

OUR WEATHER PREDICTIONS.

A week ago tonight we had the following in our editorial column: "The clouds in the sky today mean that tomorrow and Thursday and Friday and Saturday will be bright and sunshiny. We know because we saw it in an almanac." No one took the remark seriously and it was not intended as a pearl of wisdom. Last night we published the following in the same column: "The prediction that we made last Tuesday that the shower that day meant sunshine the rest of the week proved to be true, and better than the weather man's guess, for he predicted showers each day of the carnival." To this little side remark our good friend, Mr. Bell, the local weather bureau head, took exception, not because it was any reflection on him, but because he said it was a solar plexus blow at the entire weather bureau service. We explained to him carefully that we were trying to establish our claims to be a good judge of weather conditions and wanted to substantiate our judgment which we took from a patent medicine almanac. We did not want to say a word against the weather bureau service and we did not. We appreciate the great service that this bureau is to the whole country. The office here is but one of hundreds of units. Each office reports the conditions daily to the head office in its territory. From these reports, scientifically compiled, the forecasts are made up and sent out to the various stations in that district. In the case of Roseburg the reports are made up and sent to Portland. From these reports the Portland station makes out its forecast and sends it to Roseburg where it is printed and sent out or delivered to the papers and those who are interested. The same process is carried out at all other stations. Forecasts are wrong from time to time. Were there any one who could forecast anything absolutely accurately for the future he would be worth all that he cared to be worth. No one can foretell the rise or fall of the market, who will be nominated for president, what the weather will be tomorrow, what has will be on the statute books after the election this fall or anything else. He may look the situation over, carefully weight conditions with all the information and knowledge at his command and then he may say that in his opinion the result will be so and so or such and such. If the event transpires he is considered a man of good judgment. If not the prediction passes into history and he was simply mistaken. It is of little consequence one way or another unless he happens to have staked money on his prediction.

But the weather bureau bases its forecasts on scientific information gathered hourly through the day. There is little guess work. The man who makes the forecasts knows that when the wind, the barometer and the other elements combine in a certain record that from thousands of other observations and experiments that it will probably rain within the next twenty-four hours. Other records would lead him to say that the sun would shine. Still others would indicate a heavy windstorm. Others hail, etc. The weather forecasts are perhaps the most accurate that we have. It is safe to say that between 90 and 95 per cent of all weather forecasts are accurate. Farmers who are alert depend upon them. Others who depend upon the weather conditions consult them from day to day and are guided by them. But they are not infallible. The forecasts are simply opinions backed up by a long line of scientific observations and experiments. They are the best that a finite mind can make when it copes with the infinite. Conditions in the atmosphere may change suddenly—we have all observed this—and a terrific storm may come out of a perfectly clear sky. When the atmospheric conditions change thus suddenly the forecasts are necessarily wrong. Not through any fault of those who were making the observations and records but because the observer was unable to foretell this sudden change or make a record of it.

We meant no harm to Mr. Bell nor to the weather bureau service. We could harm neither if we wanted to. In our desire to call attention to the carnival weather conditions and our playful prediction concerning the same we have innocently given offense to one whom we hold as a friend. Over this we are sincerely regretful.

It might be considered egotism to record under the caption "This Date in History" that our baby boy was born in Ohio three years ago today. But we know some grand

parents that think it ought to be there in that column.

This Date in History

MAY 21.

- 1505—John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism, born. Died in 1572.
- 1650—John Eliott, the apostle to the Indians, died in Roxbury, Mass. Born in England in 1604.
- 1837—Taverns of Boston closed against the sale of liquor on the Sabbath.
- 1858—One of the first expeditions to the gold regions left Lawrence, Kas., for Pike's Peak.
- 1864—First express trains run between New York and Buffalo.
- 1874—United States military prison established at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., by act of Congress.
- 1894—Queen Victoria inaugurated the Manchester Ship Canal.
- 1911—Henri M. Berteaux, French minister of war, killed in a monoplane accident in Paris.

The Idler's Corner

More Charitable.

He stepped from the stairs leading to the cells into the court as though to the manner born. Did he want the deputy to show him where to stand? Not he!

He gazed up at the familiar face of the magistrate and half-smiled. But his honor's face wore a frown.

"This is the seventeenth time I've seen you before me," said the candi sternly.

This was not the sort of reception he had expected. He was hurt.

"Well, yer honor," he said sadly. "I've seen you sittin' in that chair for eight years, but I've never thought of complainin'!"

When Woman Wins.

'Twas in the year 2011, and the intrepid General was rallying her wavering female troops.

"Women!" she cried, "will you give way to manly fears?"

A timid murmur ran through the ranks. "Shall it be said we are clothed in mail armor?" shrieked the leader.

The murmur grew more confused. "Will you," came the taunting cry from their gallant general, "show the white feather at this time of the year, when leathers are out of fashion?"

The effect was wonderful, astounding, marvelous!

A Lifetime's Chance.

Hostess (who has told her schoolboy visitors to help themselves to strawberries)—Well, have you found some nice ones?

Lionel—Oh, yes, thanks very much—and I'm afraid we've taken rather a lot; but then, as I said to Herbert, it's the chance of a lifetime.—Punch.

The Real Test.

Girl Sikes—"I wish I knew how to tell whether Sadie likes me."

Law Todd—"That's easy. Tell her you're going to jump off the barn in a home-made 'lyn' machine and see if she looks worried."—Chicago News.

"For heaven's sake!" he exclaimed when he had tried on his new suit, "why have you put such enormous pockets in my coat and trousers?"

"Oh," the tailor confessed, "I must beg your pardon for that. It was a mistake. You see, I have been doing business in a town where the saloons were all closed on Sundays."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"I was after a buck," explained the city sportsman, "but I seem to have shot your cow."

"She's worth just 50 bucks," responded the farmer. "Kindly hand 'em over."

"Marry me," said the duke.

"Big, duke," responded the heiress. "I feel somewhat committed to the court."

"Have no regret on that score. I gave the count a \$5 note and bought him off."

"Could you spend \$10,000 a year if you had it?"

"No. Some chump would tell my wife that I had it."—Chicago News.

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