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RESCUED THE ALAMO.

FAMOUS TEXAN STRONGHOLD
SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION
BY A WOMAN.

Miss Clara Driscoll Prevents Catastrophe—Alamo Was the Scene of the Most Terrific Fight of Early Days of Texas.

Through the command of a considerable sum of money a Texas woman has been enabled to save to her native state and to the United States one of the most noted relics of Texas and Mexican War times. The historical Alamo, an old fort, originally a monastery, and the scene of one of the most thrilling incidents of the Mexican War, was about to be sold, and the ground utilized in the erection of a modern hotel.

The lesson taught by the handful of Americans who held the Alamo rather than surrender, appealed so strongly to Miss Clara Driscoll, a successful author of magazine stories, that she made an offer of sixty thousand dollars for the property and it was accepted. In speaking of this purchase Miss Driscoll said that if the Alamo, a monument to the heroism of Texas soldiers, had been destroyed it would have made it impossible for her to live in the state, devoted as she is to it. Almost immediately after the historical fort came into her hands the people of Texas woke up to the situation. A bill was passed by the state legislature authorizing the purchase of the property from her and at the same time appointing her honorary custodian of the Alamo.

For some time Miss Driscoll has been writing short stories concerning Texas and Mexico life, her first book

of liberty. Already famous were the pioneer scouts and warriors who entrenched themselves in that redoubt, and yet more, famous and glorious became their memory after the sanguinary and unequal fight. Men were they, heroes and intrepid characters, surrounded by a vast horde of savage Mexicans, with many an old score to settle; yet not one thought of surrender apparently entered their souls. The last of them was killed by Mexican bullets; but not until they had made a fearful accounting among the swarming hosts of the enemy. The tragic story of the Alamo will go down in history as one of the greatest of battles, and Texas and the Nation owes a lasting debt of gratitude to the woman who has saved its crumbling walls and turrets.

Will See Snakes.

Serpent rings, brooches, bangles and necklaces are to be the fashion in the big cities this season, dealers having already received many orders for jewelry of a "snaky" description.

One lady is having made a belt in the form of a gold rattlesnake and at a recent New York ball one of the guests wore a coronet composed of jeweled snakes.

It is intimated that the new fashion will develop and that ladies will study the art of snake charming, deserting their toy dogs for pet reptiles.

Plan for Salvation of Louisville.

Some days ago the postmaster at Louisville, Kentucky, received a communication from a man in Rutland, Vermont, who, having learned, he said, of the wickedness in Louisville, and desiring to do missionary work there, wanted a list of the unsaved men and women of that town. Postmaster Baker, it is stated, forwarded a city di-

OLD CLERKS REDUCED.

BLOW ABOUT TO FALL UPON
VETERAN MEN OF THE GOV-
ERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

Congress Preparing to Cut Salaries and Discharge Older Employees Who Have Spent Best Years of Life in Serving Uncle Sam.

The blow, which the older government clerks at Washington have for some time feared, is about to fall, and if the House of Representatives follows its apparent intention, the clerks of 65 years old and over, will have their pay cut from 25 to 50 percent.

The investigation carried on by the Appropriation Committee, shows that over \$2,000,000 is annually paid to clerks over 65 years of age, and that if the plan proposed is carried out, over 75 percent of these will be reduced. This will mean that many faithful employees of the government, who have grown old in the service of their country, will suddenly find their incomes cut nearly in half.

It is often stated that the average government job is an easy one, with short hours and good pay, so that there is something of a disinclination throughout the country to feel or express much sympathy for the government clerk who is reduced, or perchance, dismissed for any reason. As a matter of fact, however, these positions in Washington, are most trying and unprofitable (unless we except a few cases, in which the work is technical, with the possibility of leading to better things outside in the commercial world), and after a few years of service, leave the incumbent without the capability of making his way in business. If suddenly thrown upon his own resources.

Most of the government bureaus are large offices, where a clerk may be engaged for years in a single line of work, his knowledge and experience, although narrow and circumscribed, thus becoming valuable to the government. In the meantime, his salary has been barely commensurate with his living expenses, and although some of the government employees with thrifty wives may have been able to buy a modest home, the proportion of these is not large.

Then, after twenty years of confining and uninspiring labor, comes his discharge, and he finds himself completely out of touch with all former business knowledge and relations, unable to earn as much in a new line of life as could his recently graduated son. This would mean that the man who has entered government service in middle-life, and through meritorious effort and faithful endeavor has worked up to a salary of \$1600 or \$1800, would in his ripe years and experience, be thrown out on the world, like an old horse, who has served his master faithfully but has lost the vigorous step and stylish action of a younger animal. Had this man been connected with a big commercial house for those twenty years, his business associates would delight to honor him with the increased salary due to his experience and wisdom, which had done so much toward building up the structure of their worldly interests.

The sentiment has been freely expressed upon the floor of the House, however, that it is not believed that a majority of its members will favor any drastic measure of cutting down the income of faithful clerks. One plan discussed by the House Committee, embraces a provision that when any employee shall have reached the age of 70 years, he shall be immediately dismissed. While \$1,000 might appear to be a reasonable living in the smaller towns, in Washington, where expenses are so heavy, it is a small sum for a man of family. Old and honored government employees, from the administration of Washington down, have resigned or died in the nation's service, but Congress in its wisdom, in these days of unwonted national prosperity, seems to be pursuing extraordinary methods to increase the efficiency of the service and to reduce the federal expenditures.

Anent the subject, the Washington Post says: What a kind and beneficent government it would be that would cut a faithful servant, who had served it for years, and who is as efficient a clerk now as he was ten years ago, because he has reached the age of sixty-five! What an inducement to faithful service! What a splendid example of the "merit system." But it probably serves a man right for reaching the age of sixty-five, and being still vigorous and faithful and capable in the public service.

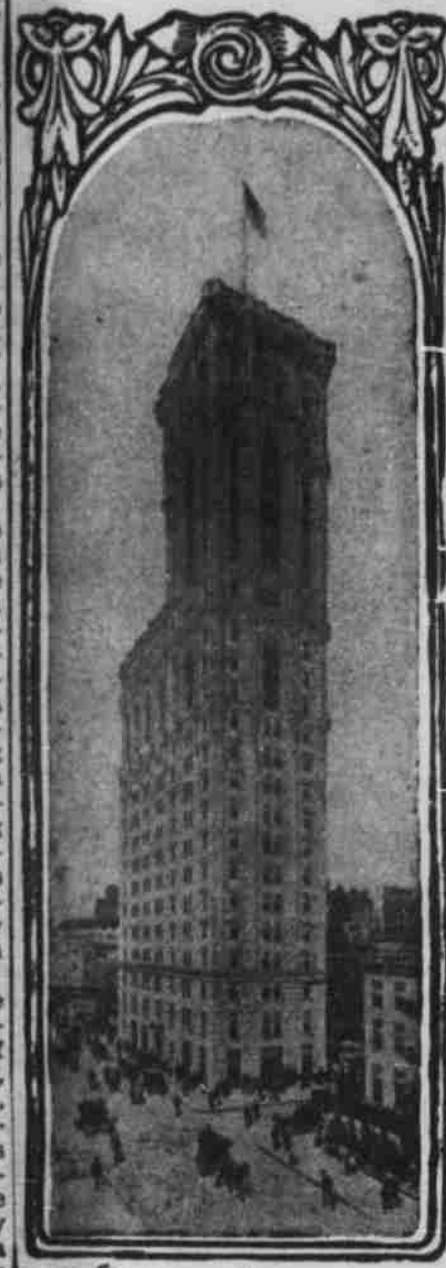
The Speaker of the House, the honorable Joseph G. Cannon, who will be seventy years old on the 7th of May next, should see to it that his friends on the Appropriation Committee take a back track on this Oelerlish proposition. If the provision should not be stricken out in the House the twenty-six Senators who are over sixty-five, and the three others who will be sixty-five before this year is out ought to be able to give it a quietus in the Senate.

Various are the reasons given for the placing of the two buttons on the back of a man's coat. One is that they are a survival of buttons which were used on the eighteenth century riding coat. The coat tails were thus buttoned up when the rider was on horseback.

Tallest Skyscraper Yet.

It is announced that the Singer Manufacturing company has filed plans for a structure which will be higher than any existing New York city skyscraper

by from 200 to 300 feet, and will be about 40 feet higher than the Washington monument. It is to be built at the north-west corner of Broadway and Liberty street, with a tower of 40 stories, which will rise to the height of 594 feet. The tower will be 65 feet square for 36 stories, and will be surmounted by a dome containing four additional stories, above which will be a



TIMES BUILDING.

The Highest Structure in New York.

cupola and—if that isn't high enough—a flagstaff.

The highest building in New York today is the Times Building, including the three stories which are below New York's pavement.

Restore Life After Death.

Claim That Victims of Electric Chair
Can Be Brought Back to Life.

To be able to restore life after electrocution is the claim of J. M. Berger, an expert electrician, who states that by his method a person electrocuted at one of our prisons, and pronounced dead by the attending physicians, may be restored to life. His only requirements are that he be allowed to take the body within fifteen minutes after life is pronounced extinct and that the brains be not baked or the lungs carbonated.

Mr. Berger states that he, himself, received more volts than are supposed to be necessary to kill a man and that he knows of cases where as high as 3000 and 4000 volts have gone through men's bodies and they have been restored to life and health.

He cites as an illustration, the case of Joseph Averell, a Baltimore line-man, who was caught in an alternating current of 3000 voltage and thrown from a pole to the middle of the street. He was removed at once to the city hospital and emergency treatment was quickly applied. Both of his hands were burned to a crisp and his skull was almost fractured by the fall to the street, but he recovered.

Mr. Berger's method is very simple and one that he claims may be followed by any person who is cool-headed and not likely to become excited. He lays the victim of electrocution on his back with a rolled coat or blanket under his shoulders so that the head is allowed to fall backwards. The operator should kneel behind the head of the patient, facing him, grasp the elbows and draw them well over the head, so as to bring them almost together above and hold them there for two or three seconds. He should then carry the elbows down to the sides and front of the chest, firmly compressing it by throwing his weight upon the elbows.

After two or three seconds, the arms should be carried above the head and the same manoeuvres should be repeated at the rate of fifteen or sixteen times a minute. The operators must remember that the manipulation must be conducted with methodical deliberation, just as described, and never hurriedly or half heartedly. In addition to this, the tongue must be drawn out to free the throat. A cloth should be used in holding the tongue so it will not slip. It must be drawn out when the arms are held above the head and allowed to recede when the chest is compressed.

In the latter part of the eighteenth century breeches were worn skin tight. A gentleman ordering a pair is said to have told his tailor—"If I can get into them I won't pay for them."

ON THE OKLAWAHA.

MOST PICTURESQUE OF AMERICAN RIVERS—PALMS AND ORANGE GROVES.

Further Descriptions of a Delightful Trip from St. Augustine Through The Lake Region of Florida—Hanging Spanish Moss.

A word more before I leave the beautiful city of St. Augustine in Sunny Florida, although the whole of our visit was not made as a matter of fact in sunshine. We went into the old Cathedral with its three bells "all in a row," and one smaller bell hanging above, one of these being the oldest bell in the United States. We also visited three of the principal churches in the city—the pretty Episcopal, the unique Methodist, and the beautiful Presbyterian church, the last a memorial built by Mr. Flagler for his only daughter, Fort Marion, one of the sights of St. Augustine is an old Spanish fort, deserted, but kept in repair for visitors. We climbed the famous stairway to the ramparts where the view of bay, harbor, town and ocean is so fine. I stood in the sentinel towers on the four corners of the Fort and almost imagined I could see the enemy approaching.

To me the quaint old streets of the town were most fascinating; there are no sidewalks, and one has to hug the walls in order not to be run over; second story verandas are not uncommon and one can easily shake hands with his neighbor on the opposite veranda or balcony. One of the very oldest houses is built of coquina; a natural shell conglomerate, and has a gable roof covered with moss, from which has sprung a growth of bright green, ten inches high.

At night it is an interesting sight to saunter through these narrow picturesque streets, lined on each side with shops, where the curiosity seeker could find alligators stuffed in every size, from the little ones, just coming out of their shells, to the great big fellows that made you shudder, they looked so life-like. Hundreds of pretty things in palmetto, shells, etc. were also exhibited. All of this we saw in the rain and mist—some of the time under an umbrella, at other times too interested to remember that it rained.

Deep Blue Skies.

On the last day which we spent in St. Augustine, the sun came out, the air was warm and balmy, the sky azure blue without a cloud, and I had my heart's desire of seeing St. Augustine bathed in winter sunshine. Carriages were being driven everywhere, sidewalks were crowded, the hotel courts and the plaza, and even the hotels themselves looked so beautiful I wished I might be a part of it all for a month. We sat in the Casino, watching the bathers in the large marble swimming pool, and listening to the music by the Marine Band. The scene was gay with flags and banners of all nations while the crowd kept coming and going like a kaleidoscope picture. After dinner we

The Steamer
"Osceola" Loading
Some Oranges
on the
Oklawaha.

A Picturesque
Landing Point of
the Oklawaha
Trip.

took the little ferry boat across the bay to Anastasia Island and then the cars to the lighthouse and South Beach, where we sat on the sand watching the Atlantic waves as they rolled up on

the beach. I never saw such sand, so fine and white. An old sea captain from Nassau had just landed his schooner at the wharf so we paid him a visit, bought some pretty pieces of coral, and were treated to Cuban bananas and my husband to black cigars as well. The Captain had some superb tortoise shells. While he is on his trips, his young wife keeps a little shop and sells the treasures of the sea, with which he keeps her richly supplied.

Good-Bye To Old St. Augustine.

The next morning, after four days visit, we had to say good-bye to this fascinating old city. It contains so much—the superb hotels with their wealth of beauty and luxuriant courts filled with tropical vegetation, the churches, the fort, the quaint old streets, the shops, the bay, the sea, the beautiful blue of sky and ocean, the sunshine—ah me, it makes a picture I shall never forget, a dream that has at last been realized.

The next morning we rode by train for an hour through the pine woods to Palatka, there boarding the little steamer Osceola—which was to take us 25 miles through the St. John's River and 101 miles up the Oklawaha—the Indian name for "Crooked Water." Such a funny little tub is the Osceola. It is about 50 feet long by 22 feet wide. Fortunately we had telegraphed for state rooms, as the boat was so crowded that many passengers had to hang on hooks. Our room was on the top deck, and so spacious that only one of us could get into it at a time.

The Fascinating Oklawaha.

The St. John's is quiet and monotonous, but the beauty of the Oklawaha is extremely fascinating—a narrow river without banks, constantly turning at right angles with itself, the great tall cypress trees full of waving gray moss, growing directly out of the water, which is of inky blackness. Now and then, the river being very crooked, there is a short vista through these weird looking trees, with their branches reaching out toward Heaven, and the Spanish moss swaying gracefully back and forth in the breeze. The surface of the water was covered with lily pads, "bonnets" the captain called them, but it was too early in the season for the lilies.

Now and then the steamer stopped at a lonely wharf to take on wood, and on the upper deck at dusk, pine torches were lighted which burned all night, faintly illuminating each side of the river, and creating most fantastic shapes and shadows. About 8 o'clock in the evening, we heard the whistle of the down boat, and the pilot moored us in a part of the river wide enough for her to pass. It was a beautiful sight as we watched her lights, while she twisted and curved her way toward us, passing within a few inches of the Osceola, the flame of her pine knots casting weird shadows about us and the darkies on board singing as with cheers and burras she slipped out of sight.

Weird Southern Melodies.

As we glided on through this strange scene, our own darkies sang their



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MISS CLARA DRISCOLL.

WHOSE ENERGY AND MONEY HAVE SAVED THE ALAMO.

"The Girl of La Gloria" being placed on the market within the past year.

A Mexican Opera.

Partly on account of her intense interest in the Texas country and its people and partly because this is a subject heretofore untouched in either literature or drama she conceived the idea of writing an opera in which there should be only Mexican scenes and characters.

Through the co-operation of men well versed in the methods of producing operas, the whole story was put into shape. Miss Driscoll had collected a number of Mexican songs and dances and folk lore music, all of the greatest value in the arrangement of a suitable musical setting. Inspired by these the musical composer of the opera was enabled to gain the best results so that the actual character of the music as well as the costumes and scenery makes the play typically American.

The first night "Mexicana" was produced one of the principals, a woman, carried out the time-honored association of señoritas, sombreros and cigaretes by appearing on the stage smoking one of these tiny rolls. Miss Driscoll immediately sought the stage manager and remonstrated stating that the better class of Mexican women do not smoke, contrary to the general impression that all women in tropical countries indulge in the habit; thereafter this seemingly necessary adjunct was removed from the opera.

Miss Driscoll has travelled extensively visiting almost every country on the globe. When the Spanish-American War broke out she was in Spain and while most of her American associates made haste to leave, as a matter of safety, she stayed for six months longer, assuming a Spanish name and living as a Spanish woman. That this was possible for her to accomplish is due to her brunette complexion, her black hair and her brilliant black eyes. She might easily pass as a daughter of any one of the Latin countries.
The history of the Alamo is one which must fire the imagination and patriotism of every son and daughter

rectory with a letter, saying that the directory contained 250,000 names, and he was certain that this plan would afford everybody in Louisville a "square deal." It has been remarked that if the soul saver desires a more extensive field to work in he might procure a copy of the New York City directory containing a million and a half names, and possibly Chicago and a few other of the large towns might make application.

A Short Road to Wealth.

Here is a plan for gaining wealth. Better than trading or loans. Take a bank-note and fold it across. And observe your money in creases. This wonderful plan without danger or loss.
Keep your cash in your hand and don't spend it.
And you'll find that each time you fold it across.
You'll double your roll; never lend it.

LIKES FINE CHINA PIECES.

Under Mrs. Roosevelt's supervision one of the most valuable collections in this country has been placed on exhibition in the basement of the White House, and it is a proud day when she can add something of historic worth to the treasure. The exhibit is made up entirely of remnants of the dinner sets which formerly served the Presidential families. It begins with some rare gold-trimmed plates and cups and saucers, which were the pride of Martha Washington's heart, and the contributions continue down to the era of Mrs. McKinley.

Helen Gould's Charity.

In the name of her father and mother Helen Gould, with the assistance of Elizabeth Altman, annually distributes \$500,000 in charity. Probably Miss Gould supports directly and indirectly more charities than any other person living. Her donations annually reach 500 or more beneficiaries. Her total disbursements during the last eight years—and they are all made with business judgment and through a perfect system—reach \$4,000,000.