

Statuary Hall at the Capitol



Statues of practically all of the famous Americans of the past may be found in this hall at the national capital at Washington; the place is now being re-decorated.

BREAKS LONG SILENCE

CIVIL WAR VETERAN ASKS FOR HIS BACK PENSION.

James B. Vernon, inmate of Tennessee Asylum, solves 15-year mystery of his identity by demand, "Where is My Money?"

Over, Tenn.—After 15 years of silence James B. Vernon, a veteran of the civil war, who has been an inmate of the county asylum for 17 years, recovered his speech, and the first words he uttered were: "Where is my money?"

The man, who is in his seventy-sixth year, asked the question the other day when it was learned that the government owes him back pension and interest amounting to \$7,000, all of which a letter from Washington says he will receive at once.

When Vernon was told of the wind-fall, he said he didn't care, so long as he knew the money was all right. All he desired was to be allowed to remain in the asylum hospital.

For nearly two decades Vernon has been a puzzle to the asylum authorities. He was admitted in 1890 as an insane patient and little was ever learned about him. He was often the victim of violent fits of insanity and two years after his admission apparently lost the power of speech.

In the 15 years that have elapsed since then he has not been known to utter a word except incoherently in his violent spells.

The last year or two the violent symptoms of Vernon's insanity almost completely disappeared, but the habit of silence had grown upon him and officials of the asylum regarded him as unable to speak, until on Friday he startled the warden with his demand: "Where is my money?"

The warden questioned him, and for the first time discovered that Vernon was a veteran of the civil war. The warden communicated this to Judge Roberts, who immediately corresponded with the department at Washington and learned that Vernon was a member of company H, First Pennsylvania regiment, and had been excused from service on account of mental weakness. He was thought to be dead.

MAKES LODGING-HOUSE OF JAIL.

Because of His Thrift Minneapolis Negro Is in Distress.

Minneapolis—Unknown to the authorities, Chas. J. Chatton, colored, has for the last year been running a rooming and boarding house for negroes in the abandoned Minneapolis jail. He has paid no rent, but the nonpayment of rent to the county is not the charge which he must face in the courts nor the reason why he has changed his address from the old county jail to the new. He is held on the charge of stealing hundreds of dollars' worth of gas from the Minneapolis Gas Light Company.

Chatton says he never concealed the fact that he had taken up his abode in the old county jail. The building was abandoned, he says, when he came to Minneapolis a year ago, and he thought he would harm nobody by making it his domicile. Things ran so smoothly that he began to rent rooms to his colored friends.

The rooms were modern for Chatton, tapped an old gas pipe and installed modern fixtures in the cells which had formerly been occupied by prisoners. There are few windows in the building, and according to the gas company officials Chatton did not stink his roomers in the use of gas.

A detective visited the place and arrested Chatton. His boarders have also been requested to vacate.

LAD MAY GET HERO MEDAL.

Rescues Boy and Citizens Demand Carnegie Reward for Him.

Philadelphia—If arguments by citizens of Manayunk can avail a Carnegie medal will be given to 13-year-old William Lechler for his heroism and clear-headedness in saving 6-year-old William Welsh from death by drowning; if not, they will purchase a medal for the young hero as a token of their admiration.

The boys were returning to their homes at the Falls of Schuylkill from an afternoon plunge in the public bath, when the accident happened.

They were playing along the bank of the Schuylkill River near the stone bridge of the Reading Railroad when the Welsh boy fell into the stream. At that point the river runs rapidly, with treacherous eddies and several deep holes as death traps. It was in one of these that the screaming child fell.

William Lechler leaped after the boy, but could not reach him before he sank. There came a gurgling cry a few yards away and again the child disappeared. Lechler dived, but could not find his companion. A second time he went down and this time found the body imprisoned by a rock.

He caught the child's leg, pulled the boy free, swam with it to the shore and ran for aid to the office of Dr. David Boone, two squares away. It took more than two hours' hard work to bring life back to the little boy.

Dr. Boone is at the head of the movement to get a Carnegie medal for young Lechler.

STOLE AUTO EVERY NIGHT.

Young Lover Finally Caught Through Clew Given by Flower.

Des Moines, Ia.—Taking the chances of a long term in prison and discovery by his sweetheart that he was not really a young millionaire, Robert Stevens, nineteen years old, has been stealing automobiles nightly to take the young woman for fast drives into the country. Stevens was arrested just as he was starting out with a machine owned by H. M. Trisler.

Stevens was in the habit of taking the first automobile he could find without an owner, then taking a forty or fifty-mile ride with the girl. After his evening drive, Stevens would abandon the machine.

The thefts continued with regularity and, apparently, the police were helpless until they discovered a bunch of sweet peas in the empty machine. In the bunch was one of a peculiar shade, which it was found was grown only in one garden in the city. Stevens was shadowed for several days by detectives until he was arrested.

HAIR CUT COSTS HIM HOME.

St. Louis Woman Has No Use for Husband with Head Shaved.

St. Louis—The swimming pool of the Missouri Athletic club is in charge of "The Two Macs." McCarthy is the director of swimming in the daytime and McIntosh has charge at night. The two Macs look very much alike, and are often mistaken for one another. The other morning McCarthy had his hair cut and his head shaved. When McIntosh came to relieve him that night he admired the shaved head and the coolness of it and followed suit. Then he remembered that his wife particularly admired his long hair, and he feared to go home and meet her. He had his picture taken upon a postal card and mailed it to her. When she received the card she called him up and said: "Mac, you needn't come home. I won't have any such looking thing around the house."

FINDS FROG IN ICE CREAM.

New Yorker Orders Second Dish and Discovers Amphibian.

New York—Gregory Adams of Brooklyn, entered a confectionery store on Atlantic avenue and ordered his favorite dish of ice cream. Soon he ordered a second portion.

He had reduced it to about one-half its original size when, suddenly, his spoon was arrested in its upward ascent and Adams was noticed gazing intently at his half-eaten cream.

"Anything wrong, sir?" queried the waiter.

"They say the legs are edible," murmured Adams to himself, and the waiter backed away, answering the proprietor's inquiring glance with a significant tap on the forehead.

Then the customer recovered from his trance.

"Come here, will you?" he yelled to the proprietor. The latter cautiously approached.

"What in the blazes do you call that?" demanded the angry patron, pointing to something in the plate before him.

The proprietor's gaze followed the questioner's finger.

"Agh, Himmel!" he ejaculated. "Some one has been a joke playing mit me."

"With you?" exclaimed the indignant Adams, and then he rushed out of the store.

The waiter approached the table curiously. There, in the sepulchre of cream, reposed a tiny frog.

PLAY CHESS BY MAIL.

One Man in Michigan, Other in Idaho—Game Over a Year Old.

Gladstone, Mich.—Separated by a number of states, and making the various moves on the board by mail, Dr. C. L. Girard of Escanaba, Mich., and E. P. Van Valkenberg of Boise, Idaho, are indulging in a decidedly novel series of games of chess.

The contest began over a year ago, and as not more than three moves can be made by each player each month, it takes the distance to be traveled by the letters. It will take some time yet to determine the victor. Games will be played until one of the contestants has won three out of five. Dr. Girard has already achieved one victory, winning out on the thirty-fifth move, and the second game is now so far advanced it is possible for him to predict that this, too, will end in his favor.

Mr. Van Valkenberg was formerly a resident of Escanaba, and was taught the game of chess by the man with whom he is now trying conclusions. Dr. Girard is the champion player of the city, if not the upper peninsula.

MRS. LONGWORTH GETS FALL.

Congressman Laughs When Wife Plunges into Pit.

Spearfish, S. D.—When Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth and Congressman Longworth were in Yellowstone park with Vice President Fairbanks and Senator Tiltman, the President's daughter met with an accident, according to D. C. Booth, superintendent of the United States fish hatchery at Spearfish, who has just returned from Yellowstone park. The party was looking at one of the large clay pits when Mrs. Longworth slipped and fell headforemost into the pit. It was filled with a soft, oozy red clay and Mrs. Longworth was a sight to behold.

Instead of displaying his customary gallantry, Congressman Longworth stood by and enjoyed a most provoking laugh, according to Mr. Booth. As a consequence, Mrs. Longworth was conducted to the hotel by other members of the party, and it is declared that for the rest of the afternoon her husband preferred admiring the scenery to facing his wife's pique.

Find Cliff Dwellers' Palace.

Denver, Col.—A. J. Flynn, vice president of the Denver Archaeological society, has made a wonderful discovery in the cliff dweller region of southwestern Colorado, it being a palace of six stories in a good state of preservation. It is one of the largest and most perfect buildings yet found among blocks of stone more regularly cut than those found in the average cliff dwelling. It is picturesque in appearance and when the shrubs have been cut away and its front made clear it will command a view of the entire canyon in which it stands.

Town So Rich It Levies No Tax.

Wilmington, Del.—Harrisville, the county seat of Ritchie county, will be without any municipal taxation this year for the first time in the old town's history. The announcement has just been made by the mayor, Romeo H. Freer, a former attorney general of the state. Harrisville owns its own electric lighting plant, and the profit from its operation combined with the interest on the town's money in banks will afford ample revenue for all estimated municipal expense, so that no corporate tax will be laid. No other town in West Virginia ever enjoyed this distinction.

Refuses to Flog Prisoners.

Wilmington, Del.—Disapproving of the Delaware whipping post, declaring that it is a failure and refusing to lash prisoners, Asmond S. Meserve, warden of the Newcastle county workhouse, near here, and one of the leading criminologists of the country, has resigned. Mr. Meserve has lashed hundreds of negroes and white men. He has repeatedly stated that the principle was wrong, and has strongly advocated the repeal of the medieval law.

JEWS PLAN UNIQUE BANK.

Profits to Be Given for Development of Palestine.

Tannersville, N. Y.—At the next session of the legislature of the state of New York the Zionists will have a bill presented authorizing the establishment of a bank in New York city which will be unique in that it will be closed on Saturdays and the profits of which will be devoted to the development of Palestine.

A committee headed by Nathan Prenskey, a merchant of Brooklyn, Henry Jackson, of Pittsburg, and Dr. B. L. Gordon, of Philadelphia, reported at a session of the Zionists' convention here that stock to the amount of \$50,000 had already been subscribed for, with promises of a similar sum as soon as the bank is established. One of the features of this bank will be a steamship brokerage department, which will serve to protect the poor and ignorant Jews of the East side of New York city from the frauds practiced on them by irresponsible men.

As soon as the bank in New York city has been established branches will be opened in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Chicago and Cincinnati and in other cities where there are large Jewish settlements.

It is anticipated that the profits of this enterprise will be so large that many projects for development of the industrial and agricultural possibilities of Palestine, which are now in abeyance, will be successfully carried out and the way opened for the settling there of an enormous Jewish peasant population.

NEW RECORD IN JUNE BRIDES.

One Every Thirteen Minutes for the Month in Chicago.

Chicago—While you read these words, stop and think! Chicago has 3,300 June brides to-day! The love bug has been working overtime and has broken all records.

Three thousand three hundred June brides—that means 110 brides a day or one every 13 minutes!

Hymen, Cupid & Co. report the most prosperous month since the firm was established.

Last year there were 3,103 June brides; in 1905, 2,907; 1904, the record was 2,758.

Marriage License Clerk Salmonson, the man who has opened the door of wedded happiness to hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans and others, preached a little lay sermon the other day for June brides. These are the points on which he laid stress:

- 1. Love your husband always.
2. Be his companion, his friend, his chum.
3. Never, never be suspicious or nagging.
4. Study his tastes and give him what he likes.
5. Get up and cook his breakfast for him.
6. Make his home as attractive for him as you can—as attractive as the club or the saloon.

PLAGUE SWEEP INDIA.

In Ten Years There Have Been 4,411,212 Deaths—Mortality Increasing.

London.—During the first three and a half months of 1907 the deaths from the plague in India totalled 434,000, the heaviest monthly mortality yet reported during the epidemic. According to the Indian World this would appear to show that the present year will exhibit a record number of deaths.

The plague records for the ten years October, 1896, to December, 1906, show that there was a large annual increase from 1901 to 1904, the deaths numbering 274,000 in 1901, 577,000 in 1902, 670,000 in 1903 and 1,022,000 in 1904, the worst year in ten years.

There was a small decrease in 1905, the deaths falling to 951,000, and a large decrease in 1906, when there were only 322,000. The total deaths for the whole ten years numbered 4,412,212. The improvement which was shown in the two years 1903 and 1905 has not, unfortunately, been maintained.

From the first appearance of the disease up to the year 1901 the mortality was greatest in the Bombay presidency, but from 1902 onward, with one exception, the worst area has been the Punjab, and in 1905 the deaths in the latter province alone numbered 364,625.

ACROSS AFRICA IN AUTOMOBILE.

Prussian Army Officer and His Aids Will Make Daring Trip.

Berlin—Lieut. Graetz of the Prussian army will leave here soon to make the first effort to cross Africa in an automobile. He proposes to start from Dar-Es Salaam, on the east coast, about August 10, riding through German East Africa, British Central Africa, Rhodesia and German Southwest Africa to Swakopmund. He proposes to make the journey in not less than six weeks. He will drive a specially made 45 horsepower car, with very heavy wheels and compartments for holding sufficient gasoline for 1,000 kilometers. It will provide himself also with a big ladder. Accompanying him will be a machinist, a cook and a negro servant. He will have an elaborate photographic outfit.

The Kaiser is said to be much interested in the venture and has directed that a report of the trip be made to him.

HIGHLY VALUED RELIC

ROBINSON CRUSOE'S GUN IN A PHILADELPHIA HOME.

Ancient Firearm Occupies Place of Honor in Residence of Miss H. B. White—Has Refused Many Offers.

Philadelphia—Robinson Crusoe's gun, the identical weapon that was the mainstay of that lonely sailor during his castaway life on Crusoe Island, is here in Philadelphia, the jealously guarded property of Miss Hilda B. White, of North Thirty-fourth street.

The recent discovery of that fact is causing the wealthy descendants of Alexander Selkirk, whose adventures were the basis of Daniel Defoe's famous story, no little uneasiness.

British magazines, since the relic has been traced to America, have printed several articles in which it is described as "rusting, uncared for and alone in the attic of some unappreciative Yankee," and many overtures have been made to its present owner to purchase it, the price offered being much higher than that originally paid for the ancient firearm.

Instead of the attic troubling the Selkirk relatives, the gun occupies a place of honor in the beautiful home of one of West Philadelphia's wealthy women, and the papers, showing the authenticity of its pedigree, are locked up carefully in the vaults of the local trust company.

Miss White has had the gun for more than 30 years. The story of her ownership is unique, and gives the relic, in her eyes, at least, an added value.

Forty years ago a distant cousin left Philadelphia for a tour of England and Scotland. Knowing Miss White's penchant for collecting old things, he kept his eyes open for odd bits, and many a piece in Miss White's large collection came from him. While in Largo, the old-fashioned Fife-shire town in which Alexander Selkirk was born, he noticed in passing by a cottage that a public sale was in progress—some one was being dispossessed of nonpayment of rent.

He went in, and when the old gun was offered, together with the papers proving its identity, he became an excited bidder, finally carrying it away with him after having paid \$150 to the auctioneer.

Several hours later a messenger came to the hotel where he was staying with a letter. The communication was from the auctioneer, who wrote that a wealthy relative of the Selkirk family had authorized him to offer the purchaser of the gun \$320, double the price paid.

Loath to take the heirloom from the family that was evidently so highly prized, he said that if the would-be purchaser would meet him at the dock the next day he would give up the gun. The Selkirk representative did not turn up, and the gun sailed for America to be presented to its present owner.

In the last few years Miss White has had letter after letter from England, some of them offering her good sums for her prize.

Intrinsically the gun is not worth 50 cents. It is of a pattern invented in the year 1676, a flintlock.

In the days when such weapons were used the gun was loaded almost to the muzzle with powder, with a little placed in the flashpan near the hammer. When the hammer descended it struck in the pan and the weapon was discharged.

COW CARRIED GOLD WATCH.

Butcher Finds Timepiece Which Disappeared Six Years Ago.

Lexington, Ky.—Dr. D. D. Bell, one of the best known veterinarians in this city, has been called in to vouch for the finding of a gold watch in the lung of a cow by F. Dryden, a butcher, and also appointed referee in a controversy over the claim to the watch made by the original owner, Israel Rudge.

Dr. Bell says that in the spring of 1901 Mr. Rudge was at work in his barnyard when a calf got hold of his waistcoat and chewed it up. He could not find his gold watch, but when he sold the cow a few months ago to Mr. Dryden he said he believed the animal had swallowed his gold watch six years before and jokingly told the butcher to look out for it.

Mr. Dryden found the watch in the left lung of the cow. He says the watch was running and recorded the correct time within ten minutes.

Dr. Bell says the only way he can account for the watch running is that the breathing of the animal kept it wound up, owing to the position it occupied in the lung. He holds that the watch belongs to the butcher. The farmer is not satisfied, and may go to court.

Buyers Town to Kill It.

Pittsburg—"If the town doesn't suit you, buy it and have it moved," is the latest motto of Pittsburg millionaires, and James Laughlin, Jr., member of the big steel firm of Jones & Laughlin, has set the example by buying the whole town of Zellwood, Orange county, Fla. The little town, which is very old, was not to the liking of the millionaire, who some years ago built a mansion there. When he found that his neighbors were not congenial he bought up every property in the town and will have some portions of it moved over across a creek and other portions perhaps dumped into the sea.

CAUGHT THE FAIR CULPRIT.

How the Naval Officer Recovered His Lost Buttons.

It happened on one of the United States cruisers now at Hampton roads, says the Washington Herald. A lieutenant, having met two very charming ladies while ashore, invited them on board for luncheon. They came and were shown over the ship. They lingered long in the lieutenant's room, which was daintily furnished, and they admired his photographs of home. When he was summoned on deck, he left them there. Returning, he took them to luncheon and, having to go on duty in the afternoon, he excused himself so as to get into uniform. Alas! he found that every button on his best coat had been cut off, and then he remembered that one of his fair guests had been rather importunate on the subject of buttons.

He got her alone after luncheon and accused her of the theft and after some prevarication she confessed that the buttons were in her corsage. With some firmness the lieutenant led the culprit to his cabin, pointed solemnly to the denuded coat on the bunk, produced needle and thread and, going out, locked the door on the outside. In half an hour he returned, unlocked the door, found that his coat was once more in excellent order and then, with great gallantry, bowed the lady over the side. She has not been invited to luncheon on the same ship since.

A FASHION FROM WAR.

How Flat Watches Took Place of the Old-Time "Turnips."

When the great man takes onto himself a watch as thin as parchment he little thinks that that thin watch recalls from army regulations. Up to the time of the Allies taking Paris the ordinary watch was convex in shape and called from its outline a "turnip." The officers of the Russian and other armies objected to this because its bulbous form made the uniform of a man on parade look untidy, whether it were carried in the coat or the fob. Here in Paris, however, they found that the watchmakers of the Palais Royal had contrived a dial, a number which got over the difficulty. Flat watches were the fashion in Paris. The English when they appeared in the streets of the French capital marched in not in gala dress, but in the uniform of the day, but in the such as the others wore, but in the raiment which they had worn on campaign. Great was the impression which their habiliments created. But they at once adopted the smart flat watch and brought it back to England for our own manufacturers to copy.—London Standard.

Paddy and Taxes.

A voice from the jungle of Burma is heard in the following letter from a missionary correspondent to the Christian Herald: "The Lord has sent me \$10 from a friend in New York, which will buy that for the three native houses and an addition to this one I live in and pay for its transport here besides. Another gift also came and with it I have paid this new man's wages for one week, bought a small supply of dried fish, paid for a fresh supply of stamps and left a little for daily needs. Our store of rice is fast melting away and daily the prayer is offered at morning and evening worship, before the children and heathen visitors, that the Lord will send money for more rice, for paddy and for the taxes, which are now due."

Creatures of the Wild.

"Wild animals and birds are no more angelic than human beings in every family, in every herd and in every cage, from tigers to doves, the strong bully and oppress the weak and drive them to the wall. Of all quadrupeds, deer are the greatest fools, wolves are the meanest, apes the most cunning, bears the most contented and open-minded, and elephants the most intellectual. Of birds, the parrots and cockatoos are the most philosophic, the cranes are the most domineering, the darters are the most treacherous, the gallinaceous birds have the least common sense, and the swimming birds are by far the quickest to recognize protection and accept it."—N. Y. Sun.

Photographing the Mirage.

The photograph represented a palm grove, a lake and a caravan of laden camels and white-robed Arabs moving in stately wise across the pale desert. "That is a picture of a mirage, or fata morgana," said the traveler. "I took it in the Sahara, not far from Tombouctou. There was really nothing there but sand—wastes on wastes of sand, but my dazzled eyes saw that mirage and my camera saw it, too. This is the only mirage picture I have ever got. I have tried in Ceylon, in Egypt and in Morocco to photograph various mirages, but always in vain. There are scarcely six mirage photos in existence."

Words and Deeds.

"There never was a time in my life, fellow citizens," exclaimed the candidate, "when I hadn't the courage to call a spade a spade." "Yes," spoke up an old farmer in the audience, "and there never was a time in your life when you had the courage to take one in your hand."

A Misunderstanding.

In his bathing suit the little fellow was digging in the sand. "Why, Jimmy," said a lady, "how tanned you are!" He continued to dig suitably. "Did you hear me yell?" he asked, without looking up.