

COLLEGE GIRLS' CEREMONY

On the Eve of Graduation They Assemble and Tell of Their Engagements.

An engagement confession is part of the commencement festivities at Mount Holyoke and Smith colleges. Each senior who has found time amid her studies and her play during the four years' course to become engaged, blushing admits it.

Engaged girls, step forth and run around the verandas. Then there is a chorus of giggles, protestations, denials, accusations, and out of the confusion four or five girls will emerge and begin to trot around the verandas.

At Smith the confession takes place at the class supper. Just before the toasts the president rises and says: "Here's to the engaged girls. Where are they?"

And while everyone takes a hasty gulp of lemonade with strawberries swimming in it, the affianced maidens come reluctantly forward, and with hands on each other's shoulders, begin a solemn march around the tables.

If anyone in the class knows of the engagement of another girl who has not declared it, she is in duty bound to tell on her. The chorus of exclamations is significant.

"Why, Dorothy Billings, you don't mean to say—why, you witch!" cries some one, as a demure girl marches proudly around, for there are many surprises in store, and often a modest little maiden has quietly engaged herself when no one dreamed she had ever looked at a man.

"Ssh! that's all off," one girl murmurs to another who is trying to make her join the marching throng. "Yes, broke it off last week; now keep still."

"But I'm not engaged. I know you thought I was, but I haven't induced Jack to propose yet," protests another.

After the solemn march, the president says: "Now, all the girls who would like to be engaged march around."

CITIES' DISTINCTIVE SMELL

Odd Effluvia Which Greet the Nostrials in the Capitals of Europe.

Some sensitive essayist should take the smell of place as subject, says the London Chronicle. Paris, for example, is highly pervaded with the odor of burning charcoal and, coming from Paris to London, one is newly assailed by the appeal of soot.

Moscow has an odd perfume of its own. It suggests cranberries of peculiar pungency. And it never leaves the nose. Garlic, of course, is the basic smell that greets the stranger who lands at Calais. But the most curious of the smells of place is that of St. Petersburg. The present writer had often wondered what it was, having detected it even between the sheets of his bed at the most exorbitant hotel.

Queer Physical Facts.

The two sides of a person's face are never alike. The eyes are out of line in two cases out of five and one eye is stronger than the other in seven persons out of ten. The right eye is also, as a rule, higher than the left. Only one person in 15 has perfect eyes, the largest percentage of defects prevailing among fair-haired people.

World's Finest Hospital.

In Mexico City a new hospital has just been completed which has no rival in the world to-day. It is built on the French detached plan and consists of 35 buildings, each 50 feet apart, built on the most modern and approved sanitary lines, with a magnificent operating theater and a complete system of isolated wards for all infectious diseases.—Metropolitan Magazine.

Good Depth for Submarine.

A depth of 348 feet was reached by the crew of a new submarine designed for deep sea work in a recent test at Genoa, Italy, without experiencing any difficulty in breathing. The boat is equipped with strong grappling hooks moved by electric motors.

TITLES MAY BE PURCHASED

Yet There Are Many People Who Prefer to Furlon Patents to Nobility.

Nearly 2,000 Englishmen have been ennobled by Rome since 1870. Vatican titles, as they are called, can always be purchased, and any individual on payment of the sum of \$20,000 is entitled to be addressed as "your grace."

Ladies, too, have bought titles for as small a sum as \$750. Such titles when new are generally regarded with grave suspicion, but in the third generation everyone has forgotten the way the title was obtained.

Every day at Herald's college hundreds of individuals are to be found hunting for a distinguished ancestor, and they are willing to pay large sums to anyone who can manufacture a pedigree for them. Anything from 50 cents to \$50,000 can be spent in tracing ancestors.

About five years ago an Islington blacksmith, whose weekly wage until then had never exceeded \$15, was left \$50,000. Somebody induced him to have his pedigree traced. One day he called at Herald's college, bringing his son, a smart lad of about 18, with him.

Together they began a search and engaged a heraldry expert to help them. In less than a couple of days it was proved beyond doubt that the knight of the anvil was actually descended from Hugh Fitzwilliam the Conqueror.

Members of the British peerage, as a rule, exhibit but a languid interest in the subject of their ancestors. On the other hand, an individual whose information concerning his family goes no farther back than his own father believes he will be a vastly superior person if he can prove that one of his ancestors was a Viking pirate, a Danish filibuster, a Saxon thane or a Norman freebooter.

The editor of "Dot's Peerage" states that there are 55 baronets, who are accepted as such, who could not make their claims good to their titles. The home secretary has stated in the house of commons that there is no remedy against people who assume titles.

A rich Mr. Jones finds that King John or some other monarch made a Jones a baronet during his reign. The title expired a century later. The 1904 Jones claims descent from the thirteenth century Jones and annexes the title. As Sir 1904 Jones lives quietly in the country few people think of questioning the claim.

RISKED LOSING HIS HEAD.

British Ambassador Helped American Children Enjoy Fourth of July in Persia.

An American boy of ten and his little sister, whose father is in charge of the American hospital at Teheran, Persia, had an interesting experience last summer in persuading a British ambassador to run the risk of losing his head, and what a magnificent Englishman it was who took the risk merely to please two children, says the Indianapolis News.

Fred Wishard and his little sister decided that they could hardly keep the Fourth of July unless they could hoist the American flag. They were living in the little village of Gultek, six miles from Teheran, which the shah had given to the English legation for their summer home, and the government was accordingly English. The union jack flies there all the time, and no other flag could be run up without permission from the government.

So, after much deliberation, the little boy and his sister determined to present a petition to Sir Arthur Hardinge, the British ambassador, asking leave to fly the American flag on the day they wished to celebrate. They carried out their plan at an afternoon tea party, and the minister, after reading the paper, looked very grave. There would be no difficulty, he explained to them, in allowing them to have fireworks, but the question of the flag was a different matter altogether. He would telegraph to London in regard to it.

Late that evening a messenger appeared at Dr. Wishard's house with a large envelope, marked "urgent," for Master Fred. This was the letter: "On His Britannic Majesty's Service, British Legation, Teheran, June 25, 1904.—Sir and Madam: With reference to your petition, dated to-day, I had the honor to explain to you that there would be no difficulty about the proposed fireworks, but that I was not sure about the flag. I now find that an act of parliament is necessary, and that a British minister who gave similar permission without authority in the reign of Queen Anne was condemned on his return to England to be beheaded for high treason and to have his head struck on a flag-staff."

"We cannot, I fear, pass an act through parliament between now and the Fourth of July; but in order to oblige you and show my sympathy for America, I am willing to take this serious risk, and sanction the flying of the star-spangled banner, as proposed by you. I hope, under the circumstances, you will invite me to witness the fireworks."

"I am, sir and madam, your obedient servant, Arthur Hardinge."

Physical Ills of Temper.

Would you be well? Then control your temper. Do you not know that fits of passion, this giving way to the worst that is in you, does you not only moral and mental, but actual physical harm? Temper invariably interferes with the process of digestion; it carves ugly lines on your faces; it wears upon the tissues, and leaves us physically and mentally exhausted, as well as morally weaker after each indulgence.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Not Fitted for Political Life.

Lady managers of the St. Louis fair, who had \$100,000 to spend, returned \$36,000. Now, let's hear no more about women being equipped for politics.

Not Permanent.

Rubbing the nose is, according to a German professor, a relief for hay fever. So is sneezing, but it doesn't seem to last.

JAP NOBLES ARE WAITERS.

Tell at Indianapolis to Earn Money to Secure an American Schooling.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Working their way through the country by acting as waiters at fashionable clubs for the purpose of taking courses in some of the best universities in the United States, as well as learning American customs and modes of living, six Japanese, now employed at the University club, are setting a good example for American youths.

Though they have been in the United States only a year, the six are fairly well educated in American ways, speaking English perfectly, and as waiters are said to be the best in the business.

But their ambitions are higher than simply to remain waiters all their lives, and it is with the money they get while waiting on table in the fashionable clubs that they hope to study in the best schools in the country and later take American ideas back to their native land.

Sons of the nobility of the land, they were well educated in Japan before crossing the waters to America. This country interested them, however, and the six left Tokio together.

While engaged at work the Japs have also been studying. Some of them have already graduated from high schools in the United States, but later returned to work with the purpose of getting a higher education. When they secure money enough the Japs leave their work and take a course in one of the schools.

They have worked in many cities between the West and Indianapolis, and only recently came from Lafayette, the seat of Purdue university. They do not care to have their names known, not caring to be known as waiters, but willing to answer all questions about their country, their opinion of this, and like to discuss happenings in the fighting zone, though opinions as to what may happen they do not care to offer.

RATTLERS ALONG TRACK.

Plague of Snakes Alarms Trainmen in Wyoming About Their Duties.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—A plague of rattlesnakes has invaded the country north of this place, the infested belt extending from Silver Crown station to the Chugwater, Colorado & Southern trainmen report that hundreds of snakes are seeking the railroad track, attracted thereto by the warmth of the rails, and that every train north of Silver Crown cuts many of the reptiles in two. In going about their work at stops trainmen are very cautious, as several have narrowly escaped being bitten by rattlers. Section men are reported panic-stricken, as the presence of the snakes on the track makes their work very hazardous.

A snake seven feet in length struck the hat from the head of the section foreman at Horse creek as he was climbing up a high bank.

Where the snakes come from is a mystery, as they have never before been particularly numerous in the infested belt except at Iron mountain. The reptiles are not youngsters, a majority of them being in excess of three feet in length. The warm weather has made them exceedingly active, and they are fearless, striking at every moving thing that comes within their reach.

Fishermen visiting the creeks north of the city report the snakes also very numerous along streams, and many anglers have been frightened from their favorite creeks by the reptiles.

THREE NOVELS LEAD REST

Investigation Shows "David Copperfield" Is Most Popular Book Ever Published.

Columbus, Mo.—Rev. H. C. Mosser, formerly of Columbia, now pastor of the Christian church of Champaign, Ill., has, after devoting several years to research, ascertained the three most popular novels in the world, his object being to deliver lectures on the subject. To secure the desired information, not only the records of booksellers were consulted, but other means were adopted to ascertain the general opinion on the subject. The research covered England, France, Germany and other foreign countries that lead in appreciating the best literature.

The result is such a success that no doubt is left on the subject, the figures showing a difference of many thousands between the three leading novels and those less popular. Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield" is the most popular novel ever published, Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is second, and Lew Wallace's "Ben Hur" is a close third. The result is flattering to American authors.

Bare Animal Is Found.

Salt Lake City.—Naturalists have discovered in American Fork canyon, near here, a single specimen of the coon, an animal spoken of in the Bible, and supposed to be extinct. It makes its appearance at intervals of almost exactly one hour on a rock and utters 20 or 30 sharp barks before ending with a low moan of weird and uncanny sound, then it disappears for an hour. The animal is about 15 inches long with a snout like a hog. Its eyes are bright and snappy. It has no tail, and the hair is gray brown.

Prayer for Suburbanite.

Luther Burbank can make a great hit with the suburbanite by inventing a lawn grass that will not grow more than two inches high, and, therefore, not need cutting.

A Glorious Chance.

If Mr. Carnegie will kindly loan Russia the cash to pay her indemnity obligations, says the Philadelphia Inquirer, he will have a most glorious chance to die poor.

"FREAK" PASTOR QUILTS.

Peoria, Ill., Church Is Satisfied Once, But Will Have to Begin New Quest for Crank to Fill Pulpit.

Peoria, Ill.—After issuing a call some months ago for a "freak" pastor, the Central Christian church of Peoria has rejected all applications for the pastorate of the church, which is the largest of the denomination in the city. In reply to the call sent broadcast throughout the land, hundreds of letters and telegrams were received, each applicant offering himself to the scrutiny of the committee as fulfilling the seven "freak" conditions outlined by the officials of the church.

Following were the qualifications demanded: He must be a crank. He must be a mixer. He must be a lodge man. He must be a married man. He must be a young man. He must be willing to work hard. He must be athletic.

From the number of applications received Rev. S. S. Lappin of Atlanta, Ill., was selected as the probable choice for the pastorate of the church. The Rev. Mr. Lappin is a young man, and with an excellent record for church work, rose came to Peoria and occupied the pulpit some weeks ago. He made an excellent impression, and after due consideration the official board extended a call to him, and prospects were bright for the transfer of his affections to the Peoria church. Upon the advice of his physician, however, that the work would be too strenuous, he has communicated his regrets to the official board.

A meeting of the trustees has been held and a new type of candidate is considered, inasmuch as Rev. Mr. Lappin, the only "freak" candidate that left a lasting impression upon the board, has turned down the call.

COON PICKPOCKET IN TRAP

Menagerie Curiosity in Central Park, N. Y., Pilfers Peanuts to His Great Sorrow.

New York.—Bert, a thieving raccoon in the menagerie in Central park, was punished for his crimes when one of his paws, which he thrust between the bars of his cage in an effort to steal peanuts from a small boy, was caught in a mouse trap in a pocket of his prospective victim.

Known as the "Raffles of the Zoo," Bert has stolen many bushels of peanuts from the pockets of visitors: The majority of his victims are children, whose pockets were looted of peanuts and trinkets which they stood close to the cage of the innocent-looking animal.

With covetous eyes Bert watched the bigging pocket of a boy who frequently passed his cage in the afternoon. The visitor was attracted so much by the raccoon that he climbed the fence erected to keep victims out of reach of Bert's paws. When the boy was close to the bars Bert moved one of his paws forward and as the boy turned his head to look at another animal that was growling and snarling the pickpocket deftly snatched several peanuts from his pocket.

Encouraged by his success, Bert thrust his paw into another pocket and then uttered cries of surprise and rage. When he tried to withdraw his paw he found that it was caught in a mouse trap which the boy was carrying in his pocket.

When his cries of rage turned to plaintive plea for freedom he was released from the trap by the boy. His admirers hope that this experience will aid in teaching him not to steal.

SIXTY MILES BY AIRSHIP.

Flight of Lebaudy's Aerial Navigator in France Is Called a Great Success.

Paris.—Santos-Dumont appreciates that he will have to look sharply after laurels after the sensational trip of the Lebaudy airship, more or less against the wind, followed by a second trip of fifteen miles dead against a strong head wind, from Meaux to Laferriere.

The airship traveled at a rate of fourteen miles an hour and appeared completely to dominate atmospheric conditions. All authorities at the Aero club, including Santos-Dumont himself, agree that this is the greatest achievement toward proving the practicability of aerial navigation yet reached.

The journey was undertaken to prove the availability of the airship for military purposes, Minister of War Berteaux giving the order of departure, also sending a special officer aboard to prepare a detailed report of the incidents of the trip to Meaux. A squadron of husars was specially detailed to the parade ground where the airship descended, in order to keep the crowd from wrecking the airship, through too great enthusiasm.

The driver and constructor of the machine were publicly congratulated by representatives of the ministry, which considers the usefulness of air craft in time of war unequivocally demonstrated. Experiments with the same airship are continuing.

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QUEER LITTLE BAND.

COLONY IN EUROPE WHERE THE SIMPLE LIFE IS FOLLOWED.

People Wear No Clothing Beyond Sandals and a Flowing Robe—Spend Most of Their Time in the Open Air.

Geneva, Switzerland.—The curious and romantic looking followers of the simple life, who have attracted so much interest on the Riviera, and particularly at Mentone and Nice, during the winter, have, with the warmer weather, begun to move their camp into northern Italy, and near Como there is an increasing colony of these strange people, who seem well supplied with money, and who are now in search of a secluded and favorable estate on which to form a new garden of Eden.

As the simple fivers wear no clothing beyond sandals and one long, flowing toga-like white gown of light woolen fabric, and as they spend almost all of their lives in the open air, they will probably settle down in one of the warm, sheltered valleys near Lake Como, where the rigors of winter are not too severe.

The queer little commonwealth has been joined by all kinds of people, including Englishmen, Germans, French and Russians.

The men wear long hair and picturesque beards, while the women, robust and the picture of vigor and health, have an almost Amazonian appearance. They pass their lives in the open air, and when compelled, as during some of the recent severe weather, to sleep in houses, they remove doors, windows, carpets and curtains, and sleep with scarcely any covering, on hard, simple mattresses.

They bathe at least twice a day, are strict believers in vegetarianism, and an uncooked food diet. Their drink is water.

Of their family histories and past positions in the world, they do not speak, though among them are persons of undoubted distinction. They claim to be the healthiest livers on the earth.

One member of the band, a well-educated German named Paul, says that four years ago he was given up by one of the best physicians of Europe with not another year to live. He adopted the simple life as his last chance, rambled in the sunshine, in the fields and forests, over the mountains and Alpine pastures, sleeping at night under trees or sheltered by rocks, throughout the entire summer, and when winter came, instead of being, he felt full of vigor and new life.

BRIDE ADDS TO INCOME.

Young Chicago Wife Aids Husband by Making and Selling Feminine Neckwear.

Chicago.—Some developments in the larger independence of women seem especially designed to smooth certain rough places in the path of the sterner sex. The latest is a young bride recently brought by her husband to a Chicago boarding house, who advertises that she is making and selling stocks and other articles of neckwear.

The ad. put in the paper by the young Chicago bride shows a tendency of the times. She has been here only two days. Small articles of neckwear which she had made attracted feminine admiration, and it was pointed out that they would bring a price. The contagion of a household of money-earning women was enough. An ad. was inserted and the bride, instead of indulging plans of going back to her mother, is conducting a thriving neckwear establishment. If it does not continue to banish the irritating homesick trial from the path of the bridegroom, it will at least defray the expenses of the trip which will be some comfort in the new problem of double expenditure.

If the business activities of women are so contagious as to be caught by brides, and to steer them safely between the varying emotions of the honeymoon period, the larger independence of women is a move for which many men have cause for self-congratulation.

FARMERS WANT HELPMETS

Matrimonial Club of Oklahoma Home-Makers Advertises for "Kitchen Mechanics and Artists."

Lawton, O. T.—In Manitou, Okla. 75 young men have formed a club for matrimonial purposes. Their names all appear attached to a want ad in a recent issue of the local paper, which reads as follows:

"Wanted—About 500 kitchen mechanics and artists can find situations in Comanche and Kiowa counties. Females only. Young ladies from 16 to 36 and widows under 65 preferred, but older or younger applicants will not be rejected by reason of age. Applicants must pay their own railroad fare to this point, but amount will be refunded after contract is signed. Those accepting situations are expected to join the union. Applicants must be good bread makers, of good habits, tidy in person, and sufficiently comely to sit for a picture without danger to camera."

There are more than 150 bachelors and widowers within a radius of ten miles of Manitou, all holding down homestead claims.

But Sometime It Will.

It is manifest, says the Cincinnati Enquirer, that the Panama canal will not be ready for summer excursions for several years yet.

HOMES FACING DISASTER.

Partial Collapse of Surface Workings of Anaconda, Mont., Mines Endangers Houses.

Anaconda, Mont.—There is consternation among the house owners in the vicinity of Galena street and Warren avenue, and in the territory bounded on the west by Gaylord street and on the east by Shields avenue, extending from Park down to Talbott, a large area of territory is more or less in a shattered condition caused by the partial collapse of surface workings of mines in the vicinity.

Some of the tenants are actually in fear of dire results and they look forward to the time when the frost gets out of the ground with apprehension, for their disturbed minds picture gruesome sights, such as houses falling into yawning chasms, children being buried alive in their mothers' arms, and all sorts of fantastic pictures of the vivid imagination. The ground is sinking; that there is no doubt, for reports of the occurrence have been received by the county commissioners and the city council.

Houses have been set at variance with their foundations and doors and windows are set at odds with their casings so that in many instances they have had to be taken out and set over again. Doors in a night have been squeezed so tightly as to refuse to open and had to be taken off their hinges and rehung.

Blasting is heard directly beneath houses, and in one case the dishes were rattled out of the cupboard and broken into fragments by the violent fall to the floor. One man said that he was afraid to go into his cellar as he thought a blast had broken the ground and connected it with the 1,000-foot level of a mine.

The owners of houses are as yet undecided as to what action to take in an effort to secure relief or redress, for it is not known who is responsible or how many may be held responsible for the shaking up of that part of the city. It is understood that the complainants will pool their grievances and present them in a solid mass to the authorities and push their suits against the mining companies.

JAPAN IN WAR WITH US.

Congressman Hull Declares Country Is Menaced by Desire of Mikado to Secure Philippine Islands.

Des Moines, Ia.—Congressman John Hull, chairman of the house military committee, declares the United States will have trouble with Japan, and likely a bloody war, over the Philippines in the near future. He declares that in Washington and other capitals the opinion is entertained in the best informed circles that if Japan wins against Russia, she will proceed to the task of driving occidentals out of landed possessions in the far east, and that the United States, in the Philippines, will come next.

"The Japanese need the Philippines," said Congressman Hull, "and they are certain they could wrest them from us. We must remember that in a war with them we would be in the same situation Russia is now. Japan would be close to the scene of war, while we would be 7,000 miles from it."

"Japan would prefer to buy the islands, and if she collects a great indemnity from Russia she will have the money with which to buy. So the question may be put up to us very soon. If we don't want to sell, we can safely expect that the Japanese will not lose time in finding occasion for trouble with us."

"Our policy should be to fortify the islands and Hawaii, so that operations against our Pacific coast could not be carried on from this group as a base. If our present naval programme were completed we would have a navy second only to England's, and it would be strong enough for many years to come if we could keep it all in the Pacific. But that is impossible. We must keep fleets in other waters, and still maintain enough in the Pacific to overmatch Japan. That is the situation we face."

"As matters stand now, Japan could seize the islands, if she chose, and we could never wrest them from her."

FALSE TEETH AS SECURITY.

Jersey Horse Borrower Leaves the Plate in Animal's Stall—Hostler Gets Reward.

Orange, N. J.—From Branchville comes the story of a man who one night visited the stable of Alvah T. Decker, and without leave from Mr. Decker borrowed one of his best horses and rode, like Tam o' Shanter, all night long, returning the animal to the stable before daylight.

When he opened the stable that morning Mr. Decker found the jaded horse with the frozen snow clinging to its legs. The hired man, in sweeping out the stall, found a set of false teeth. Mr. Decker took the teeth and allowed the fact that he had a set of false teeth awaiting an owner to be freely circulated about the neighborhood.

The owner of the teeth came around after several days and asked Mr. Decker for his teeth. Mr. Decker says the affair is a "closed incident" now, but adds that the owner paid him a substantial sum as a reward for the recovery of the teeth.

Find Remains of a Dinosaur.

W. B. S. Whaley, a Boston engineer, reports the discovery near Lake Tebo, ten miles from Sedalia, Mo., of the incomplete skeleton of a huge prehistoric animal, possibly a dinosaur. Small dinosaur skeletons have been found in Kansas, but none has even been reported found in Missouri.