

**Book Reviews**

By John Philip Morris

**HISTORY AND MR. BACHELLER.**

Long gone are the days since we have interpreted history from the standpoint that the sole governing motive in men was patriotism. Marx and a score of successors have shown how the economic is so often the prevailing motive and altho the true sexual history of the world is still to be fully and freely written, it is tacitly admitted. Surely not more than once or twice in a man's whole life does he act from the melting white heat that absolute forgetfulness of self engenders. The writer of the historical novel forgets all these things and clings to the romantic interpretation, and it is this method that Mr. Irving Bacheller has used in his new novel **IN THE DAYS OF POOR RICHARD.**

Across a frail web of fiction move the famous figures. They go dauntlessly towards their ends forgetful of bed and board. Love and lucre cannot sway them. They are all gigantic heroic, and unreal.

Mr. Bacheller prefaces that his narrative is built up from actual letters, records and clippings in the possession of a famous family. He has woven them about the person of his hero, one Jack Irons, a Tryon county lad, who with the assistance of Leather-stocking come alive again and rechristened Solomon Binkus, fights injuns, duels, the red coats and fate, all romantically.

In the first chapter he rescues the heroine from a fate worse than death at the hands of the redskins and then pursues her across the revolution until her Tory father releases.

Jack has the gift of ubiquitousness developed to a degree worthy of a modern reporter and nothing happens from the Boston tea party to the surrender of Cornwallis but he is sure to be heroically present.

Withal the book is interesting and has the usual Bacheller charm and flavor. It will have the welcome of the public that has followed him since the days of **DRI AND I.**

For a hot afternoon a hammock, a pitcher of lemonade and a copy of **THE SHORN LAMB** by Emma Speed Sampson make an excellent combination. It has just enough humor and just enough mystery to make you forget the heat. It is the story of an orphan who adopts her Southern family and moving among hatreds, feuds and negro witches effects a Romeo and Juliet reconciliation among the Montagues and Capulets of Virginia.

—John Phillip Morris.

Women's Club in 1747.

A regularly organized women's club existed in New York as early as 1747.

**FIRST WORLD BANKER**

To be as rich as Croesus has ever been the dream of man in his desire for the good things of this world. About thirty gold coins issued by Croesus, the first great international banker, who lived in the sixth century B. C. have been found by American archaeologists at Sardis, the ancient capital of Lydia, a province of Asia Minor, of which Croesus was king.

The identity of Croesus, whose name is a synonym for wealth, has been given little thought. He was merely pigeon-holed in our thoughts along with King Midas at whose touch everything turned into gold. Aladdin and his wonderful lamp, and the prince with his magic carpet.

By the turn of the spade, the pages the sixth century B. C., an age of great events and names famous for of history have been rolled back to all time.

Croesus, a patron of arts and letters, whose business and executive ability brought him great wealth, his chief claim to fame, was conquered by Cyrus, the king of the Persians. By the gracious decree of this world sovereign, the Jews were released from captivity in Chalda and allowed to return to their own land and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

About this same time lived Confucius in China and Buddha in India, whose systems of ethics and religion are great factors in the life of the East today.

To this period also belong the names of Marathon and Salamis, the memorable victories of the Greeks over the invading Persians. "Within the space of a hundred glorious years Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were writing plays in Athens, Socrates and Plato were teaching philosophy, and Pericles and Phidias were realizing the best dreams of administrators and artists."

The gold coins which have been found in the ruins of Sardis are said to be the first of the kind ever made. They are of pure gold, and although they are more than two thousand years old they are of a lighter color than gold pieces fresh from the American mint.

The Metropolitan Museum of New York may be fortunate enough to acquire fifteen of these "staters", as the coins are called. The only other "staters" of the coins known to be in existence are in the British Museum, and they are not in as good condition as those just discovered.

Mr. Cyrus McCormick, of Chicago, and his son, Gordon McCormick, were members of the expedition, which made the discovery. The work was under the direction of Professor Howard Crosby Butler, of Princeton.

**U. OF C. PRESS**

Announcement is just made by the University of Chicago Press of the following new books for July: *Development of Self-Government in India*, by Cecil M. P. Cross; *The Pardoning Power in the American States*, by Christen Jensen; *The Rural Mind and Social Welfare*, by Ernest R. Groves; and *The Community Church*, by A. C. Zumbrenen. In the same month also will appear a revised and enlarged edition of *A Source Book for the Economic Geography of North America*, by Charles C. Colby.

For August are announced *The Negro in Chicago*, by Edgar A. Bancroft; *Education for Business*, by Leverett S. Lyon; and *The Technique of Thomas Hardy*, by Joseph W. Beach.

**Ohio Kiwanians Invent New 'Volstead Confetti'**

Martins Ferry, Ohio.—Volstead confetti is something new.

This "confetti" consists of bottlecaps, without bottles, serving as reminders of a dry nation.

The caps, made by a local tinplate plant, bearing the name "Martins Ferry," were taken by local delegates to the International Kiwanis Clubs' convention at Toronto, Ont.

When tossed upon persons, the caps are known as Volstead confetti."

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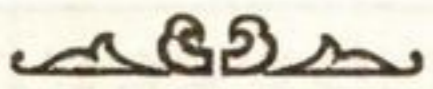


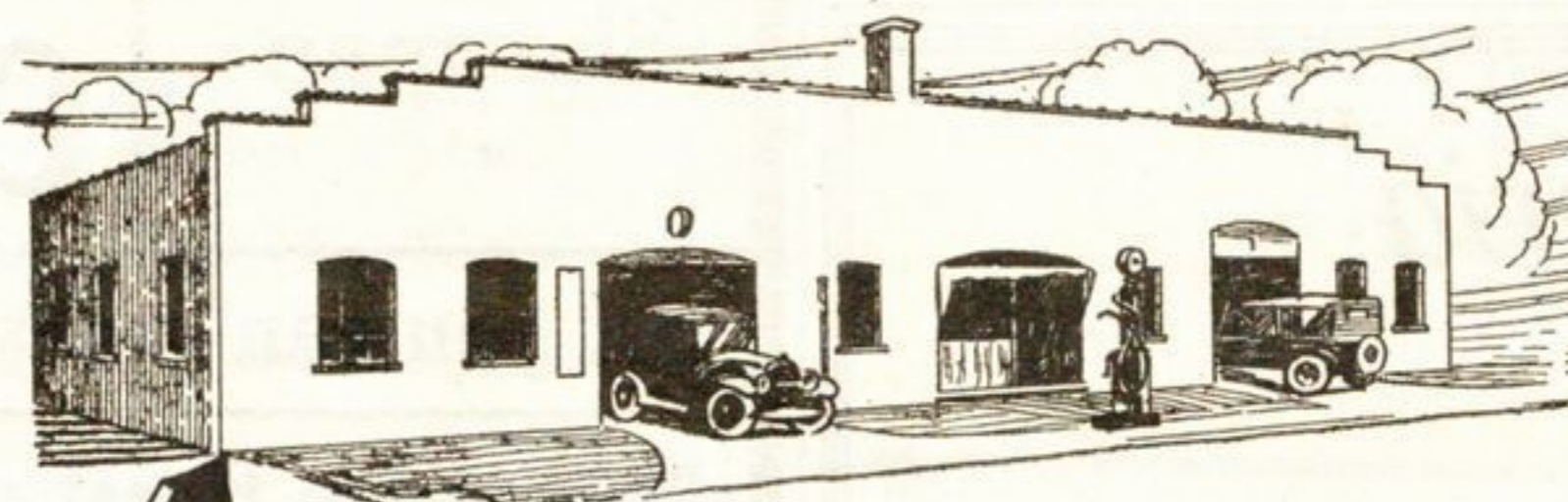
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