

ATHENA PRESS

Tuesdays and Fridays

F. B. BOYD, Publisher

Time to put that Russian revolution in the "alleged" class.

The Northwest Passage is found, but nobody knows what to do with it.

The souvenir postal card has led to a murder in New York. Not at all surprising.

Polltiness is the bridge that spans the abyss between truth-telling and common sense.

The difference between the drama and real life is that on the stage tragedies seem pathetic.

Mark Twain is to write an autobiography. Mark refuses to tackle anything grave until he is dead.

Teddy, Jr., hunted eleven days and got nothing. Does he wish to bring gray hairs in sorrow to the grave?

The Czar keeps a fortune-teller on his payroll. No wonder the poor little father always wears such a melancholy expression.

The truth of the matter is that the Russian peasantry are suspicious of eating freedom cake from the hand of Adam Zed.

A rich Pennsylvanian has hired a trained nurse for his sick bulldog. The strange part of it is that this millionaire doesn't live in Pittsburgh.

As a matter of fact, the Cuban revolution seems to be the result of a dislocation on the part of the revolutionists to work for their living.

Mr. Rockefeller's pastor says the most miserable people on earth are very rich. Most of them seem to get a good deal of satisfaction out of being miserable.

The Sultan has pardoned a large number of criminals out of the Turkish prisons. From this it is inferred that his health is either a great deal better or a great deal worse.

That northwest passage has been found again, but President Roosevelt is trying to open up a southerly passage which he thinks will be more convenient for general use.

Mr. Rockefeller has gone on record as an exponent of the "simple life," and it is no surprise to the folks who have noticed what a simple matter it is for him to make a living.

General Weyler is reported to regard the Cuban revolution as a bit of child's play. This may be due to the fact that both the revolutionists and the government are trying to make it a bloodless affair.

One of New York's loveliest and most aristocratic heiresses is to become the bride of a newspaper man. Titled foreigners will regard this as another aggravating piece of affront on the part of the press.

General Miles says that the opening of the Panama Canal will cause a world war. Somehow, the General reminds us of those long-distance alarmists who say that in two or three million years the world will frizzle and fade away.

One hundred thousand dollars' worth of postage stamps belonging to Boston collectors were exhibited at the convention of the American Philatelic Association. The average boy collector who has a hundred dollars' worth at the catalogue price thinks he is rich.

Sentimentalists always picture the Indians as a vanishing race, shovels toward the furthest edge of the map by the ruthless white man and shot down now and then when they do not obey with sufficient alacrity the order to move on. But cold statistics show that there are 284,000 Indians now living, and that there has been an increase of 14,000 in the last decade. It is estimated that there were but 280,000 in what is now the United States when this country was discovered. These figures constitute a high tribute to the vigor of a race that has not only survived the encroachments of civilization, represented by some 90,000,000 whites, but increased and multiplied while defending itself with inferior weapons against trained fighting men with modern arms.

The director of the solar observatory at Kensington in England announces that at the time of the San Francisco and Valparaiso earthquakes and those which occurred in 1904 the spots on the sun were at the maximum of their size. It is not known that the sun spots and the earthquakes have any relation, but their simultaneous appearance has been observed often. There is another theory of the western earthquakes, however, which is more simple and probable. It is that the mountains on the western shore of the continent are slowly but constantly being forced upward. Occasionally the upturning strata of rock slip and the result is destruction to the cities within the area of disturbance. This theory fits well with the recent successive earthquakes on the Pacific coast.

Progress in China has recently been shown in a remarkable, if not unique,

way. The people of a village in the province of Fukien held a meeting, and determined to break up the opium habit. At the suggestion of two men who had gone to the Fuchau City Hospital for treatment for opium-smoking, letters were sent to the head of the hospital asking him to come to A-long and help them. One contained a respectful and carefully worded agreement signed by the village elders and principal men. Doctor Wilkinson, who tells the story in the Church Missionary Intelligencer, accordingly went to the village, and found that practically all the people were anxious for the reform. At a meeting with the head men the opium shopkeepers themselves stood up and said they were willing to stop selling the drug, and fifty dollars was raised to defray the cost of medicines. Last March the village ancestral hall was turned into a hospital, and seventy-nine men patients were admitted, a woman from the mission having charge of nine women in another place. For three weeks they were treated, during which time only two lost courage and left. Daily morning and evening religious services were held, with an increased interest as time went on in the singing of hymns and the simple Bible talks. During the day the tedium of the patients was relieved by magic-lantern, photographic and gramophone exhibitions. What the result of the movement will be it is of course impossible to say, but at the request of the village elders and head men, the mandarin put up a proclamation forbidding any one again to open an opium-shop in the village.

It is desirable that the lands reclaimed by national irrigation projects should go into the hands of actual cultivators, and not of speculators. President Roosevelt calls special attention to this in his letter to the national irrigation congress. He wishes to see a multitude of small farms, each sufficient to support one family, instead of a much smaller number of 160-acre farms. Doubtless the speculators already have their eyes on the lands which the government is about to endow with special fertility. They would like to get possession of extensive tracts so as to profit by the great increase in value which is certain to come. If the reclaimed lands are sold at first in small parcels to genuine cultivators they will stick to their holdings, and the speculators will not be able to get in. No legislation can be framed which will automatically keep the speculators out. For many years unscrupulous men have been able to get around the land laws, and help themselves to choice portions of the public domain. They did so with comparative impunity until the present Secretary of the Interior got after them. He has prosecuted many and has punished some. He has exemplified the familiar principle that laws are of no value until somebody makes it his special business to enforce them. The irrigation act says that the limit of area per entry shall represent the acreage which, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior, "may be reasonably required for the support of a family upon the lands in question." In one locality he may consider five acres enough, and in another forty. If this discretion is to be wisely used by the Secretary or by the subordinates on whose judgment he has to depend to a considerable degree, there does not seem to be need or room for any additional legislation. The President says the national irrigation congress can do something towards carrying out the policy of placing on each reclaimed area the largest number of families that can get a comfortable living when the land is well tilled. It can give advice as to the size of allotments. It can assist in the detection of attempts at fraudulent entries. No doubt ingenious men will try through dummies to get control of large tracts. If they shall succeed it will not be due to imperfect legislation but to the laches of the agents of the government.

Warns Bearded Men.

"It is well that old men should wear beards," said a physician, "for when one becomes old one should be spared the exertion of daily shaving. But I would like to issue a warning to all beard wearers. I would like to shout, 'Keep your beards dry,' in a voice loud enough to be heard around the world. Were those words heeded many cases of sore throat, cold, and influenza would be avoided and many deaths would be definitely put off.

"So many men with beards neglect, when they wash their faces, to wipe their beards dry. A beard a foot long demands a lot of toweling. It should be towelled after every wash a good five minutes. Otherwise it is damp. The owner goes about with this damp thing upon his delicate and sensitive throat. Then, if he takes tonsillitis or influenza, he blames the American climate. There are too many damp beards among us. Too many men, washing their faces three or four times a day, have their beards damp and clammy a good three hours daily."

Exciting Sport.

Last winter the Norwegians varied the excitement of ski running by yoking the runner to a motor cycle by a long leather strap, which he grasps with his left hand. The speed attained is enormous, and great skill is required to avoid being pulled over, as the body is apt to outrun the feet. The pastime is growing very popular.

When a girl says she is going to her room to write letters, she says it as if she feels that writing letters is a real lady-like thing to do.

A good many men take credit for not kicking a man when he is down. Why kick him at all?

QUEER STORIES

The thinnest and toughest leather is made from frog's skin.

Out of every one thousand letters used in writing English E occurs 137 times. T is the next most frequently used.

Yellow is far the most permanent of any color in flowers. It is the only one not affected by sulphurous acid fumes.

In Italy you can tell where the peasant women come from by the size of their earrings. The southerners wear the longest.

Neither in France nor in Austria are children ever permitted to be received into workhouses. They are boarded out with peasant families.

The highest clouds reach ten miles above our heads. They are the white, feathery forms which we see on a clear day. Although apparently motionless, they travel from seventy-five to ninety miles an hour.

Certain butterflies have marked odors, some good, some bad. Dr. F. A. Dixey, a British entomologist, mentions a white butterfly of England that has the fragrant scent of lemon verbena, and has noted many species in Africa with such odors as those of chocolate, vanilla and various flowers. The agreeable odors belong to males, being a charm to attract females. The offensive odors, shared by both sexes, are protective, repelling enemies.

There is being exhibited in Liverpool a prodigious egg, that of a tall, flightless bird—the Epyornis maximus—which formerly inhabited the island of Madagascar. The eggs of this immense creature are nearly a yard in circumference and a foot in length, and their cubical contents, roughly speaking, are equal to six ostrich eggs, or 150 hens' eggs, or sixty thousand humming birds' eggs, or two gallons of water. The market price ranges from £35 to £60, only twenty known specimens being in existence.

"Having personally eaten some hundreds of species of caterpillars," says M. Duglin, a French entomologist, "raw, broiled, boiled, fried, roasted and lashed, I find most of these pleasant to taste, light and digestible." But the despised cockroach of our kitchen is what M. Duglin waxes most enthusiastic over. "Pounded in a mortar, put through a sieve and poured into beef stock, these creatures make a soup preferable to bouillon." Nevertheless, a Chinese proverb runs to the effect, "If your stomach is delicate, abstain from the cockroach!"

The tortoise is a great sleeper. One was a domestic pet in an English house, and when his time for hibernating came he selected a corner of the dim coal cellar for his winter quarters. A new cook was engaged soon after who knew nothing of tortoises. In a few months the tortoise woke up and sallied forth. Screams soon broke the kitchen's calm. On entering that department the lady of the house found the cook gazing in awestruck wonder, and exclaiming, as with unsteady hand she pointed to the tortoise: "My conscience! Look at the stone which I've broken the coal wi' at winter!"

At the close of a banquet given by the Maharajah of Gwalior to the Prince of Wales a centerpiece in the form of a temple and decorated with electric lamps and flowers was hoisted to the ceiling by pulleys, and revealed a perfect model railway on the table underneath. The locomotive and train was eight feet long, and carried decanters, cigars, cigarettes and matches. The train was started by closing an electrical circuit. As long as this was closed by a spring the train moved, but the lifting of a decanter or box of cigars resting on the spring allowed it to act, thus breaking the circuit and stopping the train.

"As the Romans Do."

Bishop Dudley (Episcopal), of Kentucky, when hunting and fishing, made the acquaintance of a mountaineer, who took a fancy to him without suspecting his calling. When the bishop was about to go home he invited the old man to Louisville to hear him preach.

"Preach? What, you preach? Kin you preach ez well ez you kin shoot an fish?"

"Better. No joke. Come Sunday with your best clothes, and I'll give you a front seat."

The old chap was there, right up in front, and remained until the bitter end, after which he hurried forward to shake the bishop's hand. "Parson," he cried warmly, "I don't know a great deal about your creeds and dogmatics, but I've riz and sot with you every time!"

Bright Answers.

"Noah's wife," wrote a boy in an examination, "was called Joan of Arc." "Water," wrote another, "is composed of two gases, oxygen and cambrigen." "Lava," said a third, "is what the barber puts on your face." "A blizzard," declared another child, "is the inside of a fowl."

The Distinction.

"Do you say that as a lawyer or a man?" exclaimed an exasperated witness whom a lawyer was cross-examining. "If you say it as a man, it is a lie and a slander, but if you say it as a lawyer it's not of the slightest consequence."—London Telegraph.

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