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A LITERARY CRIME.

The Destruction of the Great Library of Alexandria.
On Dec. 22, 640, after a siege that had lasted fourteen months, the great Mohammedan general Amrou found himself master of the renowned city of Alexandria, the capital of Egypt and at that time the commercial and intellectual metropolis of the world.

To his master, the Caliph Omar, Amrou wrote, "I have captured Alexandria, a city containing 4,000 palaces, 4,000 baths, 12,000 dealers in fresh oil, 12,000 gardeners, 40,000 Jews who pay tribute and 400 theaters and other places of amusement."
Amrou made no reference in his letter to the magnificent library, concerning which there has come down the following story: John the Grammarian, the most learned man of his day, being in Alexandria at the time, begged of Amrou that he would give him the library. Amrou told him that it was not in his power to grant such a request, but that he would write to the caliph about it.

Omar, on hearing the request of his general, sent back the reply: "If those books contain the same doctrine as the Koran they are of no use, since the Koran contains all needful truth; on the other hand, if they contain anything contrary to the Koran they ought to be destroyed. Therefore, whatever their contents may be, I order them to be committed to the flames."

Accordingly they were distributed among the public baths of the city, where for more than six months they served to supply the fires.

The loss to the intellectual wealth of the world by that razing of Omar is incalculable. The stored up wisdom of ages was in that Alexandrian library, and with the destruction of the precious volumes facts were lost which were never to be recovered. The caliph's ignorant and fanatical belief in the infallibility of the Koran worked humanity the harm that can never be atoned for while the world stands.
—New York American.

Bathing an Elephant.
The elephant's bath takes a week to carry out in detail; it requires the services of three men, and it costs \$300, the Philadelphia Record says. This treatment is necessary for a circus elephant, and if the animal is a valuable one the proprietor of the circus does not consider the money wasted. The first process consists in going over the immense body with the best soap procurable—150 pounds of soap are used—and the elephant's ears are especially carefully attended to. When the soaping and drying are completed the elephant is well sandpapered and after that rubbed all over with the purest Indian oil until the mouse gray skin is supple and glistening. This last finishing touch is the most expensive part of the whole bath, as \$150 has to be spent on the oil alone.

Forehanded.
An industrial commission appointed by congress was conducting certain investigations with reference to the operation of mills and factories in various parts of the country, and the members became especially interested in the working of one mill in a southwestern state. The investigators were in one room when the whistle blew for noon. The operatives put up their tools and vanished as if by magic. "Do all the workmen drop their tools the instant the whistle blows?" asked one of the commission. "No, not all," answered the man who was acting as guide. "The more orderly have their tools put away before that time."

Strange Children.
George Bancroft, the historian, used to relate with gusto a joke that he caught while trotting to school along a Massachusetts country road. It was about old Levi Lincoln, says Percy H. Epler in "Master Minds at the Commonwealth's Heart." The old gentleman was nearly blind. A flock of geese was being driven gobbling up Lincoln street. Leaning far out of the carriage, the fine old aristocrat, thinking they were children, threw out a handful of pennies, graciously exclaiming: "God bless you, my children!"

Just What He Said.
"I don't believe a word you have said," snapped the skipper, "but I'll tell you what I do believe—that you are a confounded sea lawyer and that you would talk the hind leg off a donkey. Did you hear what I said?"
"Yes, sir," replied Able Seaman Danks sulkily.
"What did I say?"
"You said that you believe I would talk your leg off, sir!"—London Express.

AMERICAN WOMAN'S LEAGUE NEWS

The Trustees and Board of Management of the League are considering the acceptance of a proposed endowment from a wealthy woman of approximately a million dollars for Chapter House construction and building loans. A second endowment from a mere man of a somewhat lesser fund is also under consideration for the League's University, to enable it to offer to each of the leading art academies of America the privilege of sending to University City each year two of its foremost students in Ceramics to study under Mons. Tascile Doat, now at the head of the League's Ceramic Art Department. Mons. Doat is known throughout the world as its foremost master, and the proposed endowment would seek to make his instruction free to the master students of America's art academies under the league's direction. Mons. Doat left University City, June 29th, for his annual vacation at his home in Paris. Upon his return in the fall he will take a number of pupils who are proficient in the Ceramic art and who desire training under this great master. This plan has been decided upon in response to the inquiries from various artists in the United States asking for the privilege of tuition under the famous master.

A new plan is now in force under which instead of waiting until a Chapter House can be built from surplus or reserve funds, the most desirable building to be had in a city is purchased. In Los Angeles, where the new plan was first put into effect, the new Chapter House will be one of the finest and most perfectly equipped woman's clubs in the world with a great auditorium, studio, gymnasium, library, offices, baths and exquisitely appointed club rooms. Three of the finest structures in the city are now under option and a committee of representative women is to report to the full Chapter, July 12th, which is considered the most desirable. The value of each is approximately \$200,000. Pasadena Chapter on learning the new plan selected a beautiful residence with ample grounds at a cost of \$25,000. Miss Hill, Regent of Northern California, announces that San Francisco will lead the coast with a million dollar building. Confidential agents are now at work in that city inspecting desirable and available structures. In St. Louis, when the new plan became known, the wildest enthusiasm reigned. The most desirable building with superb grounds, covering an entire city block, has been selected valued at over a million dollars and confidential agents are now negotiating for its immediate purchase. (Selected from Woman's National Weekly.)
Anne Newell.

CHRISTIAN TABERNACLE

Regular services will be resumed at the tabernacle church on next Lord's Day, July 16th, the pastor preaching. The subjects are as follows: Morning theme, "The Church, When and Where Established?" Evening sermon at 8 p.m. "Scriptural Cases of Salvation without Baptism." The Bible School, or teaching service of the church at 10 a.m. It is hoped that 200 will be present for this very interesting and profitable service. It is a service for everybody, men, women and the children. Everybody invited to any and all of these services.
Geo. C. Ritchey, pastor.

EASY FOR JONATHAN

The Eugene Register says: With T. B. Wilcox, Dan Malarky, Ben Selling and Stephen A. Lowell all out as avowed candidates on the republican ticket for United States senator, we

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can now begin to understand why Jonathan Bourne said he would not spend a cent to be re-elected to the senate. He can probably see that with four republicans out against him for the place he will have no trouble in landing the nomination. Multiplicity of candidates makes it easy for Jonathan and there will be no need to spend any money in the primary campaign.

When Its Waters Turn Green Then Comes the Welcomes Flood.

The "green water" of the Nile is quite a different thing from the green water of the ocean, says the Scientific American.
About April 15 the Nile begins its annual rise, and a month later the effect is felt at Khartoum. A very curious phenomenon accompanies this increase in the appearance of the "green water."
For a long time it was believed that the color came from the swamps of the upper Nile, lying iso-

lated and stagnant under the tropical sun and polluting the waters with decaying vegetable matter. With the spring rise this fetid water was supposed to be swept into the streams to make its appearance in Egypt.

Within recent times, however, this theory has been abandoned. Now we are advised the green water is caused by the presence of innumerable numbers of microscopic algae, offensive to the taste and smell. They originate away up in the tributaries and are carried to the Nile, where under the hot sun and in the clear water they increase with amazing rapidity, forming columns from 250 miles to 500 miles in length.

The weeds continue to grow, die and decay until the turbid flood waters put them to an end, for they cannot exist except in clear water. Offensive as, in some respects, the green water is, it is hailed with delight by the Egyptians, since its appearance is a sign of the real flood time and the close of the water famine.

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