

NOTES AND COMMENTS

When Medicine Hat, which hugs the boreal pole, gives over making the weather and takes to phrase-making, we have a breezy style. The northern clime makes for vigor and directness, for the trumpet blast with which the Medicine Hat Call welcomed the new year to that metropolis of the winds:

Week by week and month by month new records have been established with a regularity which would be monotonous were it not so remarkable, and to-day Medicine Hat is advancing towards a position of proud pre-eminence among the cities of the plain. In the percentage rate of increase, in volume of business, in building and industrial importance, no other city can show a like record. The city has found herself, has realized the meaning and the magic of the word "Opportunity," and the significance of the development of the past and of the present, for down the avenue of the future Medicine Hat must march to a still greater and more glorious future.

Risking an anti-climax, the editor then goes on to say that a census taken the month previous gave Medicine Hat 11,000 citizens. But he adds: "This month there has been a substantial increase of population, and it is probable that there are to-day in the neighborhood of 12,000 persons within the city's borders." Race suicide is unknown there, and immigration is welcomed. We bow to Medicine Hat!

At the risk of seeming pedantic, we venture to remind those who have forgotten it that the Latin word for map is mappa, meaning napkin. Considering the frequency with which our maps have to be overhauled to keep pace with the boundary lines changed by war, it might be a matter of economy to have them made of cloth, so that we could send them to the laundry with our table napkins. Thus we should be sure of owning reasonably dependable charts.

As for geographical scholarship, it is quite out of the question for the ordinary mortal. Maps are indispensable. Even the youngsters who mastered the map of Europe last year will have to be put through their paces again when the Balkan problem is solved. No wonder geography is the bete noir of the youngsters. It has terrors for the adult mind just as few other sciences possess.

For the consolation of those who have felt their limitations keenly during the war in the East it may be in point to recall the low rank which geography held in Heine's burlesque inventory of his learning. Geography he found to be a pure invention of the devil. The patch that was yellow yesterday is red to-day and may be pale green to-morrow. And besides, as long as there are so many ill-defined boundaries, the best of maps will look in parts like a badly built fence.

THEFTS COMMON BY "HELP." English Servants Think It No Wrong to Steal Things.

Food of all kinds, soap, powdered scent, ribbons, coal and firewood are looked upon by "daily servants" in England—servants who work out during the day and sleep at home—as their just perquisites. Most persons with servants who go home to sleep are victims of petty thefts, chiefly in the form of food, which their employes take away not considering that they are thus guilty of theft.

"I find," writes a householder to a London newspaper, "that my dripping always disappears from the pantry, and although seven bundles of wood are sold for three pence only six are left in my cupboard."

"In the matter of food the servant usually takes home just what one counts upon for the next day's use. For instance, if there are six mince pies, which are sufficient to put upon the table, three of them are taken. I am quite sure that the servants do not think they are doing anything wrong."

"I gave a dinner party," writes "A. B.," "and there were seven people at the table. Although my daily girl had had plenty of food, the next day I found that as much turkey had been taken as had been eaten at the dinner."

"A servant I had recently," said a business woman, "often would come to me before she prepared breakfast to say there was no butter in the pantry. On these occasions I had been out all the previous evening. I have at times found little parcels of sugar and tea tied up in the kitchen dresser ready for her to take away when her time came to go home."

"Man! maids do not look upon the taking of handkerchiefs and stockings as theft. There are plenty of servants who do this who would never dream of touching their employers' money."

Willie—Paw, what is a stable Government? Paw—When a party in power displays horse sense, my son.

GREAT WALLS OF TURKS' CITY

CONSTANTINOPLE KEPT SAFE FOR EIGHT CENTURIES.

Vast Bulwark in the Past Held Many a Victorious Army.

On May 20, 1453, the Turkish horde, under Mohammed II., the conqueror, stormed the great city which has since then been their capital, and for a thousand years and more before it was the capital of the Roman empire. In those days, says the London Mail, it was a vast fortified camp, the strongest fortress in the world, as it was the greatest city, impregnable so long as it was adequately garrisoned. That was not the case in 1453; 9,000 men could not maintain nearly fourteen miles of walls against the attack of 150,000, supported by such an artillery train as had never previously been gathered together. Since 1453 the city has never been actually besieged, though more than once threatened. The mighty walls which for a thousand years held every adversary at bay were allowed to decay, and now are in ruins.

In 330 Constantine the Great established and renamed the city of Byzantium as the new capital of the Roman empire. The population of Constantine's city soon outgrew the bounds that he had laid down, and in 413 Anthemius, the city prefect, statesman, financier, administrator and military reformer, raised the first great Theodosian rampart more than a mile in advance of that of Constantine.

In 447, in the stress of the disastrous war with Attila, an earthquake fell on Constantine City, overthrew the wall and shattered 37 of the towers.

The Danger was Imminent. The Huns were in Thrace. The Illyrian provinces had been wasted from sea to sea. Three Roman armies had perished in the attempt to hold back the raging torrent of Mongol savagery, and Attila, the conqueror of God, the Dread of the World, was advancing against the city. Hope there seemed none, but Constantine rose grandly to the occasion. Every craftsman in the city was set to work on the task of restoration; 16,000 citizens served as laborers; in 60 days the fallen wall had risen anew, and a second line of defense had been constructed in advance of it. It was, indeed, a wonderful achievement.

On the gate called anciently Rhegium we may read to this day the simple, proud inscription, which proclaims it to the world. "In 60 days, by command of the sceptered emperor, Constantine the Eparch, added wall to wall."

In the succeeding years the work was completed; the gigantic moat, with its solid embattled scarp, its counterscarp and dams, was excavated, and when Avar and Persian and Saracen began to beat at its gates the citadel of the Roman empire was, indeed, mighty. The enemy who came from the side of Europe was faced by three or even four successive lines of defense. First came the moat, 60 feet wide and probably twenty feet deep, with, on the farther side, a masonry scarp topped by a solid stone wall or breastwork some six or seven feet high, from behind which archers and slingers could fire directly across the ditch.

The Solid Stone Bridges which spanned the later were broken down in times of siege, the great civil gates closed or walled up and only the narrow military gates which have access to the esplanade behind the breastwork were used.

This outward esplanade, anciently known as the Parateichon, is about 40 feet wide. Along its inner side stood the second wall, fearfully shattered by the Turkish cannonade in 1453, and to-day largely heaps of ruins. It stood originally about 25 feet to 30 feet high. Its solid thickness was about seven feet, but on its inner side the earth was banked up against it to within about twelve feet from the top, and the portion rising above the esplanade thus formed was strengthened by casements of masonry, with loopholes for archery pierced in the thickness of the frontal wall. The whole was buttressed by some 100 towers ranging from 30 feet to 25 feet in height from the Parateichon, and each about sixteen or eighteen feet in diameter.

The inner and higher esplanade was known as the Peribolos, or inclosure; it averaged about 60 feet in width. On its inner side was the first or great wall, a huge barrier rising 45 feet from the level of the esplanade and to considerably more on each flank of the towers, where it was carried up to protect the stairways which gave access to their tops. This wall had a solid thickness of fifteen feet, increased in many places to over twenty feet by the staircases which led up to the platforms.

There Were 97 Flanking Towers about 60 feet high, projecting from eighteen to 30 feet into the Peribolos, chiefly of square or octagonal shape.

This vast bulwark of wall and moat did not quite cover the land front of the city, but ended at the hill of Blachernae, a quarter of a mile from the Golden Horn. In front of this hill, which formed a vast natural platform and embankment to it, a single wall extended to the sea, the Xolo-Porte, or the Golden Gate. This wall, though never apparently covered by any ditch, is in itself immensely strong, and backed up as it is by a hill, was

BIG FORTUNES DISSIPATED

PEOPLE WHO HAVE "COME DOWN" IN THE WORLD.

There Are Many Striking Examples of the Vicissitudes of Fortune.

We hear a great deal of men who have made fortunes and "got on," but the story of those who have lost them is generally told in a few lines in the newspapers, if told at all, and apropos of a bankruptcy, a suicide or a poor-law guardians' meeting, says London Tit-Bits. It is an easy matter to lose a fortune if you have a fortune to lose, but the story and example may be just as dramatic and striking, and as useful as an object lesson, as the making of one.

Not long since there died in a miserable garret in Paris an old woman who for years had lived in idleness. Nearly fifty years ago she was a beautiful and talented soprano, with a huge fortune of her own making and a voice that could coin gold as easily as the blackbird can make notes. She sang in every capital in Europe, and so much of a popular idol was she that she is said to have netted over £30,000 in one brief London season. Then, she suddenly "dropped out"—why, No One Ever Really Knew.

For thirty years no one, save possibly her relatives and personal friends, knew what had become of her until news of her death in such painful circumstances recalled her almost forgotten name to the public.

Another case well within the recollection of newspaper readers is that of a Midland merchant who at one time possessed an enormous fortune. A bank failure or some big commercial catastrophe swept it all away in an hour, and after long years of privation and struggling he was forced to apply for admission to the workhouse of the very town he had once been Mayor of, and on which he had conferred lasting benefits.

The story of these fallen favorites of fortune is writ large in workhouse records, and this last resource of the destitute has sheltered men and women who have had in their possession fortunes of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A man charged with begging in a London suburb and sent to jail for a month for vagrancy was found to have run through

An Inheritance of £300,000 in something less than twelve years. Another, who had earned not only wealth, but name and fame, by his brilliant literary activities, threw all away and drank himself on the Embankment, and over it into the river.

Representatives of great families are often found in humble positions. A direct descendant of John of Gaunt is an engine driver in Canada, and a grandson several times of Edward I. was once a butcher in Birmingham. Another man claiming Royal descent was a toll-gate keeper near Dudley, and the great-grandson of Cromwell kept a grocery shop on Snow Hill, near Holborn.

We have a record of a Plantagenet descending from a long line of kings to earn a living as a cobbler in Shropshire, and a very poor living at that, and a natural son of Richard III., after the Battle of Bosworth, worked as a bricklayer in a little village of Kent, and died there in a miserable state of poverty at the age of eighty-one. In his "History of Birmingham" Hutten refers to a milkmaid in humble circumstances, whose ancestry include Lady Godiva of Coventry fame, and descendants of men who made England's history are to be found at the present day in almshouses and poor law institutions.

All Over the Country. One of the most striking examples of the vicissitudes of fortune is that of a member of the Bracebridge family, who owned immense estates in Warwickshire in the days of the Stuart. He was a peddler in the district over which his ancestors were lords of the manor. Hugh Miller tells an amusing story in one of his works of a laborer who used to serve him when he was a working man, declaring that the plaintiff was entitled to an earldom. His claim was admitted by the men with whom he worked, at any rate, and it was a usual thing with them, on requiring service, to shout, "John, Yearl Crauford, bring us another hod of lime!"

All About Newspapers. The first newspaper in the world was probably the Roman "Acta Diurna," which, it is said, was published in 691 B.C. Later, there came the "Acta Senatus," containing an account of the various matters brought before the Senate, and the opinions of the chief speakers, and the decisions of the House, which was published regularly every day by command of Julius Caesar. This formed the earliest approach to the modern journal. The first London newspaper was issued in the time of the Stuarts. This was the "Weekly News," and the date of its birth about 1622. The "Post Boy" was the first daily, and it began some seventy years later. London used to possess the cheapest journal ever published. It was called the "Six-a-Penny," and subscribers of one penny per week had the paper delivered to them every day, while single copies were sold at one farthing. Nowadays, Germany's list of newspapers is the largest in Europe.

Worth Fighting For. Memmndham—I learned to-day that the King had been a subject of controversy as to whether Scotland or Ireland originated the bagpipes. Hemmndham—Yes; Scotland blames Ireland, and Ireland blames Scotland.

Sure. "Don't you think that we should have a more elastic currency?" asked the Old Fogey. "It is elastic enough," replied the Grouch. "Why don't they make it more adhesive?"

"Money, you know, is man's worst enemy." "I suppose that's why some folks like it for the enemies it has made."

A lot of people waste their valuable time in trying to get rid of the useless things they don't want.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JANUARY 26.

Lesson IV.—Cain and Abel, Gen. 4. 1-15. Golden text, 1. John 3. 15.

Verse 1. I have gotten—The Hebrew word for "to get" is kanah, which thus resembles the Hebrew word for "to possess." The choice of the name is explained on the basis of this resemblance in sound, which must be carefully distinguished from relationship on the basis of a common derivation.

2. Abel—Heb., Hebel, meaning "a breather." A keeper of the sheep... a tiller of the ground—The origin of two primitive occupations of mankind is thus accounted for. In the development of Hebrew national life the nomadic or pastoral stage preceded the agricultural.

3. In process of time—When both sons were grown to manhood. An offering unto Jehovah—The author assumes the existence of altars and an established custom of sacrifice. It is quite in accordance with the simplicity of this early narrative that it should explain the origin of some institutions while taking for granted the existence of others. We should note also that the author is careful to point out that it is Jehovah the God of Israel whom the first family of men worshipped.

4. The firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof—Later Jewish law required that the choicest animals and the choicest parts of the animals be reserved for sacrifice. Compare Num. 18. 17.

5. Unto Cain and to his offering he did not respect—The reader is led to infer the reason for God's displeasure from the sequence of the narrative. From this it is plain that it must have been the spirit and motive behind the act rather than the act itself which determined its value in the sight of Jehovah.

6. Wroth—Angry. His countenance fell—He became downcast and sullen. 7. What art thou wroth?—As in the case of Adam and Eve, Jehovah seeks by means of a direct question to rouse the conscience of the guilty man, and to elicit from him a confession of his guilt. But while Adam and Eve sought only to excuse themselves, Cain does not hesitate to tell a deliberate falsehood, even defiantly denying his obligation toward his brother.

8. If thou dost well—Well in the sight of God. Lifted up—Bright and open, the opposite of downcast and sullen. Sin coucheth at the door—The figure is that of an enemy, like a wild animal, lying in wait near the habitual haunts of man, ready to spring at the first opportunity.

9. Cain said unto Abel—Heb., said unto, that is, conversed with. The grave warning of Jehovah proved futile, and in spite of it Cain yields to the promptings of his sullen and envious thoughts; he invites his brother to walk with him to a solitary place in the field and there attacks and slays him.

10. Where is Abel, thy brother?—Again Jehovah attempts to rouse the conscience and bring Cain to confession and confession of his guilt. But a warning query no longer suffices to awaken the heart already hardened in sin.

11. Cursed art thou from the ground—From in the sense of away from. Apparently the word "ground" here refers to the cultivated soil more particularly, in contrast to the face of the earth in general. In wild and unknown regions, far from the scene of his present prosperity, Cain is to become an outcast wanderer. The succeeding verses give in detail the results of the curse.

12. A fugitive and a wanderer—The word translated "fugitive" means literally a man of unsteady or uncertain gait, a totterer, like one not knowing where to go, or fainting for lack of food, or under the influence of drink.

13. Cain said unto Jehovah—The severity of the curse alarmed him, though there is no intimation of penitence unless it be intended in the Hebrew word translated punishment, which means also iniquity, as the marginal reading in the Revised Version indicates. In harmony with this thought of a confession of guilt we shall have to translate the phrase greater than I can bear to read greater than can be forgiven, which is permissible (compare marginal reading).

14. Whosoever findeth me will slay me—The conscience of the guilty man is at least sufficiently aroused to impress him with the justice of the punishment and reveal to him his precarious position as a culprit from justice.

15. Vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold—That is, seven of the murderer's family shall be slain to avenge the death of Cain. The vengeance, according to ancient notions, would be executed by relatives of the murdered man.

A sign for Cain—Clearly a sign for his protection and apparently attached directly to his person. Just what this sign was, however, is not stated, and it is wholly useless for us to speculate concerning the matter.

A Present. He—What are you going to give Kitty and Jack for a wedding present? She—Oh, I guess I'll send Kitty the bunch of letters Jack wrote me when we were engaged.

MISDEEDS OF CONSCIENCE

Effects of Falsehoods and Follies are Evident in the Sentiments and Tendencies of the Times

Ignorance and arrogance are near neighbors. Wisdom and meekness develop together. The older one grows, provided that intelligence keeps pace with time, the less inflexible he comes to think himself; the less disposed to dogmatize on many subjects; the more inclined to tolerance and charity toward the opinions of other men.

Like the eye and the ear the conscience is at first but a capacity. It develops hand in hand with the understanding and requires constant care and culture. It may be stunted by negligence; it may be almost destroyed by abuse. Given due attention and proper discipline it becomes more and more competent and reliable, both as monitor and as judge.

Every period has its own peculiar standard of morals, its own peculiar codes of behavior; and each of these in turn gets out of date and is presently succeeded by a higher. There was a time when the ten commandments answered the purpose. They were considerably in advance of the habits and above the ideas of the people. When Jesus came the Jews were prepared for a new law and a nobler ideal; and the master supplemented the decalogue of Sinai with the sermon of the mount. The difference between the decalogue and the sermon measures the strides made by conscience between Moses and Christ.

Intellectually Saul of Tarsus has had few peers. And yet, notwithstanding his extraordinary brain, he became the victim of mistaken conscience.

Blinded by Prejudice, though inspired by patriotism, he championed the movement to exterminate the sect of Jesus. In pursuance of that policy he grew inhuman, played the tyrant, turned spy and bloodhound and inquisitor; he persecuted, he tortured, he hounded, he humbled and he grieved him to the end of his days.

Sincerity is not everything. It is the sincerity of the heart, the sincerity of the conscience, that counts. It is the sincerity of the heart, the sincerity of the conscience, that counts. It is the sincerity of the heart, the sincerity of the conscience, that counts.

TORONTO CORRESPONDENCE

INTERESTING BITS OF GOSSIP FROM THE QUEEN CITY.

The Favorite of a King—An Unusual Event—An Alderman's Opportunity—Local Opinion—A Bright Newsboy.

The visit of Gaby Dealy presented a curious study in psychology. In ability and appearance this famous young man has little to distinguish her from thousands of other actresses. Her father a great singer, her mother a great beauty, she was once the favorite of a King in her great career. The theatre was crowded at every performance, and hours before the doors opened each evening all the means which a cruel and fanatic ingenuity could invent upon men and women whose only offence was loyalty to conviction. He was sincere, conscientious to excess. "I verily thought that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." Later, however, it was sackcloth and ashes, remorse and penance. And the memory of his blunder and its consequences to those whom he outraged, humbled and grieved him to the end of his days.

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The surprise of the Municipal election in Toronto was the phenomenal vote polled by John O'Neill in the race for the seat of Controller. The Gaby Liberal Roman Catholic who in Orange County, Ontario, secured the highest vote of the eleven candidates. This is just one of those unusual events which sometimes occur in the history of a little personal strength. He has a human, affectionate element in his make up which makes friends easily and holds them fast. He is also a man of wealth, being largely interested in real estate and in several hotel properties, one of which, the St. Charles, is a well-known downtown Toronto property.

Some criticism has been offered against Mr. O'Neill's campaign on the ground that he spent too much money. There is no suggestion that any of this money was spent for corrupt purposes, but he used printing and advertising very extensively as well as other means of promoting his campaign. One report says that his election cost him not less than \$250,000. The argument is that such a scale of expenditure makes it impossible for a poor man to run for the Board of Control, or if he does run, that he will be tempted to get his necessary expenses by other improper means at the ultimate expense of the city. It is likely that the movement to require the publication of all election expenses and perhaps to limit them will assume considerable proportions.

Ald. Wickett's Opportunity. At the Council Board there are many new faces, including Dr. Morley Wickett, the "high brow" candidate who headed the poll in his ward. Dr. Wickett now has an excellent chance to put his theories before the Board of Control. His friends say he will make good. It is likely that he will have little trouble in being elected to the Board of Control in the near future and possible also to the Mayor's chair, especially if he runs last year or two the calibre of Conservatives offering for the highest positions in the city has not been in the past.

Dr. Wickett, who is a prominent Conservative, ought to be easier than it otherwise would be.

Interest in Local Option. Municipal elections throughout the Province have now come to be everywhere a question of interest in Toronto is concerned by the local option campaign. With the results this year both temperance and liquor men profess to be satisfied. To the temperance forces the anti-liquor hold practically all of the municipalities where the referendum was attempted is proof that the vast majority of the people are in favor of the prohibition of the sale of liquor.

He—What are you going to give Kitty and Jack for a wedding present? She—Oh, I guess I'll send Kitty the bunch of letters Jack wrote me when we were engaged.

If a man boasts of his past after reforming, it's a sign he didn't get the right brand.

TRANSPORTATION

Railway Statistics Show in Every Part

A despatch from Ottawa says: A summary of railway statistics for the year ending June 30, 1912, compiled by J. L. Payne, Comptroller of Statistics for the Railways and Canals Department, and tabled in the Commons by Hon. Mr. Cochrane, gives many illuminating facts as to the recent remarkable transportation development of the Dominion.

During the twelve months covered by the report, 2,933 additional miles of railway were put in operation, with 1,728 miles more reported ready for operation, and 10,000 miles under construction. All the railway mileage of Canada now covers 30,000, exclusive of a few double-tracking, etc. Eliminating Government lines, the total capital liability of Canadian railways on June 30 last was: Stocks, \$770,459,351; bonds, \$815,478,175; a total of \$1,585,937,526, or \$30,520 per mile. On this capital investment dividends were paid last year totalling \$21,104,721, equalling 4.93 per cent on the total stock issue. The rapid growth in net earnings may be gauged from the fact that in 1907 dividends totalled only \$12,700,435.

Generous Public Aid. The generous measure of public aid to railway construction in Canada is shown by the fact that the total Federal, Provincial and municipal cash aid now totals over \$208,000,000, while land totalled over 56,000,000 acres. Federal and Provincial bond guarantees aggregate \$245,570,045, of which the Dominion's share is \$91,953,553. Alberta has pledged its credit to the extent of \$25,150,000; British Columbia, \$28,948,532; Saskatchewan, \$32,500,000; Manitoba, \$29,890,000; and Ontario, \$7,869,900. Cash aid to railways totalled \$5,892,819 for the twelve months, including \$4,994,416 to the Grand Trunk Pacific under the "implement" clause.

Record Gain in Traffic. Traffic shows a record gain during the year. The increase in freight traffic was 10.5 per cent, and in passenger traffic 15.5 per cent. The total revenue for the year was \$1,585,937,526, an increase of 10.5 per cent over the year ending June 30, 1911.

HERE IS AN ANTISEPTIC LADY. FRENCH DOCTORS ARE EXCITED ABOUT HER. Preservative Powers Are Said to Emanate From Her Hands.

Scientists in Paris have for some time been considerably excited over the discovery of a woman, whose hands they are now convinced, can preserve vegetable and animal tissues merely by laying her hands upon them.

They call her "The Antiseptic Lady," and declare that she possesses a hitherto unknown property of human effluvia, or emanation of some preservative power from her hands. The name of this woman is not made public but Drs. Clavaud and Liaguet of Bordeaux have made many experiments with this remarkable woman, and while they declare they do not ask to have their discoveries accepted until others have also experimented, they willingly put themselves on record as placing their entire belief in the power the woman has to preserve both vegetable and animal matter.

These Doctors Experimented. These doctors have known the woman nearly five years, and during that time have known that she kept by her various plants, all perfectly preserved and free from the least sign of decay or putrefaction.

They themselves selected a variety of objects—roses, branches bearing leaves, a rabbit, some uncleaned fish, a number of oysters, plants and wine. These they brought to the woman and watched her carefully. Her hands were washed by them to make certain she had no sort of preservative upon them. Some of the objects, after their bidding, she handled, others

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Handy Breakfast Post Toasties. A dainty dish of toasted Indian Corn, brimful of sweet flavor and substantial nourishment.

Post Toasties in the pantry mean many delicious breakfasts. Direct to your table in sealed, air-tight packages. Sold by Grocers everywhere. "The Memory Lingers"

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