

NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

H. P. DAVIDSON, Proprietor.

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The Bank Robbery

The robbing of the Erskine bank last Wednesday afternoon and the suicide of the robber calls our attention to the fact that this talented young lawyer was ruined by drink.

We quote a statement from Henry M. Willis a friend of the Harris family.

Twenty-four years ago, when he was bathing at one of the beaches with a party, in which was Will A. Harris, Lamar's father, he was saved from drowning by the elder Harris. He never forgot it, and when the young man got into trouble with bad checks Willis came to the front to aid him. He sought to stop the prosecution, and made good every check of which he could learn.

Last night he said to correspondents: "Drink did this. Lamar was a good boy except when he was in his cups. Then he signed the checks that brought this on him. Then it was that he sought the company of women. Then it was he gambled and let his splendid law practice go to the dogs. Drink affected his brain towards the last. I have no hesitation in saying that for six months he has been insane. He was a wonderful young man when in his right mind.

"The greatest blow falls on those two faithful women. I fear they will both die of this shock. They believed in him and loved him. Even after he went away, and there could be no doubt that he had forged checks, they were faithful, and hoped only for word from him. At last that word came, but it was terrible wording, and nearly killed them.

It is a sad story, and as Mr. Willis suggests the young man in ending his life, did not end the suffering that would follow to those who were left behind. Here is what the mother has to say in a special dispatch to the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 14th.—Mrs. Will A. Harris, mother of Lamar A. Harris, tonight gave out the following statement through Dr. Mayer, the family physician, who is in constant attendance at the Harris home, where both widow and mother are prostrated;

"I can hope no longer that he is not my son. The evidence seems so positive and the identification so complete. But I consider that the man who killed himself yesterday is not my real son—only the shell of his body. His mind was gone. Alcohol killed my boy some months ago. It was his only weakness.

"I shall attend to the arrangements for the funeral. I will have his body cremated, as he always wished, and his ashes will be brought to his home here. I can say no more.

The Chicago papers have flooded our city with extras and every detail of the crime has been printed and reprinted and the wonderful enterprise of the newspaper world was brought to the attention of our citizens. These comments are made on the supposition that Lamar Harris and the Bandit are the same but it is not definitely known. Marshall Sheahan received a telegram from Philadelphia ordering the body held for identification and signed Betty Stewart.

Early Friday afternoon the body was positively identified as Lamar Harris by Mr. C. P. McDonald, president Los Angeles Planing Mills, who was well acquainted with him.

The attitude of Highland Park citizens has completely changed

from the spirit of bravado and glory in catching a thief to one of sadness and regret that a life with the possibility of great things should come to such an end.

Right Measurement

It is often said that the most important thing in finding one's place in life is to seize the passing chance. "Opportunity," it is said "has not locks on the back of her head" and when she passes she does not return. He who would catch her therefore must grasp her as she passes.

But opportunity is of little value without some due sense of right measurement. There are quite as many failures in the world because of false standards of measure as of lost opportunities.

A triangle will not fit in a round space no matter how you file it down and it is exceedingly difficult to whittle a round peg to fit into square hole, unless your peg is much larger than the hole.

Nor can you ever get horse service from an educated ass. The latter may have its place—if it is only to show how intelligently stupid it can be—but it certainly can never match up in a team of high steppers.

Men are constantly getting into the wrong places and they succeed only in demonstrating failure.

Some men mistake brass for brains and get themselves lifted on to a pedestal which makes them dizzy or drunk—in either case arrant failures.

Right measurement is not based on possession. Many a wealthy man's son wears a silk hat on a fool's pate. It is not always a disaster to begin life with plenty of capital but it is often so; and very frequently it is attended with softening of the brain.

Right measurement aims at right knowledge. Music and the fine arts are splendid and noble attainments but they are not essentials to the mechanic or the agriculturist.

Right measurement is not necessarily physical strength. Every youth who can should avail himself of the gymnasium, or better still, the lawn mower or the wood pile. But don't forget that some physical dwarfs and cripples are among the best successes in the world.

Get your measure boys! Measure up to full six feet if you can, but find your right measure and then—fill it. A little honest pride won't hurt you. There is quite a margin of difference between self esteem and self conceit.

Gypsy Smith

A few days ago there arrived in this country a man of middle years whose appearance would not have occasioned any unusual remark. He has black hair and dark eyes, is of medium height and weight and might easily be taken for a "drummer" or perhaps a merchant.

But we do not know of any living person who could produce such a furor of interest in an old story which is told by thousands of others as this visitor. It is probable that Dr. Cook or Peary could attract as many people if it were announced that either of them would tell his story of the north pole to a free audience, but that story would soon lose its charm.

Gypsy Smith opened his campaign, at Chicago, without any new sensation, and twenty-five thousand people surged and struggled to gain an entrance to the Seventh Regiment Armory and after 8,000 seats of the armory were all filled it took a company of 20 policemen to keep back the crowd and direct

them to five other places that were opened for overflow meetings.

And this was but the beginning of a campaign which is daily growing in intensity and volume and the only attraction is this same gipsy visitor from across the Atlantic.

We confess to a decided aversion for the prevalent type of the Evangelist. Some way the very name has lost much of its charming meaning. Instead of "A bearer of the glad tidings of Christ" as Webster defines him, he has come to be associated with the idea of a professional agent for counting heads and reckoning the salvation of souls at so many dollars per head.

But in Gipsy Smith there are evidences of a return to all the old fervor and passion for human souls—a man with a message—and with a voice to proclaim it and a spirit to impart it.

We are not about to attempt to explain the extraordinary phenomenon. That a simple unscholarly man whose early days were spent as a gipsy rover, without a city and without a home, whose theological opportunity was for years limited to the salvation army and at no time ever reached to a class in a seminary, that this young man should command audiences a hundred times greater than the most popular, talented and educated men of the pulpit is not to be explained in a newspaper article.

Indeed who can explain the phenomena of greatness? Can any one tell the meaning of the boy Lincoln becoming the greatest of presidents, the little Corporal Napoleon, the greatest of rulers, or more wonderful yet, who can explain the miracle of Joan of Arc?

The famous singing evangelist Ira D. Sankey was once singing from a wagon near Epping Forest in England when he noticed a dark eyed boy intently listening. Reaching over he put his hand on the boy's head and said "The Lord make a preacher out of you, my boy." Fifteen years later Gipsy Smith, now a famous Evangelist, said: "I was that boy. It is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Smith had already been called out of the ranks of the Salvation Army. He met Campbell Morgan and followed up the work of that remarkable man as evangelist. In 1889 he made his first visit to America, where he held meetings at Brooklyn, Ocean Grove and other eastern places, the first of a series of fruitful evangelistic journeys to this country, and was in Chicago for a week, three years ago. In 1897, he was chosen one of the general commissioners of the Free Church Council of Great Britain, and began a broad accredited work that has carried him as a messenger of blessing in all lands.

It must not be supposed from anything already said that Mr. Smith carries the marks of an uncultured man. No one to hear him would suspect his lack of school or college training. At the very beginning of his early faith after his conversion in a little chapel service at 17 he carried with him in his peripetetic travels in the gipsy wagon a bible, a dictionary, and a bible dictionary. These he fairly mastered by diligent and impassioned study and his knowledge so attained was the foundation and spirit of all his after studies.

Gypsy Smith is a sweet singer, a tenor that thrills and a pathos that wins. He is an orator, for he

knows how to express his thoughts and he tells a story—not as one accumulates old book anecdotes and revamps them as "personal experiences"—but as one who has been to school with Jesus Christ and learned something of his masterly power to speak a parable.

We are not in the business of prophecy but we are looking for something much greater than ordinary from this visit of Gipsy Smith to this country. W. B.

Liberty and Obedience

There is not one thing of which we Americans so proudly and justly boast as of our civil and religious liberty. We point with pride to the eagle with its wide wings spread and tell every new comer to our shores that the statue of liberty is our guard against admission to any who would infringe upon our national freedom.

But our glory is often our error and sometimes our shame. Merciless, soulless men bind their fellowmen and women in the name of "liberty" and "right" with chains as tightly drawn as ever manacled the limbs of a purchased slave. Have they not a right to employ their capital for profit? Can it be disputed that any two or more men have the right to combine for gain? On such a proposition the robber chiefs withhold the bread and fuel and money of the people until the robber's tax can be exacted.

But worse even than this is the widespread error that liberty means the absence of restraint, the unobservance or disregard of law.

Thousands on thousands of foreign half-slaves land on our shores and find this spirit so prevalent that to them anarchy seems easy.

It is the most common unwritten law of the average American youth that liberty means the right "to do as I like" and the anxious haste for the years of early youth to pass is associated with the idea of an end of all restraints and limitations.

This desire "to do as I like" is our most common national weakness. Beginning with the children in the home the law of obedience has been repealed.

The mother of an active child had a button on the gate to keep the baby in. The baby grew and the button had to be put higher up out of reach. But the child still grew and climbed the gate. The despairing mother had a new thought when a friend said "Put the button on the boy."

That "new thought" is obedience and the absence of it in every age and rank of American life means a loss of assets of national character and domestic peace that are beyond all estimate.

The liberty "to do as I like" is anarchy and that means riot, ruin and destruction. The liberty which is directed by law and observed with obedience is the only freedom which can make men free.

What America needs is not less liberty but more obedience. This is an old fashioned word but we invite parents to write it on their door post and teachers to read it into every exercise of the school.

Mothers' Meeting

A mothers' meeting was held Saturday afternoon at the High School. These meetings are a great help to teachers as well as parents, for by becoming acquainted a mutual interest is developed much to the benefit of all concerned.

And too, the meetings give the mothers an opportunity to express their views or make any suggestions they may wish. Several such gatherings are planned for the winter.

Highland Park News

(Continued from first page.)

Mr. M. Soter, who has been for seven months connected with the News-Letter as foreman of the Job department, leaves to-day to take up work in Chicago.

Mr. Soter has many friends here who regret to see him go and he wishes to thank all for their good will and especially the Terry family of North Second St. with whom he made his home, while here.

St. Margaret's Guild of the Episcopal church met yesterday at the home of Mrs. TenBroeck on Ravine avenue.

Last week's issue of the News-Letter reported that Mr. Geo. Young of this city, intended to leave and take up his work elsewhere. Mr. Young states that he intends to remain here and carry on his work as usual.

The ladies of Highwood gave a card party at Hogan's Hall last Wednesday evening, Oct. 6th, 09. An admission fee of 25 cents was charged, the proceeds were for the benefit of St. Mary's new school.

The High School met defeat at the hands of Lake Forest Academy second team by a score of ten to six, on Wednesday afternoon at the High School field.

Lake Forest (10) Deerfield (6)
Sunday L. E. R. Brand, Capt R. E. Haynes, L. T. Shields, R. I. Owens, L. G. Buck—J. Brand R. G. Heinbrodt, C. Tibbits, C. Bergeuthal, R. G. Capithorne, L. G. Sheldon, R. T. Kern, L. T. McGorden, R. E. Parrott, L. E. Macumber, L. B. Swanson, L. B. Sibley, L. H. B. Carlborg, R. H. B. Strong, R. H. B. Wrenn, L. H. B. Ludlow, F. B. Hoffman, F. B.

Touchdowns, Tibbits (2) Tibbits, goal from touch down, R. Brand. Empire Broad field, Lake Forest College. Referee MacPherson, Deerfield. If it had not been for Parrotts injury Deerfield undoubtedly would have won.

Dean Sumner of the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, so well known for his work among the poor in Chicago, will preach in Trinity Church on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock service. A cordial invitation is extended to all to be present.

Henry K. Coale is completing his list of the birds of Lake County for the fourth coming History of Lake County, of 296 different species. Mr. Coale would be pleased to hear from any of our readers who may have interesting notes on any of our birds, especially the Hawk, Owls and Water Birds.

Surprise Party

Miss Whitney and the members of the Choral Club gave a surprise party on Mrs. W. E. Brand and Mr. C. E. Thompson on last Saturday at the home of Miss Whitney on Park avenue. The occasion being the birthday anniversaries of both Mrs. Brand and Mr. Thompson and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all.

The first meeting of the Woman's club was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Library Building. It being Guest Day, a great many out of town guests were present. An interesting program was given. Mrs. E. A. Turpin played and Mrs. Green of Milwaukee sang several songs. Mrs. Holabird told of her experiences at a fishing camp where she had been this summer. Mrs. Vivian spoke of the interesting work of Albert Hubbard and the artistic Roycroft shops at East Aurora. Mr. Hubbard brings the best musical and literary talent to the town so that those living may have this advantage. She also spoke of the wonderful copper mines at Calumet that she visited.

Mr. R. L. Sandwick spoke to the club about the public and especially the mothers taking more interest in the schools in regard to the physical, moral and religious education of the child. Also in interesting the child in the study of out-door things, plants, trees, rocks, birds and flowers. Mr. Sandwick invites all the mothers to visit the school and to come in closer touch with the teachers and school life and to become better acquainted with the various lines of study. Mrs. Campbell told of going through five states during one day's ride.

The day was unusually interesting and all present were very glad that they hadn't allowed the wintry day to keep them at home.

The hostesses of the afternoon were, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Holabird, Mrs. Roberts, Miss Howell, Mrs. Olesen and Mrs. F. W. Schumacher.

The next meeting of the club will be on October 26 and will be Reciprocity Day, an all day meeting at Ravinia Park Casino.

Continued on Sixth Page

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