

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The People's Rights—A Representative Democracy—The Union and the Constitution Without Any Infractions.

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WHEN MANHATTAN'S LAND WAS LIKE VERMONT'S

Trade of Over a Century Ago When Columbia University Got its Fifth Avenue "Garden", Now Worth About \$30,000,000, in Place of a Ciren Mountain Township.

Over one hundred and twenty years ago Columbia University, in the city of New York, losing a township in what subsequently became the state of Vermont, secured instead a plot of ground on Manhattan island. It was a very good trade for Columbia University. The property is now worth about \$30,000,000.

The recent sale of the University property at the north west corner of Fifth Avenue and 47th Street, said to be valued at about \$3,000,000, served to recall, says the New York Evening Mail, that good luck figured largely in the chain of events which placed that plot and the enormously valuable adjacent blocks in the hands of the institution.

Vermont, part of which was originally under the control of New York, became a separate state and was admitted to the Union in 1791. Incidental to this change, or through the operation of some law, Columbia lost the township.

Probably the friends of the college were all upset over this unfortunate

turn of affairs. The state authorities also felt that Columbia was not getting a square deal in being thus deprived of the holdings, simply because Vermont wanted to be a separate state. To square things up the state turned around and bought what was then known as the Elgin Botanic Garden—Forty seventh street to Fifty-third street, Fifth to Sixth avenues—and gave it over to the college.

That was a great day for Columbia, back in 1791, when Vermont became a state and took away that township.

Information as to the present value of that particular township is not available, but it probably isn't much, expressed in terms of Manhattan Island real estate. The assessed valuation of all the real estate in the state of Vermont is only about \$158,000,000 and there are scores of towns which could be bought outright, land and buildings town hall and opera house, for less than could one Fifth Avenue corner lot.

This year's assessed valuation of the five blocks which Columbia got in place of that Vermont township is between \$29,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

BRIDGEWATER CORNERS

Rev. Frank Curtis of Barnard will preach at Oak Chapel tomorrow. The mercury dropped to 16 degrees below zero Monday morning.

Henry Bennett has returned to Groton, Mass. Andrew Dimick returned to Briggs last week.

SOUTH POMFRET

F. C. Perry hasn't been feeling quite so well, and thought it advisable to send for Dr. Munsell of West Hartford.

Mrs. Alton Badger of Claremont, Mrs. Will Porter of White River Junction and Mrs. George Phelps of North Pomfret was at their father's, F. C. Perry's, Thursday.

Last reports from Judge C. H. Maxham were more favorable. Good wheeling at present time.

HARTLAND.

Asa, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Merrill, passed away at 4 a. m. Sunday, Feb. 9, of spinal meningitis, aged one month and five days. The funeral was held at the home Monday Feb. 10, at 2 p. m. The service was private, Rev. C. O. Gil officiating. The little form was placed in the tomb.

Miss May Bennett has returned from a six weeks stay in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

P. W. Whitney of Cambridge, Mass. was a week-end guest at I. G. Underwood's and D. C. Webster's.

Mrs. J. G. Underwood and Miss Marion Webster attended the convention of Sunday school workers at White River Junction February 11.

Hartland Four Corners.

The ladies of the Universalist church made about \$50 at their festival given Friday evening, Feb. 7. The young people presented the comedy, "How Jim Made Good," at the church, and did finely, and supper and dancing at the town hall followed.

Hazel Stillsoe of Chatham, N. Y., is visiting here.

Mr. and Mrs. James Willard of Springfield, Mass., were recent guests at W. P. Royce's. Mrs. Royce has returned from Bridgewater.

What is the State going to do with its bad youths? [Question in newspaper.] What is it going to do with the fathers and mothers of those bad youths?—New Bedford Standard.

TRAFFIC TIED UP

Heavy Locomotive Goes Into Turnpit at White River Junction.

Grand Trunk locomotive 777, one of the heavy consolidated compound freight engines on the southern division of the Central Vermont railroad, while leaking steam, ran out of the round house at White River Junction and into the turntable pit, wrecking the locomotive and tying up the motive power of the yard.

It is claimed a loose throttle valve allowed enough steam to leak into the cylinders to start the engine, which ran about 400 feet and fell into the pit. The turntable was badly damaged and the front of the locomotive was smashed and some damage was done the tracks.

The accident happened about 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon and trains passing through were delayed, as no locomotive could be turned and none taken out or put in the roundhouse.

CAPT. SCOTT AND PARTY PERISH

Die from Hunger and Exposure in Polar Blizzard.

News of the death of Capt. Robert Scott and his four brave companions, who succeeded by a final dash in reaching the South Pole, only a few hours before they were killed by a blizzard, comes in a brief dispatch from Lieut. Evans of the royal navy, who was second in command when the expedition started, and who no longer was a companion of the expedition. The message was signalled from the Terra Nova, returning from the Antarctic region while passing Oumaru, N. Z.

Scott's four companions who perished with him were Dr. E. A. Wilson, Lieut. H. R. Bowers, Captain L. E. G. Oates and Petty Officer Evans.

On the return trip about March 20, 1912, 11 miles from One Ton Depot, a blizzard overwhelmed them. They had suffered greatly from hunger and exposure and the death of Scott, Bowers and Wilson was virtually due to that. They died soon after the blizzard swept down on the party.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Jesse Tinkham and Mrs. Julia Pierce of Rochester, a stereopticon outfit has been purchased, and illustrated talks will be given for the benefit of the children in several school districts in that town. No charge will be made for children and only a slight one for adults which will be used to purchase new slides, etc.

Proposals of Amendment to the Constitution of Vermont to Be Ratified March 4, 1913

FIRST PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to approving, signing or vetoing of bills: Article 11. Every bill which shall have passed the senate and house of representatives, shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the governor; if he approve, he shall sign it; if not, he shall return it, with his objections in writing, to the house, in which it shall have originated; which shall proceed to reconsider it. If, upon such reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present of the house shall pass the bill, it shall, together with the objections, be sent to the other house, by which it shall, likewise, be reconsidered, and, if approved by two-thirds of the members present of that house, it shall become a law.

SECOND PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to biennial sessions and elections, term of office of governor, lieutenant governor, treasurer, secretary of state, auditor of accounts and county officers. Article 24, Sections 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

SECTION 1. The General Assembly shall meet biennially on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January, beginning in A. D. 1913. SECTION 2. The governor, lieutenant governor, treasurer, secretary of state, auditor of accounts, senators, town representatives, assistant judges of the county court, sheriffs, high bailiffs, state's attorneys, judges of probate and justices of the peace, shall be elected biennially, on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A. D. 1914. SECTION 3. The term of office of senators and town representatives shall be two years, commencing on the first Wednesday next after the first Monday of January following their election. SECTION 4. The term of office of the assistant judges of the county court, sheriffs, high bailiffs, state's attorneys, judges of probate and justices of the peace, shall be two years, and shall commence on the first day of February next after their election. SECTION 5. The persons who shall be severally elected in 1912 to the offices mentioned in this article shall hold such offices until the term of their successors elected the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, A. D. 1914, shall begin as herein provided.

THIRD PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to the printing of the journals. Chapter 2, Section 14.

The votes and proceedings of the General Assembly shall be printed (when no third of the members of either house think it necessary), as soon as convenient after the end of the session, with the yeas and nays of the house of representatives on any question when required by five members and of the senate when required by one senator, (except where the votes shall be taken by ballot), in which case every member of either house shall have a right to insert the reasons of his vote upon the minutes.

FOURTH PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to the powers of the legislature and governor. Chapter 2, Section 20.

SEC. 20. No person ought in any case, or in any time, to be declared guilty of treason or felony, by the legislature, nor to have his sentence upon conviction of felony commuted, remitted or mitigated by the legislature.

And that Section 11 of Chapter 2 be amended by omitting the words "and order" where they occur therein.

FIFTH PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to the grant, extension, change or amendment of charters. Article 30.

No charter of incorporation shall be granted, extended, changed or amended by special law, except for such municipal, charitable, educational, penal or reformatory corporations as are to be and remain under the patronage or control of the State; but the General Assembly shall provide by general laws for the organization of all corporations hereafter to be created. All general laws passed pursuant to this article may be altered from time to time or repealed.

SIXTH PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to the change of the words "judge" or "judges" to "justice" or "justices." Article 31.

That wherever the words "judge" or "judges" are used in the constitution of Vermont or amendments thereof, to designate a judge or judges of the supreme court, the words "justice" or "justices" shall be substituted therefor, as the case may require.

SEVENTH PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to the power of the General Assembly to pass laws compelling compensation for injuries. Article 32.

The General Assembly may pass laws compelling compensation for injuries received by employees in the course of their employment resulting in death or bodily hurt, for the benefit of such employees, their widows or next of kin. It may designate the class or classes of employers and employees to which such law shall apply.

EIGHTH PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT

Relating to the revision of Chapter 2 of the Constitution. Article 33.

That the judges of the supreme court be and are hereby authorized and directed to revise Chapter Two of the Constitution by incorporating into said Chapter all amendments of the Constitution that are now or may be then in force and excluding therefrom all sections, clauses and words not in force and rearranging and renumbering the sections thereof under appropriate titles as in the judgment may be most logical and convenient; and said revised Chapter two, as certified to the secretary of state by said judges or a majority thereof shall be a part of the constitution of this state in substitution for existing Chapter two, and all amendments thereof.

Office of the Secretary of State

I hereby certify that the foregoing proposals of amendment to the constitution of the State of Vermont, are true copies of the proposals of amendment to the constitution of said state as proposed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate and concurred in by a majority of the members of the House of Representatives at the session of the general assembly held in 1912; that said proposals of amendment were published in the principal newspapers of the state; that said proposals of amendment were submitted to the general assembly of 1912 and were concurred in by a majority of the members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, as appears from the files and records of this office.

Witness my hand and the seal of this office, at Montpelier, this fifth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen.

Secretary of State.

BOOKS HAVE A PERSONALITY

It Makes Their Influence, According to One Authority, Greater Than That of Man.

The real population of the world is not composed of its human bodies, but of its books. Men come and go; books remain. Life is merely a feeder of literature.

Things, which Johnson said are the sons of heaven, pass away, while words, which he called the daughters of earth, remain.

There is the Bible; the men who believed it and the men who disbelieved it have fallen like autumn leaves, and the book itself is ever green.

Here is Dante's poem, still standing like a cathedral, while the author who built it and the thousands who have walked in it lie buried in the churchyard.

Here is Shakespeare's book; the men and women in it are more alive today than were the queen who patronized it and the crowd that gaped at his plays.

The characters of Dickens were more real to him than the nobles and millionaires he looked up to; he already forgotten, while Uriah Heep and David Copperfield are intimate realities to each succeeding generation.

A book has a personality of its own, quite apart from its author, just as a child cannot be accounted for by his mother and father. A book leads its own life. It extends its mastery over men independently of their struggles against it, or it dies despite their most meticulous incubation. It writes not with flesh and blood, but with other books.

What is a man, any man, compared to a book? In real value what has any conqueror done to influence the lives of men, compared with what books have done? What are the exploits of Timur, Alexander and Charlemagne to the results of "The Pilgrim's Progress," "Das Kapital," "Le Contrat Social" and "Progress and Poverty"?—New York Independent.

So What's the Use?

At a downtown restaurant the other day four men, who did not know each other, were seated at the same table, and each in turn ordered water without ice. The first to want water without ice suggested that they compare reasons.

"For my part," he said, "I think ice cold water retards digestion."

"Frankly, I fear the ice may come from ponds and dams full of decayed vegetable matter and may have germs of malaria or typhoid," explained the second.

"I dislike the chemical taste of artificial ice," said the third.

"It's just habit with me," spoke up the fourth. "I'm an Englishman, and was brought up to take water uniced."

But the man who didn't want to retard his digestion drank a stein of ice cold beer. The one who feared germs ordered raw oysters; the one who disliked the "chemical taste" drank Tom gin, and the Englishman ordered sauerkraut.—New York Mail.

Complications in Answer.

"Johnny, dear," said the visitor. John McTurk turned around while the family cat resumed her tail from his grubby fist.

"Now that you are going to school," continued the visitor, "I want to ask you a little question. How many marbles would you get if I gave you twenty to be divided between you and Andrew MacDonald?"

Johnny thoughtfully rubbed the point of his nose where the cat had scratched him.

"I dunno-ken," he said.

"Come, come," said the elder "How's that?"

"Well, ma'am," said Johnny, "ye see it's according if ye gie me ten when we're both here, we'd hae ten apiece. If Andrew was here and I wasna, I'd only hae about five. But if I were to get them when Andrew wasna here I dunna ken whether he'd hae any at all."

Katherine's Kindness.

Katherine is two and a half years old. Her father came home one afternoon, after working three days and three nights at high pressure, with almost no sleep. He lay down with the feeling that he did not want to wake up for a week. Half an hour later, from the depths of his dreams, he heard a small, clear voice: "Father!"

The sleeper stirred and turned his head on the pillow.

"Father! Father!"

"He stirred and moaned. 'Father! Father!'

He struggled and resisted and floundered, and finally raised his eyelids like a man lifting heavy weights. He saw Katherine smiling divinely beside his couch.

"Father! Father!"



SUPERSTITION IN TIBET

TIBET, the mountain-cradled land of mystery, is slowly giving up its secrets, though the time is far distant when familiarity will breed contempt. The sharpest contrasts to the civilization of the old and new worlds are there seen against the picturesque background of an immemorial past, extending so far back as 629 A. D., when Buddhism was first introduced from India.

There are wizards and necromancers enough in the country to run the industries of a thriving modern town, and it is difficult for a westerner to understand how the natives can unquestioningly accept their hazy, hazy, and indubitable proofs of supernatural powers. No Occidental can thoroughly understand the beliefs and practices of a people like the Tibetans, unless his mind is entirely denuded of its material prepossessions. Buddhism embraces practically the whole social structure of the people, for the half million Ponbo, who conserve the earlier religion of the land, are the victims of similar superstitions and practices.

In no other country in the world is the priestly influence so paramount. Wizards abound. Exorcists and religious impostors live on the fat of the land. For all the people of Tibet and far Eastern Asia, of whom the world knows little, the universe is full of immaterial powers and intelligences, demoneal and dangerous. Every incident is believed to have supernatural significance. All the epochs of life are ordered by the wizards or the down-at-heel monastic priests, who thrive especially among the poorer classes. The people build many temples, exhaust their resources in erecting statues, they prostrate themselves, sing weird hymns and utter endless prayers, make offerings and give banquets to all the gods and all the devils.

Sorcerers' Thriving Trade.

The wizard in Tibet is a sort of universal provider of every kind of assistance. It is the wizard who comes to the sick man's bedside. If he dies a commemorative ceremony is held a year after his decease. Every year libations are offered to the shades of dead ancestors. A cord is stretched before each tent, horizontally, and streamers covered with Buddhist inscriptions are fastened to it. It is more than probable that the departure of many sick to the other world is hastened by the dancing sorcerer, or magpa, as he is called, and his horrible yells, supposed to be calls for aid.

The sorcerer also does a thriving trade as a fortune teller, while divination is a remunerative side line. When pebbles are arranged in a certain way they are supposed to convey an oracular message, and the inspection of the shoulder blade of a sheep, when held close to the fire, is also part of the fake ceremonial. There is no end to it. A house has to be built a village needs quelling, the crops are backward and scanty, the region needs rain, there is a marriage, a funeral or a birth—for all these affairs a wizard is called in for advice, and for the exercise of his mysterious powers over all forces that work against the well-being of mankind.

Most of the wizard-priests are men of dissolute habits and of repulsive demeanor. Some engage themselves for the merest pittance, a few bowls of rice, a few cobs of maize and a general debauch when the feasts celebrating any of their professional duties are carried out.

Lawalism is the particular form of Buddhism of which these superstitious practices form an integral part, and the strange ritual of the Ponbo sect is much the same. But the Ponbo priests are compelled to celibacy. Some of them live in convents and others are distributed among the population, from whom they are scarcely distinguishable. As far as he monks, the more solitary they are the greater their reputation as magicians. When engaged in their mystic rites the sorcerers belonging to the Ponbo sect wear a tall pointed black hat, surmounted by a peacock's feather, a death's head and a pair of crossed thunderbolts, and beat a drum formed of two human skulls. There is one well still practiced among them which until recent years has been occasionally used by rustics in out-of-the-way parts of Europe. This is the sticking of pins into the eyes of a man over whom it is desired to cast a spell.

Weird Cure of Diseases.

The methods employed to cure diseases are extremely weird. One prescription is to dress up a clay figure in the sick man's clothes. His name is written upon the figure, which is thrown away. They believe that the

spirit of death mistakes the little statue for the patient himself and, deceived into thinking him to be dead, troubles him no more.

When a Tibetan is accused of having a demon, it is one of the worst misfortunes that could befall him. He may appeal to the official administrator of justice, who himself often turns away in fear from reputed victims. He is ostracized in the harshest ways and is everywhere an outcast, and there is no hope for him unless he is able to consult an honorable member of the exorcist fraternity. Fees for this affair are generally reckoned exorbitant. Even if the demon-possessed individual can scrape together the fee, anything may happen to him. The exorcist may drive a nail into his temple, or stick a needle through his arm, or prescribe repeated portions of abominable maize spirit for a given number of days. But whatever may be the nature of the remedy, the effects leave the man generally so much of a physical wreck that he is led to believe that the demon has left him, not without giving him rather a bad shake-up in the departure. When convalescent he is again allowed to become a decent member of the community.

The "Forbidden Land" is enclosed between the Kuen Lun and Himalaya mountains, and covers an area eight times the size of Great Britain. Its remote and almost inaccessible location counts for much in the preservation of racial peculiarities, making Tibet still the ethnological museum of the world. There are in all 3,000,000 Tibetans, subjects of India and China respectively. They are supple and graceful, and possess gentleness not devoid of hypocrisy. The chief features of the country are the 3,000 mountains, perched like fortresses upon the mountain rocks, symbols of a priestly tyranny which is likely to prevail for many a long day.

YOUNG CROW HAD TO LEARN

Veteran Seaman Draws Moral From Fate of Bird Who Refused to Listen to Its Elders.

"There's nothing like experience," said Captain Robert C. Warr of the Campania, who has retired from sea life after 49 years' service. "When the young and enthusiastic and bold sneer at the caution of old age I think of two crows."

"Look at that beautiful woman in the cornfield there! a young crow cried."

"Beautiful woman! Nonsense! retorted the old bird. 'That's a scarecrow!'"

"But how do you know it's a scarecrow?"

"Because there's no man about. Do you suppose a beautiful woman would loaf all day long in one place if there wasn't a man somewhere near to admire her?"

"I'm sure it's a beautiful woman," insisted the young crow. "And there, too, is a man's figure behind the oak. I'm going over to size her up."

"And the young crow flew off, and a gun banged, and a few minutes later he came limping back with a broken wing and a hole in his leg."

"Ah," sneered the old crow, "you youngsters are all alike—think you know more about women than your elders!"

Her Pen Betrays Her.

A man whose fountain pen requires repairs, and borrows his wife's to use in the interval, has a chance to make an interesting study. A woman's pen, like a woman's watch, has a psychology of its own. It betrays the feminine temperament in every movement.

Generally you find that, in order to get the pen to write at all, you have to dip it to one side, for women always write with the side or edge of a pen. If you can get it to scratch a little as it goes over the paper, it will write; if it can't, it leaves the paper blank. If you lay it down flat on the paper, it leaks ink. It betrays by its general conduct that it is carried wrong end up when not in action—or sometimes one end up and sometimes the other.

It is a mystery why a woman, who can be so neat and orderly about her house, and who will not let you displace a dolly on the back of a chair, can always be relied on to get a watch out of order and demoralize a pen.

Warning. "They say a lot about that old man's bad temper, but I am going to test him." "Then you'll see him next."