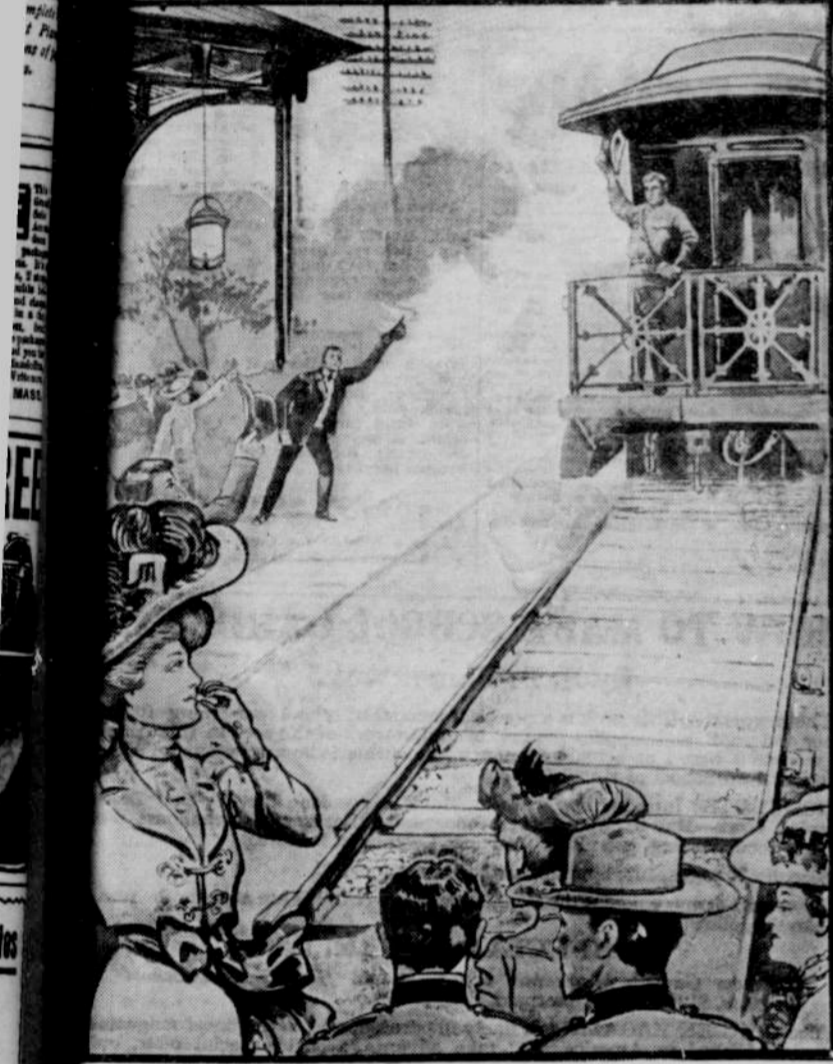


# Call to Arms

By Isabel Joyce.

Lieutenant Bates' turn to guard. In spite of the early group of young people gathered at the Colonel's band came swinging down. The instruments glittered in the morning sunlight and in line unconsciously moved with the martial music. Officers on the porch and new arrivals in time to the infectious march each feminine heart wished that one day she might marry the band had marched past the regular position a short program. "He takes long time to mount the guard band has loads of time to think, he's going to the Philippines Markham, a pretty fellow, protested. "We were trained, too, somebody else will have to count slowly or we'll never than two pieces in the morning." Helen added, "What Keene looked up from her rather nonchalantly. She been watching and hadn't really



MARGERY STOOD WATCHING A SOLDIER ON THE REAR CAR.

and a word the girls had said until Margery mentioned the Philippines. There's one good thing about it," Margery said. "It will take one away from the post and that's a consolation." "Anybody would think you didn't care at all," ventured Katherine, "and the time you know you're just dying for." "Now, Katherine, you're getting foolish," Margery answered good naturedly. "You know I like Mr. Bates awfully but just because I've danced with a few times that's no sign that I'll pine away when he's gone." "Oh no!" Katherine grimaced, and Margery joined in the laugh. Lieutenant Bates was only half way in the line and the men were conscious of the closest scrutiny of their faces. Each was examined with the most care but only the young officers and his friends over on the porch knew that he was killing time in order that the band could play the longer. When the little ceremony was over the men were dismissed and to the blurring strains of a Sousa march the musicians filed to their quarters. Bates crossed the parade and joined the group at the Colonel's. "To think you are going," said Katherine. "We only heard it this morning and just imagine, you have to go tomorrow." "You see, Miss Katherine, what it means to be a soldier. I've never been to the front and there's nothing to keep me here so I think I'm pretty lucky." "Nothing to keep you here," Helen Markham exclaimed. "Well of all things! And this old army post flooded with girls. Mr. Bates you're dismissed." "Now really, Miss Farnham, I thought I was lucky when I got my orders," laughed Bates. "But if I thought there were the slightest chance for me here I might be disloyal to my colors and condemn orders to the bow boys. The trouble here is that there are too many of us and not enough of you." "O, you fake," laughed Helen. During guard mount Margery Keene had sat down in a rocking chair and immediately upon their arrival at the yards. Mother, wife, sister and sweetheart, multiplied into a throng, swarmed up and down the platform each in search of a particular head. The post band banged away at popular tunes as a farewell to the boys—as bright, jolly and

happy a lot as ever donned the khaki. The men who had received orders for the Philippines were holding it over their companions who by ruling of the Department were compelled to wait for later orders. Every time a stay-at-home home in sight he was made the target for a volley of chaff about his status as a son of Mars.

"Bill there," Billy," called out a tousled headed soldier from one of the windows to another strolling by. "They'll never send you to the Islands. The 'Pinos would ketch you fust thing."

"They'll never ketch you if you kin run fast enough," said Billy. "Three cheers for Lieutenant Bates," somebody howled as the tall young officer hurried past. A flush rose to the roots of his hair when he touched his campaign hat in acknowledgment of the three lusty cheers that rang through the yard. Bates was popular with his men and his detail had much to do with their good nature in leaving for the Philippines.

Everything was in confusion. Shouts of "Goodbye" mingled with the laughter and tears from many hearts. Officers hurried here and there getting things in readiness to start and when the young people from the post elbowed their way through the crowd Bates was nowhere to be found.

He failed to materialize as starting time drew near and it was decided to institute a search for him. Margery was not the only post girl who had been casting sheep's eyes at the young officer and while she absolutely refused to move, saying she would wait for him to return, she could not view the other girls' solicitude with composure. "You people go ahead," said Margery, "and I'll stay here. I'm absolutely so tired I can't go another step."

"O, don't be unbecomable, Margery, come on," they urged, but Margery was obstinate. "I'll go over there with Mrs. Brooks and Captain Stiles," she said, "and then you can find me when you come back."

"All right," they said and off they went. Instead of seeking Mrs. Brooks and Captain Stiles Margery stayed just where they had left her and there she was when Bates dodging here and there through the crowd almost knocked her down. "I beg your pardon, Miss-Margery!" he gasped.

"Yes," she said, looking about her in evident confusion. "Pardon my awkwardness, but—where are the folks? I've been looking all over for them."

"They're looking for you, too," said Margery. "I was just going."

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## HUMOR IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

**The Gravity of That Body Disturbed Twice in a Single Day.**

If the chloroform theory as generally interpreted by the public, were put into effect in the United States Senate, it would rob the State of Alabama of its two senators, Morgan and Pettus. These men are legislators of exceptional capacity and influence. Both have passed their 80th year, yet both retain full mental power and their share of physical vigor, and both pay more attention to their senatorial duties than do probably the majority of members of that body.

Mr. Morgan has been in the Senate since 1877—nearly 30 years—and he has been recognized as one of the leading spirits in that chamber. While he



SENATOR PETTUS, The Nestor of the Senate.

has been at loggerheads at times with some of the administration officials, yet every one recognizes in him a broadminded American in an able debater, and a man who has brilliantly served his state, his party and his country.

Mr. Pettus, while he entered the senatorial chamber at a later date than did his colleague, came at that period of life when a great number of men seem to think that the time for political aspirations and honors has passed. He is considered one of the wisest of the Senate. It is well remembered by a great number of the senators how he scathingly ridiculed the speech of a senator during the notable debate on the Philippine question. His remarks were so rich and laughable that the hitherto decorous Senate convulsed itself with laughter. The same day he again caused the Senate to break out in an uproar when he was seen to slowly rise in his seat as though to seek recognition from the presiding officer, and just at that moment when Senator Frye, the President pro tem, was about to signify that Senator Pettus was entitled to the floor, the Alabama senator slowly put his hand into his pocket, pulled out a piece of black tobacco bit a piece off in a very methodical manner, and with that same slow motion deposited the tobacco in his pocket and sat down. Such incidents have been the favorite way of Senator Pettus's breaking in on the solemnity of the Senate.

## Charges Against England

The remarkable allegation that the British fleet was held in readiness to destroy the Russian fleet if the battle of the Sea of Japan had gone in the Russians' favor is made by Admiral Rojstvensky in a letter published in the Novoye Vremya, at St. Petersburg, with the permission of the Russian minister of marine. Referring to the secrecy of Admiral Togo in regard to the disposition of his forces, Rojstvensky declares that, "this was unknown even to the admiral of the British fleet allied with the Japanese, who concentrated his forces at Weihaiwei in expectation of receiving an order to annihilate the Russian fleet if this, the final object of Great Britain, was beyond the power of the Japanese."

## They Worship Serpents.

Travacore, on the south-west coast of India, is notable as one of the few places where the natives still regard serpents as deities. "There are thousands of shrines in the districts," said an Anglo-Indian "where the superstitious natives make offerings of food, burn candles, and chant hymns in order to gain the favor of their scaly idols. "Some of these shrines harbor swarms of snakes, which increase and multiply without hindrance, but snake-bites, are very rare. Treated so well, the reptiles become docile and harmless, and children play fearlessly in the groves where the snakes abound. "When, however, as sometimes happens, the neighborhood of a shrine becomes so overrun with reptiles that there is danger of treading on them, the surplus snakes are reverently removed by the priests to other less crowded localities."

## Danger in Dust.

The municipal authorities of Berlin are noted for their thoroughness and scientific methods. Nothing is left undone to make the city the cleanest and the healthiest in the world. The Health Board is now making a study of the street dust. Along the principal thoroughfares what are called "dust catches" have been erected. These structures are about fifteen feet high, and contain small tubular vessels, without covers, in which collect all dust particles floating in the air. Periodically the vessels are removed and the contents carefully analyzed, in order to determine if any germs dangerous to health are permeating the atmosphere.

## Built of Bulrushes.

The first place of Christian worship in Western Australia was unique in two respects—the material of which it was built, and also the several purposes to which it was devoted. This remarkable building was made at Perth by soldiers shortly after their first arrival in 1829, and was composed almost entirely of bulrushes. In addition to its use on Sundays for Divine worship, it occasionally served during the week as an amateur theatre, and was utilized during the whole time as a military barracks.

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