

## LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO.....OREGON

Trouble never comes singly to a bigamist.

The only people in France who take no interest in duels are the undertakers.

The south pole is no doubt beginning to feel as if it were already lashed.

Royal weddings continue, and the people of Europe continue to pay for them.

What has become of the man who used to say that his home was wherever he took his hat off?

Sir Thomas Lipton says that it is luck to be born poor. It may be luck to be born poor, but it is hard luck to live so.

The Kaiser's new Dreadnought is said to be so fast that she easily outdistances even the criticism of the Socialists.

The discovery that cancer cannot live in the same place with Limburger cheese is of particular comfort to folks who have either.

Gypsy Smith's favorite song is, "Where He Leads I Will Follow." That's the one that made Edna May famous, and won her a rich husband.

"Is the college girl a mollycoddle?" the New York World asks. That's a question for some other fellow to answer. Jumping in where angels fear to tread is not a pleasant pastime.

A man who has been arrested at Yonkers, N. Y., for bigamy admits that he can't remember the names of all his wives. It is probable, however, that he could, if he were to meet them, truthfully say their faces were familiar.

A desire to enjoy the privileges of democracy and to be independent once in a while of the claims of royalty is the reason given by Princess Christian, the eldest surviving daughter of the late Queen Victoria, for joining a woman's club.

Captain Amundsen is going to start for the north pole, taking with him a food supply great enough to last seven years. He evidently is determined to avoid any danger of being doubted, when he returns, because of the speed he had to make in order to avoid running out of pemmican.

What this world needs is new and better men and women, who will find at hand all the religious help that is necessary without devising new systems of ethical culture. Not all men are intellectual Brahmins, who can feast their souls on academic ideals. Most of us need the personal help and sympathy of a Divine Being, who is to us a reality and not a theory of living.

Eight new sanctuaries for birds and animals have been set apart in the state of Victoria, Australia, by the government within a year. This is in addition to the ordinary protection afforded by law to kangaroos, platypus, magpies, laughing jackals and certain other animals, and is intended to prevent the extermination of native creatures. Several years ago a private citizen established a game sanctuary in South Australia, and the birds within it are now about as tame as domesticated chickens. A similar fearlessness of man is noted in the East African game preserve along the railroad on which Mr. Roosevelt traveled on his way to the hunting fields.

Paper of a stronger texture, something that will stand the test of time, better than that commonly used for legal documents and public records, is earnestly urged by a prominent official whose recent researches have impressed upon him the increasingly perishable nature of that now used. Undoubtedly his plea is well founded, and it might have been extended to cover the paper used in books and newspapers, that is, the books and newspapers which are worth preserving. As a matter of cheapness, such a quality of paper is now generally used that its lease of life is certain to be much shorter than that used in earlier years. Paper can be made from many different materials, and is employed for a multitude of uses; but principally it is used, and will continue to be used, as an adjunct of "the art preservative," and in this connection it is desirable that it be as substantial and durable as possible.

Interest in the Darien Canal project has lately been revived in Columbia. An engineer who is trying to get a concession from the government for the construction of the canal.

London seeking British capital for the enterprise. The recently appointed Japanese consul general in Bogota expresses an intention to co-operate with the engineer. Those familiar with the history of the Darien project will naturally infer that there is more international politics than canal building in the renewed discussion of it. The Darien route by the way of the Atrato River was explored by American engineers in 1857, in 1870 and in 1899, but the difficulties in the way were so great that the project was abandoned. It is true that Senator Hanna talked about this route during the negotiations over the Nicaragua and Panama projects, but it is generally believed that this was for the purpose of bringing the other negotiations to a successful issue. Four other general routes across the isthmus have been considered besides the Darien, Nicaragua and Panama locations. One is by way of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico, and the other three are in Panama: the Chiriqui Lagoon-Dulce Gulf route, the San Blas Bay-Bayano River route, and the Caledonia-San Miguel Bay route. A railroad has been built across Tehuantepec by Mexico, and the canal project there has not been seriously considered for years. The San Blas and the Caledonia Bay and the Atrato routes involve the construction of a tunnel, and have been rejected for that reason. The Nicaragua route is the only one which was ever a serious rival of Panama, and the United States would now be engaged on that project of the French company had refused to sell its rights at Panama.

In suits for divorce, as in other unpleasant cases, judges have the right by law to hear testimony in private in the interest of public morality. We do not know how far this wholesome law differs in different states. It must grant everywhere wide discretion to the judge and this may include power everywhere to suppress the decree as well as the evidence and to seal the whole record file so that it never can be examined by the public. That practice has prevailed in New York City for a long time, though it was not brought to general public notice until census officials sent by President Roosevelt to obtain statistics of divorce found themselves confronted in New York with sealed records in locked safes. These cases are invariably those of rich and prominent families, or persons possessing an equal influence with the courts. This is a shameful abuse for protection of privileged classes of a law strained from the original purpose of protecting public morals. It is one thing to prevent demoralizing recital in open court and another to cover up evil whose example would be wholesome to society. The cause of public morals is not aided but injured by allowing persons of wealth and station concealment of vices which are ruthlessly exposed when practiced by humbler persons. There can be no reason for this discrimination but some form of bribe, whether paid in larger fees for secret hearings, as direct honorarium to court officers or a tribute to the political organization by which they are controlled. Why should the Astor family be broken up in secret while the frailties of John Smith and his wife are exposed to the public and spread upon the record unless it is because they pay for the privilege? These secret records are kept with peculiar care and, like the secret archives of government, will make interesting reading for posterity.

### The Fighting Parson.

When the great-grandfather of the present Duke of Norfolk was engaged in any of his electioneering contests he was always attended by his chaplain, an athletic man and one who had made such good use of his hands on several occasions that he acquired the name of "The Fighting Parson." Mr. Dauncey, an eminent counsel, having once to examine him as a witness during a trial, asked "whether he was not the gentleman called 'The Fighting Parson.'" "I believe I am, sir," the divine replied; "but if you require any more positive proof and will do me the favor to step out of court, I will give it to you under my own hand." No further evidence was taken.—Bally's Magazine.

### The Idle Soph.

The psychology students of Harvard are repeating a new witticism of their brilliant teacher, Prof. William James. Prof. James, it appears, made this comment upon a very exquisite and idle millionaire sophomore from New York:

"What time he can spare from the adornment of his person he devotes to the neglect of his duties."

### Where Thrift Falls.

Poor Richard had just written "For lack of a nail the shoe was lost."

"Never mind," we cried, "perhaps a lie was lost, too."

Thus we learn that thrift is not always desirable.—New York Sun.

Some people have better clothes than

# PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

## "TOWERS OF SILOAM LESS IN NUMBER."

By William Scott Palmer.



"Providence and prudence," said Swedenborg, "act as one." I see earthquakes and volcanoes, wrecked ships, innocent men suffering while the guilty prosper. I see microscopic parasites slaying their thousands and mosquitoes more dangerous than quick-firing guns. Disease, pain, misery, and the incidence of death, working by a grim law which is morally an indifferent chance, seem out of all connection with love or justice. My heart sickens as my mind's eye surveys the world where every living thing lives in some peril; and where the peril turns to disaster as that or this "tower of Siloam" falls without distinction upon young and old, just and unjust, valuable or worthless lives. Or so we say when the tower falls upon ourselves or upon those whom we love as we love ourselves.

Now and then something happens in the world to rid us of one of these dangerous towers, these indifferent agents of death or misery; and we breathe more freely.

For example, malaria and yellow fever are growing daily less terrible, and whole countries over which that tower always shook and often fell are freeing themselves from a death that slew indiscriminately, unlovingly, unjustly. At least this is what men say of it when it smites them in some tender place.

There are not many of us, if there are any, who would be so foolish as to mark out the boundary beyond which our use and management of things will not be able to pass, and our skill and prudence will not be able to avoid catastrophe. Some of us even believe that we may come to use our world skillfully enough to ward off all disease and bodily pain, so that life will last much longer than it does now, and death come, for by far the greater number, in the way of old age.

## WHO GAINS MOST BY MARRIAGE?

By Harold Owen.



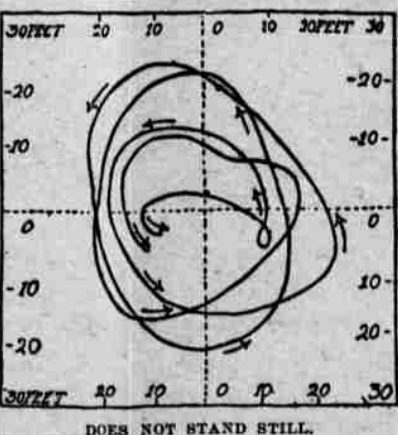
As to the comparative tribulations of the married state, does the man who marries give no hostages to fortune beyond those provided by his collaborator? Is it for his own selfish creature comforts that he boits his breakfast, rushes for the morning train and stews in the city—all to earn an income of which he personally spends only a fifth or a tithe? Are dressmakers' bills merely part of his unholy, unselfish joy? Once a man becomes a husband, has he nothing to bear and forbear? Has the compound word "hen-pecked" crept uselessly into our language? Has no man's "individuality" been sapped or overwhelmed by an overpowering personality in petticoats? Though it be true that a wife has no "wages," is a husband allowed to husband his? Though a wife may be "a slave to her husband," has the converse

## HOW THE POLE "WOBBLES."

Just to perplex Cook and Peary in their efforts to prove they reached the north pole, the scientists now soberly declare that the pole does not stand still. Instead, it moves frequently, swaying back and forth enough to perplex astronomers for more than a century.

The movement is very slight—never more than sixty feet—but even that little bit throws the exact mathematics of the heavens into error, and, of course, a north pole discoverer cannot attempt to say that he planted the flag exactly at the pole, when he cannot for the life of him tell whether the pole is where he stood or sixty feet away.

After years of observation of the mysterious movements from astronomical stations in all parts of the earth, the International Geodetic Association incorporated in its report a diagram showing the movements of the pole from 1895 to 1899. This map shows that the end of the earth's axis moved in curves and ellipses, one inside another, without seeming regularity. At no time is the pole more than thirty



DOES NOT STAND STILL.

feet from its normal position, and the diameter of its course is never more than sixty feet.

There have been various explanations of the movements of the pole. Edwin B. Frost, of the Yerkes Observatory, writing in the World To-day for November, holds that an adequate cause for part of the variations may be found in the movement of the ice, water and air from the pole toward the equator and its return.

Observations made simultaneously at Honolulu and Berlin showed that as the latitude at Honolulu decreased that at Berlin increased with the movement of the pole. The reverse also was true. This means positively that

phrase no sanction from experience? And though a mother be "a slave to her children," has a father no parental cares? Are there no households in which a father has to sink his "individuality" and preferences and wishes—allow his meals to be fixed, where he shall live, when and where he shall take his holidays and even how long he shall remain in harness—for the sake of the children? Is a "devoted husband" merely a contradiction in terms? As to the comparative losses and gains of entering the marriage state, does the man standing at the altar surrender nothing and incur no responsibilities from which he would otherwise be free, and does the woman acquire nothing but the burden of fresh duties and a gold ring of a somewhat monotonous pattern?

I apologize for the elementary and homely character of these interrogatories. But the fact that they arise out of a current controversy shows where that controversy is taking us. And so I put the question, as a matter for timely discussion. Who gains most by marriage, man or woman? And that question cannot be answered without answering the deeper question: "In the interest of which sex (apart altogether from the institution of home and the entity of family) is it most necessary that the institution of marriage should be preserved?"

## SUPERSTITION IN EARLY ART.

By Dr. Paul Carus.

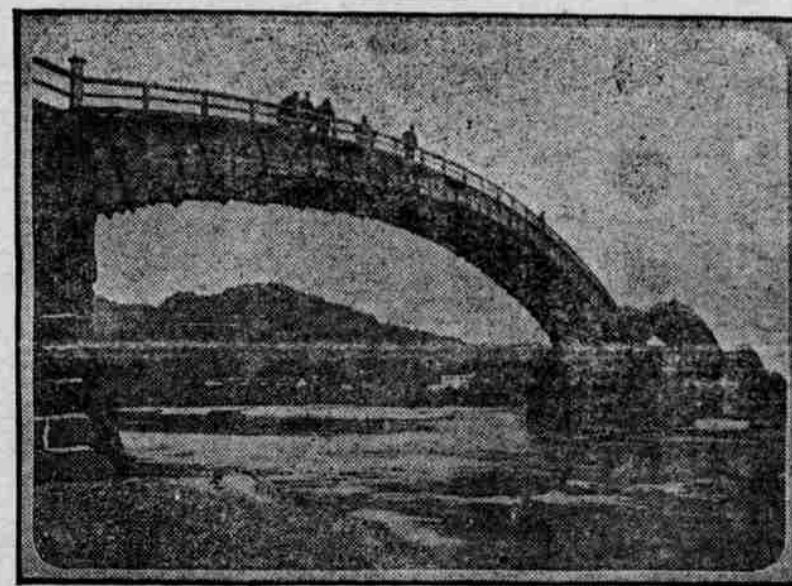


Physiologists are familiar with the fact that six fingers are sometimes actually found on one hand and that the peculiarity seems to be hereditary in certain families, but such instances are malformations and have not justified the theory that they are indications of a superiority of any kind. We have even an instance in the Bible, where a case is mentioned of a giant among the Gentile population of Palestine who was possessed of six fingers. It is reported that he was slain in battle.

Among the notions of the middle ages which are now almost forgotten was a belief that the faculty of prophetic dreams was a sixth sense, which was outwardly indicated by the possession of six fingers or six toes. No one except a searching critic may have discovered that Pope Sixtus IV., who is represented on Raphael's Sistine Madonna, is possessed of six fingers. Raphael was too great a painter not to be able to render this feature so inconspicuous as to make it difficult for a casual observer to discover the sixth finger on the Pope's hand, and yet it is plainly visible to everyone who takes the trouble to look for it.

The same is true of St. Joseph, who, according to the reports of the New Testament, receives his instructions in dreams. He accordingly is a typical example of a person who in all his walks of life is guided by divine commands tendered to him through dreams. He therefore is represented with six toes.

## BRIDGE IS 200 YEARS OLD.



REMARKABLE JAPANESE STRUCTURE IS OF WOOD AND STILL SOLID.

The Iwakuni bridge, which is 200 years old, crosses the river Nishiki, in the province of Suho. This is said to be the only wooden bridge built in the characteristic style of old Japan now remaining, all the others being replaced by steel construction designed in the modern style.—Black and White.

there is a shifting of the axis of the earth.

A Japanese astronomer, Kimura, argues that the movement of the earth's axis and the pole can be explained by the theory that the center of gravity of the earth is not fixed, but moves backward and forward five or six feet every year. Mr. Frost thinks, however, that this explanation cannot be considered as established by fact.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### Government's "Blue Book."

The United States official register or "blue book," which has been published biennially since 1817, was of over 4,000 pages in two large volumes in 1905, the Washington Post says. Before 1817 the germ of the publication had been appearing for over twenty years in the shape of simple lists of government clerks transmitted to congress by the secretaries, but in that year provision was made for issuing regularly a complete register. There was a time when the blue book was a convenient size for the pocket, though containing a full roster.

During Washington's administration the secretaries of state, treasury and war, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton and Henry Knox, transmitted the names of their clerks to

congress, and in 1793 Secretary Hamilton forwarded to congress a general list of clerks, agents and employes on the government rolls. This latter, being printed, was the first blue book or register. The government was then in Philadelphia, and in the three departments there were less than 150 names, two-thirds being in the treasury.

### Resigned To It.

Taking oneself too seriously is supposed to be an American trait. At any rate, it is found in America. The late Edward Everett Hale, in "We, the People," cites a remark of Thomas Carlyle apropos of this habit.

Margaret Fuller had perhaps taken herself the least bit too seriously. She had said that she had determined "to accept the universe."

"She had better," said Carlyle.

### Never Forgets 'Em.

"Maude is continually giggling. She seems to have an ever-present sense of humor."

"Not at all. What she has is simply an ever-present consciousness of dimples."—Boston Transcript.

The vices of New York, although so numerous and terrible, and never mentioned except during an election.