

THANKSGIVING DAY.

THE YEAR 1621 had been one that tried the souls of the band of Pilgrim fathers who had settled on the not always smiling and friendly shores of Massachusetts. Many dangers had been encountered, many pinching privations endured, and not infrequently death had visited them, since their landing the previous December on Plymouth Rock. Yet not everything had gone entirely wrong. There were rifts in the clouds. The heart of hope yet beat strongly. They had found that the soil was productive, and their little harvest, enough, with strict economy to tide them over the ensuing long winter, had been successfully garnered, and meat in plenty walked in or flew over the adjacent forests. So, realizing that matters might be worse, and that they had much in spite of all their trials, deprivations, difficulties and dangers, to be thankful for, the leading elders of the colony set apart a day of Thanksgiving and prayer—thanksgiving for mercies and blessings, for life, liberty, hope and faith, and prayer for guidance, strength and mercy from on high. It was largely a religious ceremonial, yet even those Puritanical elders did not discountenance the festive feature of the occasion, the governor himself sending fowling pieces to four of the best hunters of the colony, "that there might be wherewithal for a feast of rejoicing." And a large part of their captured "wherewithal" were wild turkeys.

The first Thanksgiving celebration probably occurred in October, as it was held out of doors, and continued to a greater or less extent for most of a week, and one or more days were thus annually celebrated in New England thereafter, though not on any fixed date—whenever it seemed most appropriate—and the custom gradually spread to the middle states, and then south and west with migrating New Englanders.

Our set and formal Thanksgiving day dates back only to 1863, when President Lincoln recommended that the last Thursday in November be set apart and observed by the people as a day of contrition, prayer and thanksgiving. The nation was passing through an awful ordeal. It was a dark and bloody time. The great, sorrowing, tender but courageous heart of the president felt that the nation should be humble on account of the faults and sins of the people, and yet should give thanks, for though not a religious man, in a technical sense of that term, he was truly and deeply religious, relying on God and believing that He doeth all things well.

The greater people of the far greater nation look out now upon a far different prospect. As a nation it surely has very much to be thankful for; as a religious people we should be the most thankful of any on earth. But while religious observances continue, properly, to be a feature of Thanksgiving day, it has become for the most part a day of recreation, feasting, amusement, mostly, let us hope, innocent and on the whole beneficial, but nevertheless, we must confess, with much folly therewith intermixed. But thus are humanity constituted.

Few there be who cannot find something to be thankful for; most of us may be thankful for much. Few there be who cannot say, "It might be worse with me, therefore I can be thankful," most can say all things considered; "It is really well with me; therefore I can be very heartily thankful." But let those who have most occasion to be thankful not only be truly so, on their own account, but see to it that they cause some others who have, as they think and as it seems, comparatively little to be thankful for, also to give thanks and rejoice tomorrow.

LOOK OUT FOR SCHOOLHOUSES.

NOT ONLY another high school building is needed, and should be provided in time for the opening of the next school year, but at the present rate of increase of population, other school buildings will soon be needed also. Those in use are well filled, if not crowded, and will not accommodate the children that must be educated in 1905-6. It is none too early for the school directors to be considering this matter, so that they will be prepared at the next annual meeting of taxpayers to tell them just what will be required, and the cost, and to be sure that children will not be deprived of school privileges again next fall.

We are constantly reading of the lack of school facilities in New York, Chicago and other large cities, but instead of considering these cases a precedent that may be followed, they should prompt greater care and efforts, so that no such news will ever go forth from Portland. Let it be seen that sufficient accommodations for all the city's children of school age are provided, and that all such children are required to attend school somewhere, as required by law.

Education not always, but quite generally, serves to eliminate naturally vicious propensities, and still more to keep children from acquiring vicious habits.

CANADIAN TARIFF REVISION.

THERE IS TO BE a general revision of the Canadian tariff, for this was promised by the Laurier administration if it won in the recent election, as it did, but as this revision will not take place for a year or two, the American congress has an opportunity to forestall much of the proposed retaliation program by lowering duties on Canadian imports. Our customs duties are generally far higher than those of Canada, in some cases twice as high, and Canada will not much longer submit to this state of affairs, but will raise its duties on both raw materials and manufactures, to the injury of the people of both countries, or at least of ours.

Our high duties on agricultural products have been

defended by party organs and speechmakers on the ground that they protected our farmers, but as long as we have a surplus of such products, the price of which is usually fixed abroad, there is no merit in the pretended argument. What harm would it do our farmers if Canadian wheat were shipped abroad from American, instead of Canadian ports? And in the case of eggs, or anything of which our people do not produce a surplus for export, a lower duty, if it had any appreciable effect, would benefit ten people where it injured one.

Canada looks with increasing favor upon Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of commercial imperialism, and is turning with preferential discriminations to British manufactures, because the United States has foolishly persisted in maintaining so high a tariff wall between the two countries, where there should be but a slight one if any. "A policy of good will and friendly trade relations will prevent reprisals," said the late President McKinley, in his last speech, and the Republican party would do well to quit standing pat on an outrageous tariff system, and act on Mr. McKinley's advice.

LIBERAL MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA.

IT IS NOT CONCEIVABLE that the movement which led to the convening of the Russian zemstvos was grounded in good faith. The very speech of the present czar delivered from the throne on his accession made clear that he was unalterably opposed to any popular movement which would in the slightest degree infringe upon his autocratic powers. Apparent concessions to the populace are never real in Russia; they are pretended, and for foreign consumption. There are reasons why the Russian autocracy should now desire to stand well with the public opinion of the world. It has before it a task of the gravest moment in the Japanese war. Whatever its resources in men, its resources in money must keep pace with them. France has hitherto stood financial sponsor for Russia but even France has almost reached the limit of its powers. More money, very much more money, will be needed to prosecute the war and however devious the way to it the ruling classes of Russia will pursue it.

Hence the stories that have been coming out of Russia about popular concessions, amelioration of intolerable conditions and suggestions of better things. The meeting of the zemstvos is in the same line, but it apparently has gone far and away beyond the original calculations. Things are undoubtedly in ferment in Russia. Powerful as is the autocracy, sustained as it is by a military arm which is almost invincible in its relation to the populace, the very false pretense of encouragement afforded has been seized to give expression to the popular longing, not for liberty but for small concessions, so that life may be made bearable. All popular movements start from apparently trivial causes; conditions are ripe for them but it requires some incident, trifling enough in itself, to give them outward expression and vital force. It is possible that fruition is now in sight, that the feeling blindly groping toward the light for many generations, is ready to burst forth. Will some concession be made to it? It is not likely. But great things have been accomplished even in the mere expression of the hope and desires of the real Russians. Once that expression has found voice the beginning of the end is marked no matter what dreadful repressive measures are resorted to. It was said of this country that no nation could live half slave and half free; it is equally true that no nation can live wholly slave in the enlightened century now upon us with constitutional government a fixed fact in every civilized land but Russia, with the very hereditary rulers themselves mere instruments to execute the public will.

Autocracy in Russia is doomed; the time may be deferred but its deathknell has been sounded. Liberty may be brought forth in blood, anguish and destruction, or it may come about in comparative peace; that is for the czar and ruling classes to say; but the expressions which have been voiced by the zemstvos from all parts of Russia is the beginning of the end, however far off that end may prove to be.

The gifted night foreman of the Tanner creek sewer admits that he was cunning enough to work both sides of the street and the middle of the road all at the same time. According to his own story he took his pay from his employer and subsidies from whatever other source he could. He arranged for defects in the sewer and then he rushed frantically to the witness stand to save the employer whose confidence he confessed to have outraged. Thomas, according to his own story, is queer, devilish queer, but his funny little story, no matter whom it is aimed to harm or help, should get just as little consideration as he himself has shown it is entitled to.

Judge Frazer's prompt and drastic action in the Blazier case will go far to prove that the time has come when it is no longer safe to play with the courts. That is what was done in the gambling cases previously tried. A subterfuge was sought and it was found. Nobody could have any doubt that it was a subterfuge, and nothing less, but it served its purpose and befuddled poor blind justice. But the pitcher that goes too often to the well is at length broken and subterfuges too often tried are at last exposed. The insolence back of such outrageous efforts to hoodwink justice still remains to be properly rebuked but that, too, will come in due time.

If the district attorney rejects valuable aid in the prosecution of gambling cases it is doubtless because he feels certain of obtaining convictions without that aid. To this degree he himself, therefore, is now on trial with the defendant and by the result in the case will be properly be judged.

A VORACIOUS INFANT.

From the Glasgow Herald. At a meeting in connection with the Bellinghams hospital in London, Dr. M'Manus emphasized the value of X-rays by an amusing illustration. A week ago, he said, a child was brought to the hospital by his mother, who said he had swallowed a small penknife. The infant was placed under the X-ray, and what was believed to be a penknife was located, not in the stomach, but in the left lung.

The child was admitted as an inpatient, but when the mother called next day she said the child could not have swallowed the knife, as when she got home she found it on the floor. A second examination under the X-ray still gave the same result, however, and an operation was decided upon.

This resulted in the discovery of a metal pencil protractor, about 1 1/2 inches long, in the lung. The infant made good progress from the operation, and was so voracious that he afterwards ate a part of an India-rubber doll, and added the doctor, amid laughter, since then nearly a whole regiment of tin soldiers and the hind wheel of a toy engine had been missed.

Small Change

Got your turkey yet?

Remember the poor and the afflicted. Still November does not behave badly.

But there are other good things besides turkey.

Don't give more than you can afford merely to be fashionable.

Turkeys will be within the reach of all who have a long purse.

The faith-and-prayer cure is all right when the person gets well.

Binger Hermann is suggested as a candidate for governor—by some joker.

That good juicer, in lawyers' eyes, is the one who doesn't know nothing about nothing.

Nobody knows whether General Kuropatkin is dead or not. He hasn't publicly "denighed" it.

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Lawson's Latest Frenzied Finance

Owing to the fact that thousands of people now reading "Frenzied Finance" in Everybody's Magazine, did not see the July "foreword" in which Mr. Lawson explains his reasons for writing the article, the publishers have reprinted in their department, "With the Publishers," in the December issue, the following paragraphs from the July number:

"My motives for writing 'Frenzied Finance' are manifest. I have unwittingly become the instrument by which thousands upon thousands of investors have been plundered. I wish them to know my position as to the past, that they may not be misled by the present, and they may know that I am using all my powers to right the wrongs that have been committed, and as to the future that they may see how I propose to compel restitution."

"My desire in writing 'Frenzied Finance' while things perhaps with hatred for and revenge against the 'system' as a whole and some of its votaries, is not to be misled by the present, and they may know that I am using all my powers to right the wrongs that have been committed, and as to the future that they may see how I propose to compel restitution."

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Kuropatkin and the Mikado

From the New York Herald.

General Alphonse Kuropatkin and a staff of Russian officers enjoyed the hospitality of the emperor of Japan a little over one year ago. It was in June, 1892, that the Russian minister of war, the now famous general, visited the emperor and his court, and the important conference held at Port Arthur to talk over the Russian position in the far east. All the Russian high officials then stationed in north China and Manchuria, including the Russian minister to China, were present, and to show this distinguished gathering honor the mikado extended a special invitation to General Kuropatkin and his staff to come to Tokyo and see the emperor.

There was nothing else to do. At the last minute the amendment was inserted. The governor's representative gave the word that it was satisfactory, and it was done.

I was in my office taking care of the market. Of the stampede I knew nothing. Suddenly came the word: "The Whitney bill has passed. Both stocks—Old Dominion Coal and Gas—started to jump; then a halt, then—'I didn't try to stop the decline, for I saw something terrible had happened. In a few minutes the market was all over. The charter was not worth the parchment upon which it was enclosed.'"

The bitter had been fatally bitten.

It is a Boston Hill tradition that for years, Mr. Whitney, head of the "Whitney" machine, on final payment day would have the members of the Massachusetts legislature march through his private offices one at a time, and, through each, he would pass a large, gleaming, polished partition with a stenographer would be Mr. Patch, who after the notes had been written out would witness the accuracy of the stenographer's report.

The Boston legislature, however, old members, the same story goes, would be requested to call on Mr. Whitney to renew acquaintance. Then he would allow them to look over his memoranda "just to keep 'em from being too proud," as he gently phrased it.

While Mr. Lawson was seriously ill with appendicitis, his associates in the alliance between Whitney and the Boston and Lowell companies, who were in a way that would have resulted in Mr. Lawson's ruin.

"When I regained consciousness there was but one thing for me to do," says Mr. Lawson, "and I lost not a moment for my doctor's orders. I would absolutely give up today, tomorrow and next day to getting well; but on the fourth day I would be moved into a special car to Boston and then to the 'Algonquin club.' I would be in the situation and showed them that regardless of all consequences this must be done."

"I shall never forget the expression on the faces of these loyal associates of mine. They were all looking at me, and when I dropped in upon their deliberations Saturday morning, four days later, my doctor, a nurse, and my lawyer accompanied me, and I was seated in a chair, and they were not to a chair, dismissed my attendants and launched in. What little I had to say would be 'edgy,' I told them, but brief. It was all that. I insisted that we go right on to our old bargain, exactly as the place we left it the night I was stricken. If they did not comply, I would make application for a receiver for the Bay State companies and give to the creditors the proceeds of the sale of the affairs from beginning to end. No one doubted either my ability or my determination to carry out my threat. We sent for the documents that had been prepared at Parker Chandler's, and inside of three hours these had been substituted for the several agreements entered into with Rogers during my illness. I retired to bed that night with a clean conscience and self-satisfaction."

In 1894 I made a round investigation in regard to the relations of corporations and the legislature, among men who would talk frankly to me, and considered that a most ingenious condition existed. Massachusetts senators and representatives were not only bought and sold as sausage or fish are in the markets, but there existed a regular quotation schedule for their votes. Many of the prominent lawyers of the state were traffickers in legislation, and earned large fees engineering the repeal of old laws and the passage of new ones. Agents of corporations nominated candidates for office, and made the expenses of their election in return for votes for a favorite measure and promises to 'do business.' The legislature was organized on the same basis, its members were bought and sold, and their subservience to certain corporations and representatives were rigged to do a given thing and prevent other things from being done. Above all, I learned that the names of a citizen of Massachusetts obtained a charter from the legislature of his state, unless he had money to put up for it, was about as good as a hobo's of securing a diamond and ruby studded crown at Tiffany's by explaining to the jeweler that he was going to happen to be in the state capital, and that he could not imagine. I remembered afterward that the preponderance of the impressions that chased each other through my mind was that Henry H. Rogers would surely have a stroke of apoplexy, or worse, if he would not. However, I pulled myself together and began:

"Mr. Rogers, what's the use of getting excited?"

"I got so further. He jumped back. The next second I was in the storm center. The room was small. Suddenly it became full of arms and legs and hands waving and gesticulating, and fists banging, and brandishing, and shouting, and a confused face, in which the eyes actually burned, and rained fire, and the language—such a torrent of vilification and denunciation I had never heard, mingled with oaths so intense, so picturesque, so varied that the assortment would have driven an old-time East Indian skipper green with jealousy. I was horrified for an instant, then surprised, and after that I was determined for my part as to what I should do. I had been interested in the exhibition as a performance."

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