

The Main Chance

BY
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CHAPTER XVIII.

The affairs of the Traction Company proved to be in a wretched tangle. Saxton employed an expert accountant to open a set of books for the company, while he gave his immediate attention to the physical condition of the property. The company's service was a byword and a hissing in the town, and he did what he could to better it, working long hours, but enjoying the labor. It had been a sudden impulse on Fenton's part to have Saxton made receiver. In Saxton's first days at Clarkson he had taken legal advice of Fenton in matters which had already been placed in the lawyer's hands by the bank; but most of these had long been closed, and Saxton had latterly gone to Haridan for such legal assistance as he needed from time to time. Fenton had firmly intended asking Wheaton's appointment; this seemed to him perfectly natural and proper in view of Wheaton's position in the bank and his relations with Porter, which were much less confidential than even Fenton imagined.

Fenton had been disturbed to find Margrave and Wheaton together in the directors' room the night before the annual meeting of the Traction stockholders. He could imagine no business that would bring them together; and the hour and the place were not propitious for forming new alliances for the bank. Wheaton had appeared agitated as he passed out the packet of bonds and stocks; and Margrave's efforts at gaiety had only increased Fenton's suspicions. From every point of view it was unfortunate that Porter should have fallen ill just at this time; but it was, on the whole, just as well to take warning from circumstances that were even slightly suspicious, and he had decided that Wheaton should not have the receivership. He had not considered Saxton in this connection until the hour of the Traction meeting; and he had inwardly debated it until the moment of his decision at the street corner.

He had expected to supervise Saxton's acts, but the receiver had taken hold of the company's affairs with a zeal and an intelligence which surprised him. Saxton wasn't so slow as he looked, he said to the federal judge, who had accepted Saxton wholly on Fenton's recommendation. Within a fortnight Saxton had improved the service of the company to the public so markedly that the newspapers praised him. He reduced the office force to a working basis and installed a cashier who was warranted not to steal. It appeared that the motormen and conductors held their positions by paying tribute to certain minor officers, and Saxton applied heroic treatment to these abuses without ado.

The motormen and conductors grew used to the big blond in the long gray ulster who was forever swinging himself aboard the cars and asking them questions. They affectionately called him "Whiskers," for no obvious reason, and the report that Saxton had, in one of the power-houses, filled his pipe with sweepings of tobacco factories known in the trade as "Trolleyman's Special," had further endeared him to those who were paid checks bore his name as receiver. In snow-storms the Traction Company had usually given up with only a tame struggle, but Saxton devised a new snow-plow, which he hitched to a trolley and drove with his own hand over the Traction Company's tracks.

John was cleaning out the desk of the late secretary of the company one evening while Haridan read a newspaper and waited for him. Worry was often lonely these days. Saxton was too much engrossed to find time for frivolity, and Mr. Porter's illness cut sharply in on Worry's visits to the Hill. He was resting while he waited for the Transcontinental to exhaust its usual tactics of delay and come to trial. On Fenton's suggestion Saxton had intrusted to Haridan some matters pertaining to the receivership, and these served to carry Worry over an interval of idleness and restlessness.

"You may hang me!" said Saxton, suddenly. He had that day unexpectedly come upon the long-lost stock records of the company and was now examining them. Thrust into one of the books were two canceled certificates.

"It's certainly queer," he said, as Worry went over to his desk. He spread out one of the certificates which Margrave had taken from Wheaton the night before the annual meeting. "That's certainly Wheaton's endorsement all right enough."

Haridan took off his glasses and brought his near-sighted gaze to bear critically upon the paper.

"There's no doubt about it."

"And look at this, too." Saxton handed him Evelyn Porter's certificate. Haridan examined it and Evelyn's signature on the back with greater care. He carried the paper nearer to the light, and scanned it again while Saxton watched him and smoked his pipe.

"You notice that Wheaton watched the signature?"

Haridan nodded. Saxton, who knew his friend's moods thoroughly, saw that he was troubled.

"I can find no plausible explanation of that," said Saxton. "Anybody may be called on to witness a signature; but I can't explain this. He opened the stock record and followed the history of the two certificates from one page to another. It was clear enough that the certificates held by Evelyn Porter and James Wheaton had been merged into one, which had been made out in the name of Timothy Margrave, and dated the day before the annual meeting."

"It doesn't make much difference at present," said Saxton. "When Mr. Porter comes down town he will undoubtedly

ly go over this whole business and he can easily explain these matters."

"It makes a lot of difference," said Worry, gloomily.

"We'd better not say anything about this just now—not even to Fenton," Saxton suggested. "I'll take these things over to my other office for safe keeping. Some one may want them badly enough to look for them."

Haridan sat down with his newspaper and proceeded to be reading until Saxton was ready to go.

CHAPTER XIX.

The iron thrall of winter was broken at last. Great winds still blew in the valley, but their keen edge was dulled. Robins and bluejays, coming before the daffodils dared, looked down from bare boughs upon the receding line of snow on the Porter hillsides. The yellow river had shaken itself free of ice, and its swollen flood rolled seaward. Porter watched it from his windows; and early in March he was allowed to take short walks in the grounds. He was much weakened by his illness, and though he pleaded daily to be allowed to go to the bank, he submitted to Evelyn's refusal with a tameness that was new in him. Fenton came several times for short interviews; Thompson called as an old friend as well as a business associate. Wheaton was often at the house, and Porter preferred his account of bank matters to Thompson's. Wheaton carried the figures in his head, and answered questions offhand, while Thompson was helpless without the statements which he was always having the clerks make for him. Porter fretted and fumed over Traction matters, though Fenton did his best to reassure him.

He did not understand why Saxton should have been made receiver; if Fenton was able to dictate the appointment, why did he ignore Wheaton, who could have been spared from the bank easily enough when Thompson returned. Fenton did not tell him the true reason—but he urged the fact that Saxton represented certain shares which were entitled to consideration, and he made much of the danger of Thompson's breaking down at any moment and having to leave. Porter dreaded litigation, and wanted to know how soon the receivership could be terminated and the company reorganized. The only comfort he derived from the situation was the victory which had been gained over Margrave, who had repeatedly sent messages to the house asking for an interview with Porter at the earliest moment possible. The banker's humor had not been injured by the fever, and he told Evelyn and the doctor that he'd almost be willing to stay in bed a while longer merely to annoy Tim Madgrave.

"If I'd known I was going to be sick, I guess I wouldn't have tackled it," he said to Fenton one day, holding up his thin hand to the fire. The doctors had found his heart weak and had cut off his tobacco, which he missed sorely. "I might unload as soon as we can rebound and reorganize."

"That's for you to say," answered the lawyer. "Margrave wanted it, and no doubt he would be glad to take it off your hands if you care to deal with him."

"If I was sure I had a dead horse, I guess I'd as lief let Tim curry him as any man in town; but I don't believe this animal is dead."

"Not much," said the lawyer, reassuringly. "Saxton says he's making money every day, now that nobody is stealing the revenues. He's painting the open cars and expects to do much better through the summer."

"I guess Saxton doesn't know much about the business," said Porter.

"He knows more than he did. He's all right, that fellow—slow but sure. He's been a surprise to everybody. He's solid with the men, too, they tell me. I guess there won't be any strikes while he's in charge."

"You'd better get a good man to keep the accounts," Porter suggested. "Wheaton's pretty keen on such things."

"Oh, that's all fixed. Saxton brought a man out from an Eastern audit company to run that for him, and he deposits with the bank."

"All right," said Porter, weakly.

Saxton came and talked to him of the receivership several times, and Porter quizzed him about it in his characteristic vein. Saxton was very patient under his cross-examination, and reassured the banker by his manner and his facts. Porter had lost his jaunty way, and after the first interview he contented himself with asking how the receipts were running and how they compared with those of the year previous. Saxton suggested several times to Fenton that he would relinquish the receivership, now that Porter was able to nominate some one to his own liking. The lawyer would not have it so. He believed in Saxton and he felt sure that when Porter could get about and see what the receiver had accomplished he would be satisfied. It would be foolish to make a change until Porter had fully recovered and was able to take hold of Traction matters in earnest.

Saxton had suddenly become a person of importance in the community. The public continued to be mystified by the legal stroke which had placed William Porter virtually in possession of the property; and it naturally took a deep interest in the court's agent who was managing it so successfully. Worry had been delighted to find Saxton praised, and he dealt ironically with those who expressed surprise at Saxton's capacity. He was glad to be associated with John, and when he could find an excuse, he liked to visit the power house with him, and to identify himself in any way possible with his friend's work. During the extreme cold he paid from his own pocket for the hot coffee which was handed up to the motormen along all the lines, and gave it out to the newspapers that the receiver was doing it. John warned him that this would appear reckless and injure him with the judge of the court to whom he was responsible.

Though Porter was not strong enough to resume his business burdens, he was the better able in his abundant leisure to quibble over domestic and social matters with an invalid's unreason. He was troubled because Evelyn would not go out; she had missed practically all the social gaiety of the winter by reason of his illness, and he wished her to feel free to leave him when she liked. In his careful reading of the newspapers he noted the items classified under "The Giddy Throng" and "Social Clarkson," and it pained him to miss Evelyn's name in the list of those who "poured," or "as-

sisted," or "were charming" in some particular raiment.

The doctor advised a change for Porter, the purpose of which was to make it impossible for him to return to his work before his complete recovery. Evelyn and the doctor chose Asheville before they mentioned it to him, and the plan, of course, included his son Grant. Mrs. Whipple still supervised the Porter household at long range, and the general frequently called alone to help the banker over the hard places in his concealance.

A day had been fixed for their departure, and Mrs. Whipple was reviewing and approving their plans in the library, as Evelyn and her father and Grant discussed them.

"We shall probably not see you at home much in the future," Mrs. Whipple said to Mr. Porter, who lay in invalid ease on a lounge, with a Roman comforter over his knees. "You'll be sure to become the worst of gad-about—Eugene, the far East, and all that."

"I guess not," he said, emphatically. "I never expect to have any time for loafing."

"Well, you're going now, anyhow. Don't let this girl get into mischief while you're away. An invalid father—only a young brother to care for her and keep the suitors away! Be sure and bring her back without a trail of encumbrances. Grant," she said, turning to the boy, "you must protect Evelyn from those Eastern men."

"I'll do my best," the lad answered. "Evelyn doesn't like dudes, and Worry says all the real men live out West."

"I guess that's right," said Mr. Porter. She rose, gathering her wrap about her. Grant rose as she did. His manners were very nice, and he walked into the hall and took up his hat to go down to the car with Mrs. Whipple. It was dusk, and a man was going through the grounds lighting the lamps. Mrs. Whipple talked with her usual vivacity of the New Hampshire school which the boy had attended, and of the trip he was about to make with his father and sister. They stood at the curb in front of the Porter gate waiting for her car. A buggy stopped near them and a man alighted and stood talking to a companion who remained seated.

"Is this the way to Mr. Porter's stable?" one of the men called to them.

"Yes," Grant answered, as he stepped into the street to signal the car. The man who had alighted got back into the buggy as if to drive into the grounds. The street light overhead hissed and then burned brightly above them. Mrs. Whipple turned and saw one of the men plainly. The car came to a stop; Grant helped her aboard, and waved his hand to her as she gained the platform.

At 9 o'clock a general alarm was sent out in Clarkson that Grant Porter had disappeared.

(To be continued.)

SITE OF TYBURN TREE.

Marble Tablet Placed on Spot Where Thousands Met Death.

Thousands of English malefactors and thousands who were not malefactors, according to modern ideas, met their death at the hands of the hangman on a spot in one of the busiest centers of London county council, a London dispatch says.

The spot is the site of the famous Tyburn tree, the gallows on which London's criminals were hanged for more than 600 years. It is situated at the junction of Oxford street, Edgeware road and Bayswater road, opposite the principal entrance to Hyde Park. Shops and mansions look out on the spot which was once avoided by the superstitious.

The London county council has marked the exact spot where the permanent gallows stood by letting a tablet into the roadway. It bears an excellent representation of the old gallows, surrounded by a triangle with the following inscription:

"Here stood Tyburn Tree. Removed 1759."

The exact site was only fixed after much research and poring over old maps by the county council's archaeological experts. The reason for the difficulty was that different authorities—equally trustworthy—gave two sites for Tyburn tree, and it was not until it was discovered that there were really two of them that the mystery was solved. The spot now marked is the site of the old permanent gallows which it is known was in use in 1196 which was probably standing for many years before that time and which was removed in 1759. It was replaced by a movable gallows which was situated a few hundred yards away and was finally removed in 1783, when it was decided that public executions were barbarous spectacles, and that men and women should be hanged in future within the walls of Newgate prison.

At the time when Tyburn tree was bearing its dreadful fruit its site was far out in the country. Oxford street, now London's greatest shopping thoroughfare, was a country road and was known as Tyburn road. It is the direct route from Newgate prison, in the old city of London, to Tyburn, and it was the last road over which the condemned men traveled, sitting in an open cart with a priest or clergyman standing beside them and a mob of curious spectators following. Half way to Tyburn tree there was a liquor shop known as "Last Drink House," at which the condemned man was always served with a quart of ale. That has long since been destroyed and a great business building stands on its site.

Many famous criminals were hanged on Tyburn tree and it is estimated that at least 50,000 persons met their death there. Claude Duval, the famous highwayman, was hanged there, and John Price, the original "Jack Ketch," the hangman, was hanged for murder in 1718 on the very gallows on which he had hanged so many other men.

A man may live justly by avoiding what he blames in others.—Montaigne.

FARMS AND FARMERS



Intensive Dairy Farming.

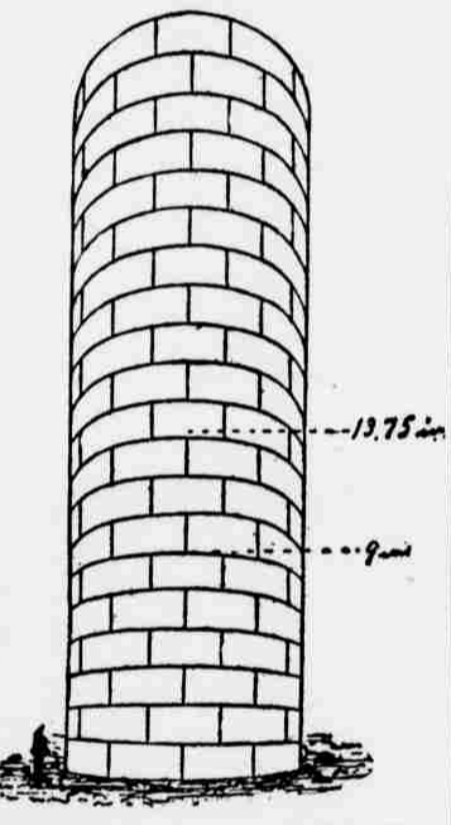
The question is often asked how many cows a certain number of acres will support. By the question is meant that the entire energy of the farm is to be devoted to raising food for the dairy cow. A farm in a good state of fertility can be easily arranged so that one could keep a cow to every two acres if the land is all good, rich, tillable land. And one would be able to raise both the forage or bulky part of the ration, and the grain ration, too. It could be done in a few years' time with the proper handling of the herd on the farm.

Three crops upon the farm will do it—first, corn; second, clover hay, and third, peas and oats. Of course, the clover sod would be plowed down for corn and then the corn ground be put into peas and oats the following season. With these three foods one can make a balanced ration for the dairy cow without purchasing any other outside food, either concentrated or bulky.

The statement has often been made that an acre of good land will support a cow the year around. One dairyman made the remark that he could keep two cows on an acre, but practically the man who keeps one cow on two acres is doing very good business if he gets fair prices for the product. It is a fact that the demand for milk, butter and cheese is increasing faster than cows and the prices are continually advancing. There is no better business than dairying—Agricultural Epitomist.

Water a Necessity for Crops.

This reservoir is 100 feet high and 37 1/2 feet in diameter and will hold 3,400 tons of water, an equivalent to 30 acre-inches of rain fall. An average rainfall of 13 1/4 inches during the



growing season would fill to the point indicated. A rainfall of 9 inches, if completely utilized, would produce a yield of 20 bushels of wheat or 157 bushels of oats.

Silo Building.

In all silos the greatest waste occurs around the sides, particularly in the corners, because the air has greater access to these parts. The fodder is not packed tightly in the corners, the air fills the interstices and decay results. With the cylindrical silo the friction is equally distributed over the entire inside wall surface, so that the silage settles evenly.

The place a silo is to occupy may determine the form to build. There are several kinds. Chief among these are the round the stave, the square rectangular, and the octagonal form. A square or rectangular silo can usually be constructed within a barn with better economy of space than a round silo. For these reasons square silos are most frequently employed within the barn, and the circular type when a separate building is constructed.

Mottled Butter.

Streaky or mottled butter may be caused by the salt, or it may be due to the working of the butter. The salt is so evenly diffused in the finest kind of butter that, as is shown by a microscope, every grain is surrounded by a film of clear and transparent brine, which points out the necessity of avoiding the overworking of the butter before the salt is added. In the first working every particle of milk should be gotten rid of, but enough clear water should be left to dissolve every grain of salt in twelve hours before the next working. If this is done there will be but little danger of streakiness in the butter, but to get the best results the salt should be very finely ground.

Preserving Fence Posts.

It is estimated that a fence post, which, under ordinary circumstances, will last for perhaps two years, will, if given preservative treatment costing about 10 cents, last eighteen years. The service of other timbers, such as railroad ties and telephone poles, can be doubled and often trebled by inexpensive preservative treatment.

Bitter Butter.

Bitter cream and butter may and generally does result after the cow has been feeding liberally on moldy hay, decaying roots and certain weeds. Another fruitful source of bitter cream and butter is the holding of the cream at too low a temperature, when objectionable bacteria get in their work, causing a pungent or bitter flavor. For best results cream should be cooled and held at a temperature of about 50 degrees for six or seven hours immediately after separation, after which it should be ripened in a temperature of from 60 to 70 degrees. When it begins to turn sour it is ready to be churned, and then the sooner it is churned the better. In small dairies, where several separator skimmings are required to make up the quantity of cream for a churning, the cream should never be run from the separator into the vessel holding previous skimmings. One needs a cream can of sufficient size to hold all that is required to make up the churning, and such vessels should be kept in a place where the temperature is about 60 degrees. Each skimming should be cooled before being emptied into this storage can. When fresh cream is emptied it should be at once thoroughly incorporated with the contents of the can by stirring with a spoon or ladle. Churning should not take place within five or six hours after the last cream has thus been added.—Field and Farm.

Reclaiming Washed Land.

I had about one acre of washed clay land on one side of a good field. It was absolutely devoid of vegetation, had been left out for a number of years after wasting fertilizer upon it, and was an eyesore. Early in the spring I crossed it with furrows about 5 feet apart. In these furrows I dropped wild blackberry roots, one about every 4 feet. I dropped a forkful of stable manure next to each root, partially covering it, and covered the whole with one furrow made with the turn plow. In the next furrow I dropped small pine tops and partially covered them with the plow. I went over all the land in the same way. The work required three days for two men and a team. The following spring I plowed out the middles. This was five years ago, and I have not touched the land since. I have gathered two good crops of blackberries and the land is now covered with heavy berry bushes and a good wild grass sod, with no wash to speak of.—G. M. Humphreys, in Agricultural Epitomist.

Beet Culture Wanes.

Comment has arisen over the apparent decadence of sugar-beet culture in the farming section about Toledo, Ohio. Where a few years ago a dozen fields could be seen without traveling more than a mile or two, now scarcely one exists. A farmer reported he saw but one field between Toledo and Monroe, though only a few years ago this section produced heavily. Several factors have arisen to work against beet raising. In the first place, labor and care considered, the present high-priced cereals are considerably more profitable; again, farmers have begun to learn that beets tax soil vitality about as heavily as any crop, and, unless fertilizing elements are constantly applied the land invariably suffers.

For a Sucking Cow.

The following description is given of a device to prevent a cow from sucking herself:



Secure two lengths of small cord, also six pieces of round, light wood about 12 inches long and 1 1/2 inches in diameter, bore 3/4 inch holes at each end of sticks, then having tied a knot at one end of the rope, thread on the sticks. Knot the cord on either side of the sticks, then throw the same across the cow's neck (having regulated the knots and sticks to suit the small of the neck and also the shoulder), and the end of the cords around the first knot. The accompanying illustration shows the result. This device prevents the cow from reaching her flanks.

Silage for Feeding.

The chief difficulty in growing silage corn in some of the Northern States is in getting a suitable variety, and farmers are strongly urged to take advantage of such new varieties of silage corn as may be offered for trial by the experimental stations of their respective States or by the United States Department of Agriculture, and also to select their own seed in order to fill it. In sections where potatoes fill the place of corn in a rotation, silage can be made from Japanese millet or other crops and succulent winter feed be thus provided. Clover and Italian rye grasses are successfully used for silage in the State of Washington and the combination is worthy of trial in northern Maine.

Grass for Shady Places.

The Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station has found out that, on railroads running east and west, it is necessary to plant a different kind of grass on the north side of embankments from the south side because of the different amount of sunlight that each side receives.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1642—First commencement exercises of Harvard College.

1684—Treaty of peace concluded at Albany between the Colonists and the Five Nations.

1721—James Franklin established the "New England Courant" in Boston.

1763—British troops defeated the Indians at Bushy Run.

1778—The British burned their fleet off Rhode Island on the approach of the French fleet under Count d'Estaing.

1795—Commissioners of the United States met the Indian chiefs of Western tribes at Greenville, Ohio, and concluded a treaty of peace.

1807—Trial trip of Fulton's steamboat "Clermont" was made.

1812—Americans routed by a force of British and Indians at Brownstown, Mich.

1813—American privateer Decatur captured the British schooner Dominica.

1814—Commissioners of the United States and England met at Ghent to arrange a treaty of peace. . . . A British fleet landed troops at Pensacola, Fla.

1816—First Presbyterian congregation in Missouri was organized at Bellevue settlement, in Washington County.

1829—First locomotive regularly used in the United States ran on the Carbondale and Honsdale Railroad in New York.

1846—David Wilmot introduced his proviso in Congress. . . . Smithsonian Institution at Washington founded.

1856—Kansas rejected the Lecompton constitution for the second time.

1861—Federals defeated in the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.

1862—Confederate ram Arkansas exploded above Baton Rouge. . . . Battle of Cedar Mountain ended in victory for the Confederates.

1865—Cavalry fight at Culpepper, Va., between Gens. Stuart and Buford.

1864—Admiral Farragut entered Mobile bay with thirty-two vessels. . . . Gen. Hood attacked Geo. Logan's lines at Atlanta.

1872—Cuban privateer Pioneer seized by the United States marshal at Newport, R. I.

1873—Large section of Portland, Ore., destroyed by fire.

1874—An Ohio River steamer burned near Aurora, Ind., with loss of twenty-five lives.

1884—Corner stone laid for the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. . . . Reception of the survivors of the Greely Arctic expedition at Portsmouth, N. H.

1886—Parcel post established between Canada and points in Great Britain.

1887—Hawaii adopted a new constitution. . . . Collapse of the wheat syndicate in San Francisco, loss \$5,000,000.

1889—Spokane Falls, Washington, nearly destroyed by fire. . . . The Sioux Indians ceded their reservation in Dakota (11,000,000 acres) to the United States.

1890—France and England reached an agreement respecting their possession in Africa.

1892—First Chinaman deported from San Francisco under the Geary act.

1894—Twelve lives lost in the wreck of a Rock Island train near Lincoln, Neb. . . . The great strike of the American Railway Union declared off.

1906—The Standard Oil Company was indicted at Chicago for receiving rebates.

1907—The French navy bombarded Casablanca, on the Moroccan coast. . . . Gov. Hoke Smith signed the Georgia prohibition bill, to become effective January 1, 1908.

1908—The American battleship fleet arrived at Auckland, New Zealand. Mehmed Ali Bey, Turkish minister to Washington, recalled. . . . Forest fires devastated several towns of British Columbia.

New Use for Pulp Mill Refuse. As the result of a series of recent experiments conducted by the J. & J. Rogers pulp mills at Ansonia, N. Y., it is announced that new uses have been found for the "sludge" or waste material of the wood pulp mills. This will not only be a great saving to the pulp interests, but will end the pollution of streams on which the mills are located. It is demonstrated that the poisonous sulphite waste can be used as a substitute for the corn meal and molasses employed in iron foundry core casting as a top dressing for macadam roads and for other purposes.

CHURCH AND REFORM.

The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized at Cleveland, Ohio, May 15, 1849.

One hundred and forty-five men are enrolled in the Y. M. C. A. Bible classes at the United States naval academy.

The Roman Catholic apostolic delegate to the United States is Most Rev. Diomedeo Falconio of Washington, D. C.

Last year the Methodist Episcopal publishing house of Lucknow, India, put out a total of about 16,000,000 pages of religious literature.