the Begam's chief interests was education, particularly, too, the education of girls. She decided, therefore, to open and patronize personally a girls' school. The education of girls in Bhopal was chiefly limited to a study of the Koran and the rudiments of the Urdu language, with here and there some slight knowledge of writing learned from fathers and brothers. But their attendance at schools and their advancement in general knowledge was looked upon as a dangerous innovation.

Montenegrins Fatalists.

It is only in recent years that Montenegrins have begun to appreciate the services of the hospital. Hulme Beaman, after visiting the country in 1889, wrote that the people "take very little care of their children, and only the sound, and the strong grow up. In after life, too, they are extremely averse to sanitary precautions or medical treatment, and a sick Montenegrin is almost synonymous with a dead man. At least, he at once gives himself up, and if he recovers looks upon it as a curious freak in nature's laws." The few who reluctantly submit to losing an arm or a leg invariably refuse anesthetics and converse with their friends, smoking a cigarette while the knife and saw cut at their joints.