

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO..... OREGON

Who ran away with the century question?

Emperor William's play, "The Iron Tooth," is reported to be a failure. It must be decent.

Evidently it is the desire of Mr. Frick to get Mr. Carnegie's surplus library fund into a circulating form.

An oyster combine is typical of the trust idea because the shelling out is one of its primary principles.

Silk handkerchiefs are now being made up into shirt waists. Last year's shirt waists can be ripped up into handkerchiefs.

That the flour trust should be among the first to go under is significant. It typifies the people between the upper and the nether millstone.

With coal at \$125 a ton in Alaska the man who discovers a mine of the "black diamonds" can laugh at the efforts of the gold miners to acquire wealth.

Conan Doyle claims to have invented a gunsight that will enable an Englishman to shoot as straight as a Boer. This fiction has less color of plausibility than any tale the noted novelist ever concocted.

A man who rescued a widow from death was married to her three days after his heroic act. When they have their first quarrel there will be an opportunity for him to say things that will cut her to the quick.

In England the sexes seem to be changing places. While women are going into the professions a London paper reports hundreds of young men from France, Austria, Switzerland and other continental countries seeking housework. The young men, it is said, are both faithful and competent.

A girl who was married to a man after an acquaintance of three days complains because he turns out to be a convict and not the naval captain he represented himself to be. While she undoubtedly has cause to mourn, it is hardly right that she should receive all the sympathy. The man, on his part, ran some risk. He was probably led to believe that he was getting a wife who possessed reasoning powers.

The frugality which impels millionaires to perjure themselves in order to avoid the payment of taxes is not confined to any one locality nor to any country. In this land of freedom we see gentlemen reputed to be habitual coupon-clippers appearing before the Board of Review and swearing that they are upon the verge of starvation. In Germany tax-dodging is more risky business, but even there it is declared that the tax-gatherer is evaded to a very considerable extent by the extremely rich men. In England we have seen the late Duke of Westminster's estate declared at £504,229, though it is notorious that its real value is nearer £14,000,000. The object, of course, is to dodge the inheritance tax. All this perjury is confined to personal property taxes, because real estate can't be hidden from the assessor.

It is said that the ever-increasing lecture habit and the growing number of people who feel called upon to reveal the "whimsies" in their brains has caused the commonplace, listening soul to develop into a mere sponge, the clammy recipient of the unfiltered waters of knowledge. As a reaction against this attitude some specialists, with the fires of real genius in their brains, refuse to spread the flames, or to contribute one more bee to the bonnets already filled with the hum of these insects. These protesters go so far as to disapprove of the university extension movement, and to look upon it as an unwise method of distributing crumbs of culture that are calculated to create dangerous cravings. There is no doubt that people are being lectured to death and that the minds of versatile listeners resemble a junk shop, or the ragbag that is filled with handsome but useless scraps. Yet there is something to be said for the sponge. It is a responsive thing, and, if it takes in with greediness, it gives out as freely. But here the analogy fails. Too many people are occupied solely with taking in and are too little concerned with the thought that it is their duty to give out at least a part of that which they have taken in.

The care of the aged and the infirm whose poverty prevents them from providing for themselves is a matter of importance to every taxpayer. While the support of our almshouses and public homes is an expensive item in our system of charities, many of them furnish provision for their inmates that borders upon the barbarous, and at best the system seems something like

consigning people to imprisonment for the crime of being old and poor. Germany and Denmark pay old age pensions. In Germany there is a system of compulsory insurance against old age, and that would seem to be the proper method. Dependent old age is very largely the result of improvident living. The average man could save enough between the ages of 18 and 65 to enable him to live better for the balance of his life than he could live in the average almshouse, if he would. In 1898 Germany paid to 400,000 pensioners \$13,750,000. The pension fund, to which compulsory contribution had been made, amounted to \$8,390,000. The deficit was furnished by the government. But a system that embodied the principles of life insurance and was also based upon incomes would supply the whole amount, and prevent the irritation which the taxpayer often feels when thinking that he is compelled to support an old man who has been wasting his means during his whole life.

In a State Supreme Court recently—we shield the State from the disgrace by not giving its name—a judge said: "If a railroad company kills a child, its parents should be satisfied with a dollar's damages. Children are a source of expense to their parents and are of no pecuniary benefit." An expression like that seems like an echo from the deluded mother on the banks of the Ganges, though her mistaken sentiment that leads her to the sacrifice of her babe clothes her with a nobility in comparison to which the heart of this civilized American judge, in this nineteenth century, is a hive of barbarism and heathenism. There is a widespread undervaluation of the worth of human life. The lives of men are crystallized into wealth—which others than they enjoy—and when death closes the scene of the individual's exhaustive activity, the event is as unimportant as was the slaughter of captives that were lashed to the wheels of Alexander's chariot. There is a brutal contempt for sanctity of life abroad, and as the spirit of greed develops, drying up human sympathies and benumbing the nobility of manhood, this contempt becomes more and more flagrant. But there are few men, even among the most hardened and degraded, to whom the life of a child is not beautiful and does not appeal for protection. It is a warped manhood and anything but a nineteenth century heart that can give birth to a thought like that which this judge expressed upon the bench. It is treason to humanity and an insult to our civilization.

In Great Britain the ministers of the crown have larger war-making powers than an American President enjoys at the opening of hostilities. They can give the signal for war without consulting Parliament—although Parliament must be summoned within ten days after the reserves are called out—whereas the President cannot enter upon a military campaign without the consent of Congress. In 1857 the House of Commons expressed disapproval of Lord Palmerston's war measures against China. He did not retire from office, but dissolved Parliament, appealed to the country, and after a general election was able to command a majority in the new House of Commons. Parliament can withhold the money required for the expenses of war, but this is seldom done, since the ministers can almost always enlist the support of the Commons when a campaign is considered necessary. The ministers of the crown are responsible for the declaration of war, and at the close of hostilities they can negotiate peace without the consent of Parliament. They have, therefore, supreme authority in the opening and closing stages of war with a foreign state. Parliament can pass votes of censure, move addresses to the crown, and withhold the money required for the military and naval services, but each of these acts can be made a challenge to a general election, in which the country will stand by the government. Under the American Constitution Congress alone is empowered to declare war, and at the close of a campaign the treaty of peace must be sanctioned by two-thirds of the Senate. The President does not have so free a hand in war-time as the British premier. War is, however, so terrible a calamity that the responsibility for it ought to be shared with the national legislature and not carried by any group of cabinet ministers. The American method may not offer any additional safeguard against unjust or unnecessary warfare, but it is in closer accord than the English system with the genius of representative government.

The Kew Gardens.

The finest gardens in the world are the Royal Gardens, at Kew, England. They cover an area of about 270 acres, and are visited by about 1,500,000 persons a year. The gardens contain the finest collection of exotic plants in the world, a palm house, a winter garden, a museum, an observatory, and a school for gardeners.

When a school teacher is found who is a good cook, the impression is created that the general superintendent of destinies somehow got things badly mixed.

NATURE.

As a fond mother, when the day is o'er,
Leads by the hand her little child to bed,
Half willing, half reluctant to be led,
And leave his broken playthings on the floor,
Still gazing at them through the open door,
Nor wholly reassured and comforted
By promises of others in their stead,
Which, though more splendid, may not please him more—
So Nature deals with us and takes away
Our playthings, one by one, and by the hand
Leads us to rest so gently that we go
Scarce knowing if we wished to go or stay,
Being too full of sleep to understand
How far the unknown transcends the what we know.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Aunt Phebe's Story.

I AM willing to confess that I would have married Gus Waters at a word. He was the sort of young man a girl instinctively likes and trusts. Perhaps this is not the kind of feeling the story books call love, but I fancy it is just as good.

Gus was good-looking, with strongly marked features, rather tall, and well built, and when he chose to be well dressed made a good appearance, and never looked ill, however old his clothes might be, when about his ordinary work. He did not depend upon his clothes to command respect.

He had a calm, confident air, and could express himself concisely when he needed to assert authority. That is what a woman likes—to have a man able to deal with men and not be turned aside from his purpose or make a mistake. He was a good talker, with a fine, coy humor, not putting himself forward to be amusing, but easily holding his own. Like most strong men, Gus was hard to provoke to a quarrel, though in his school days he had his allowance of fistful encounters.

Yes, I will admit I would have married Gus had he asked me, though I did not think he was in love with me nor I with him. I did not believe he would fall deeply in love with anyone.

Perhaps I was too reserved, or feared to show a decided preference unless it was shown first, though other girls said I threw myself at his head, and was greatly chagrined when he devoted himself to Hattie Trude. I had other admirers, and if I was not as handsome as Hattie, mere beauty is not everything. There is no denying that Hattie was the prettiest girl of our set, and she was pretty without having to care for her complexion or wear becoming clothes. We girls all knew she was intolerably selfish, and wondered that the young men did not find her out. But beauty hides a great many defects of character, and if a girl only pretends to be kind and sympathetic she is supposed to possess all the angelic qualities.

One day Robert Carpenter asked me to marry him. He proposed in a blundering, roundabout way, so clumsily that I did not know at first what he meant. He made me almost as confused as himself, and whether I said yes or no I do not now recollect, but he went away smiling, so I conclude he thought himself an accepted lover, and I had a ring which I put away in a box, undecided whether to wear it or give it back.

I don't think I expected that Gus would hear of this and come forward as Robert's rival. He did not, at any rate. When I met him he simply said: "Well, little girl, so you are engaged to Carpenter. He is a good fellow, but you are young. You should have waited a little longer."

"An engagement does not mean marriage," I replied, somewhat sharply.

"No, but I think it ought. It keeps many young men straight to be engaged, but they ought to feel confident that the girl's heart is fixed upon them."

"Perhaps the girl's heart has little to do with the matter nowadays. She has to consider other things."

"Yes, I suppose so. But the heart is not to be ignored."

This was about all that was said—nothing to suggest that Gus was jealous or likely to enter the list for my hand. Nor did I expect it, though gossips reported the contrary.

Robert was impatient to be married, but I was not. He accused me of being cold, and of not reciprocating his passion. Possibly all men in love are apt to act childishly. I found Robert's attentions wearisome. It might be said that he would be cured of them by marriage, but this is a painful experience to look forward to.

One evening we had a quarrel. He accused me of a secret admiration for Mr. Hayes—that I held him off hoping Gus would come forward as a suitor, and added, as a final rebuke, that he and Hattie Trude had been married the day before. He showed me a paper with the marriage notice printed in it.

I was so angry at the accusation that at first I told him the engagement between us was broken. Then he began to plead for himself, expressing such sorrow at his hasty words that gradually I relented. After all, had I treated

him rightly? At last I agreed to marry him at once. It was becoming the fashion to plan a half elopement and save the expenses and publicity of a regular wedding at home. I consented to marry him the next day.

After Robert departed I looked for the newspaper containing the notice, but could not find it. He had had several in his hand, but the special copy he had taken with him. I do not know what prompted me to write a note of congratulation to Gus and dispatch it by my brother Ned, a lad of 12. I mentioned having seen the notice in the paper, and said I was sorry he had not confided in me.

It was after 10 o'clock, and I retired to my room. Half an hour later I heard Ned coming upstairs. He stopped at my door.

"Did you see Gus?" I asked from within.

"Yes. He's downstairs. He came back with me."

"What does he want?"

"He wants to see you, I guess."

"What for?"

"He didn't say. Probably wants to borrow your overshoes. Better go down and ask him."

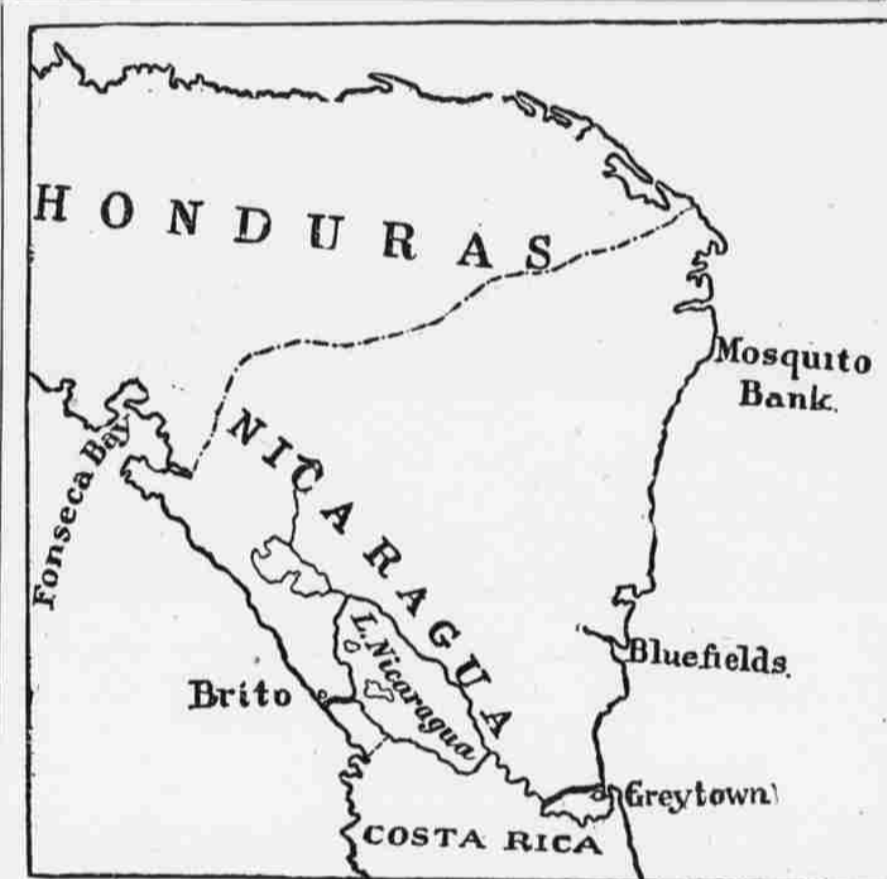
I went down. He didn't want to borrow anything. On the contrary, he wanted me to give him something to keep—my hand, my heart. He said the notice of his being married was a confounded fraud—that Robert must have had it inserted in a few copies of the paper by special agreement—it could be

CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

History of the Compact Between United States and Great Britain.

The "Clayton-Bulwer treaty" derives its name from the diplomatists who negotiated it—on the part of the United States, Hon. John M. Clayton, Secretary of State in President Taylor's administration; and on the part of England, Sir Henry Bulwer, British minister at Washington. The "treaty"—to use proper diplomatic language it was a "convention," and not a treaty—was concluded in 1850. Its purpose was to promote the building of an isthmian canal, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In 1849 the United States had made a convention with Nicaragua for constructing such a canal, starting at Greytown, on the Atlantic. But Greytown was occupied by British settlers, and Great Britain claimed a protectorate over the Mosquito Indians, who held the eastern coast of Nicaragua. The United States desired Great Britain to waive its claims, but as the request was denied the next best thing seemed to be the establishment of a joint protectorate over the proposed canal. This was done by the "Clayton-Bulwer treaty," one condition of which was that neither power should secure exclusive privileges in the canal, and another that neither power should occupy or exercise dominion over any part of Central America.

Since the convention was made. #21



TERRITORY INVOLVED IN CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

done if one was willing to pay for it. He was in quite an excited frame of mind, and I hardly knew my usual placid Gus.

"Of course, when you were engaged to Robert, it was not for me to make any attempt to win you. I thought you knew your own mind, and had decided that I was not the sort of fellow you cared to marry. But this trick gives me a right to speak. Am I too late?"

Naturally, I told him he was. That if he had cared for me in that way he ought to have come forward long before. Now that my word was pledged to Robert, and I could not think of breaking it, though he had acted in a most despicable manner, in a manner to make me ashamed to think he was my pledged lover—and so on.

To which Gus replied:

"All right, little girl. If you think so, I had better go and give him the worst licking he ever had in his life, even though they do send me to jail for it. But you won't care."

"I shall care."

"Then we'd better get married at once, early to-morrow morning. How early can you be ready?"

I ought to have resisted longer, but I didn't. I consented to be ready at any hour that he should name—and I was—and we were married.

And that is all there is to the story.

Blind People.

So far as the most recent statistics go, the known proportion of blind people is about one in fifteen hundred, which would give a total of one million blind in the world. The largest proportion is found in Russia, which has in Europe 200,000 blind in a population of 96,000,000, or one in 480. Most of these are found in the northern provinces of Finland, and the principal cause is ophthalmia, due to bad ventilation of the huts of the peasantry and the inadequate facilities for treatment. There is a great deal of blindness in Egypt, due to glowing sand.

Largest Geyser in the World.

The largest geyser in the world is the Excelsior geyser in Yellowstone Park. Its basin is 200 feet across and 330 feet deep. The basin is full of boiling water, from which clouds of steam are constantly ascending. At long intervals water is spouted into the air to a height of from fifty to 300 feet.

Britain in America.

British landlords are said to own 20,000 acres of land in the United States, an area larger than that of Ireland.

especially during the last few years, the building of an isthmian canal has become increasingly important to the United States; but it is important also that the canal should be under the sole control of the United States. This could not be while the convention was in force. It has been sometimes suggested, but never formally insisted upon in diplomatic correspondence, that Great Britain has violated the convention by continuing to exercise dominion over British Honduras. So long as Great Britain did not take this view of the matter, awkward questions might arise after the canal should be constructed.

The recent Hay-Pauncefote pact, abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, provides for a neutral channel. This instrument leaves the United States free to build and control a canal, which is not to be fortified, but to be kept always open and neutral, under the rules which govern the management of the Suez Canal. Opponents of the measure claim that it admits all the dangerous features of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty without compensating advantages, and that, as usual, England concedes what she does not hold to obtain what she wants, but cannot get.

Snake Bite in India.

Fully twenty thousand of the population of India are annually killed by snake bites. The most deadly of all Indian reptiles appears to be the cobra di capello, which is greatly dreaded by the bare-legged Hindoos. With a view to reducing the mortality, the government tried the effect of offering a reward for snakes' heads; but, instead of diminishing the number of these reptiles, it only increased it, as it was discovered that the natives were breeding the snakes in order to secure the reward.

High Priced.

The most expensive material worked into a garment was the gold brocade purchased in 1670 for a robe for King Louis XIV., at a cost of about \$85 a yard. Not long ago, however, the German Empress had a coverlet woven in white silk upon a flat background, on which flowers, leaves and birds projected in relief. The design was not embroidered, but woven in a unique way. The Empress was so pleased with it that she employed it as a tapestry for her boudoir. The cost of this material was \$112 a yard, of which the weaver got one-sixth.

Gratitude is a sublime passion, but like all other sublime things it is rare