

Democrat Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 9, 1925.

PLEASANT GAP.

Prof. Treaster spent Christmas with his parents, at McClure, Snyder county.

Prosperity is coming in leaps and bounds, and our pool room has added two new tables.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Corl are visitors at the home of Harry Bilger. Mrs. Corl is a sister of Mrs. Bilger.

Our friend, Charley Stitzer, has a severe attack of acute Bright's disease. His many friends hope for his early recovery.

Contractor Otto Hile has very wisely been selected as bricklayer for a good sized job at the western penitentiary. Otto is master of his profession.

Miss Margaret Swartz had a most enjoyable kitchen shower in honor of Misses Henrietta and Helen Gettig. Both young ladies were recently married, hence the grand entertainment.

Our esteemed friend, Christ Hoffer, of Bellefonte, spent Christmas at the W. H. Noll Jr. home. Christ knows where to locate palatable eats; and by the way, he is always welcome when he returns to his former home.

To say the least it looks rather encouraging when we take into consideration that Whitecock has increased its payroll from \$4,000 to over \$20,000 in the past year. It occurs to the writer that that is going some. It certainly reflects great credit on the judicious management of the promoters.

Dorothy Mulfinger and mother, of Williamsport, spent Christmas at the home of Mr. John Mulfinger, who incidentally had a grand feast in honor of his son, who resides at Cleveland. The entire connection enjoyed the festivities on this unexcelled occasion, and no one enjoyed the event more than did Johnny.

Yes, the continuous cold spell is surely having its innumerable victims; but never mind, there is always a calm after a storm and a change in weather conditions is anticipated. The farmers, who are so worried over the drought will no doubt be supplied with a sufficiency of water for their every want. They can depend upon a just providence Who will come to the rescue in due time. He never fails.

Some of our school teachers tell me that they have considerable trouble on account of truant pupils; they seem to make it a point of having all kinds of senseless excuses to absent themselves from their studies; they don't seem to realize that they are robbing themselves, or that they are facing a reformatory, where they will be deprived of their liberties for a number of years. It would be well if our school directors would take a hand in annihilating this ruinous nuisance.

Bell and Showers, proprietors of our new poultry farm, are getting in shape to fill orders for choice chicks the coming season, so that we can be supplied at home. Mr. Showers states that they wrote to a certain Farm paper for advertising rates, and a reply came promptly, giving us their rate for a page ad. in colors, \$12,000, per annum. To say that the new firm was dumfounded would be putting it mildly. Many of our people think that when our home papers charge ten cents per line they are extremely extravagant. The new firm has decided to patronize our home papers for the present.

The sweeping assertion, sometimes made, that modern marriage is a failure, is a grotesque exaggeration. The pathological phenomena which give color to this view, proclaim themselves from the house-tops and shriek in public print. On the other hand, the normal, happy marriages do not proclaim themselves, but rather shun publicity, and bring their homage to the prenates in the guarded precincts of sacred privacy. Fortunately, the great majority of marriages, though they are not perfect, as nothing human is perfect, are, doubtless, on the whole, the brightest aspect of the life and the human race.

The word duty is one of the hardest words in the speech of men, and one of the most important. It was duty that sent 10,000,000 soldiers to their death in Europe, and many times ten million others to wounds and hideous suffering. It is loyalty to duty that holds our civilization together in time of peace and that gives us at least the promise of something higher and better than the usual selfishness of human character. Whether in politics, in religion, in business or industry, they will never be helped to a better understanding by their deviation from duty. The workman may dislike his job and have small respect for his employer; yet when he undertakes a task he assumes a responsibility which he cannot ignore without proving false to the demands of his own sense of duty.

Our K. K. K.'s had a most bounteous banquet at Noll's hall a few evenings ago, which was up-to-date in every detail and was very liberally patronized. They had a superb orchestra and all were delighted with the ably managed entertainment. A most beautiful scene was demonstrated before the hall. At 10 o'clock a large cross, spreading out about fifteen feet, with the three K's artistically attached was fired and created unusual excitement in the community. Rev. Rishel had a very able and appropriate address. He lauded the organization for its unusual activity in the way of charities bestowed upon the poor during the holiday season, and in the course of his remarks said the people would be surprised if they knew the amount of money expended for the poor during the holiday season, in Pennsylvania alone. It is surely a great blessing for a well disposed organization like this one to exercise charity toward their fellow men, who are suffering from the effects of want and poverty. It is well that Christians and charitable organizations should remember the poor; the thoughts of their wants and sufferings should lead them to the observance of benevolent duties en-

joined upon them by the Savior they profess to serve and worship, and by the religion they profess to practice. Benevolence is a part of religion; it falls like dew from heaven on the drooping flowers. The organization here is in a flourishing condition.

That greatest of all grammarians, Alexander Kinkham, has in his grammar this sentence, "The days of man are but as grass." How truthful, today we may be all smiles, and tomorrow we may be in Eternity; just ponder for a moment; look over the list of your old-time friends and you will discover that the majority have passed away. Though our affections are blighted, and our expectations in this world disappointed, we know that our heavenly Father has the power to make all these melancholy scenes of life of salutary influence, and conducive to the soul's eternal health, and point, with unerring truth the bright way up to the mansions of felicity in our Father's house. Man has an undying soul. He is only a sojourner here. It is necessary that he should prepare for death and for the world beyond; hence, by all the fear of the dying pang, and by all the horrors of the grave, God would fix the attention of man on his own death, as a momentous event, and lead him to seek the hope of immortality, which alone can lay the foundation for any proper removal of the fear of dying. How short and uncertain is life, and what a woeful miscalculation to confine our estimate of felicity to what the present world can impart; where highest hopes and greatest comforts are but so many flickering rays of future bliss, reflected here for the temporary consolation of the benighted wanderer. About the best advice to give to mankind is "Prepare to meet thy God." The only sure way to safety and future happiness.

There is no more heaven-like circle than is embraced within the limits of a virtuous and happy family. There is nothing beneath the skies more ennobling to human nature, kindness and love; industry and peace go hand in hand; when a contented and cheerful spirit chases away the gloom of the world, and religion with her sweet lessons of philosophy, softens and purifies the heart; when the head of the family is recognized and respected as such and the greatest happiness within the circle is derived from his approving smile; where the low, sweet voice of woman is seldom heard but in accents of gentleness and love, and the name of mother is never uttered, unassociated with some endearing epithet. Such a family can only be collected together under the influence of a happy marriage—a union of hearts as well as hands; a tie consecrated by pure and chaste affection; an engagement formed on earth, but sanctioned in heaven. On such a union the angels who dwell in the bright abode of the blest, must turn their eyes and gaze with looks of interest and delight. Nature may lavish much of her form—the beauty of her countenance, the strength of her intellect, yet her loveliness is uncrowned until piety throws around the whole the sweetness and power of its charms. Her beauty may throw a magical charm over many; princes and conquerors may bow with admiration at the shrine of her loveliness, yet her piety must be her pearl; and when the notes of the last trump shall be heard, and sleeping millions awake to judgment, its possessor shall be presented faultless before the throne of God.

THE PASSPORT TO ANIMALS' FAVOR.

There are two ways to control an animal—kindness and fear. Instances of the first are seen in the relation between the owner and some pet, like a horse or dog, that has never known cruelty; while the circus furnishes the best examples of government by fear. If you want an animal to love you as well as obey, you must treat that animal in a way to attract rather than repel it, just as you would in dealing with a person.

But while kindness is the only road to the heart of a dog, for instance, there remains the interesting questions of why some persons will be accepted by him even before an acquaintance is formed, while some others arouse his suspicion or anger at the first approach.

Numerous theories have been advanced to explain it, the most popular resting upon the assumption that our dumb animals have a sort of special sense, a protective instinct that applies particularly to human beings.

Undoubtedly instinct is strong in the lower animals—I have seen dogs that seemed to read human character with astonishing accuracy; but I believe the sense of smell is the animal's first means of judgment when approached by a stranger. When two men are fishing within arms' length of each other and one is being made almost frantic by insects while his companion is scarcely annoyed at all, I think there is no doubt that the difference in personal odor, the effluvium, explains it.

Another point worth consideration is that this ability always to win animals to oneself seems largely hereditary. One zoo attendant in whom all animals seem to have perfect confidence immediately, states that both his parents and his children possess the same ability. A man and a woman, especially in characteristic dress, must look very different to a wild animal, yet he may accept the overtures of each, then repulse a third person who appears to be a twin to one of the other. Certain it is that the animal's judgment goes below surfaces. Bodily odor we know to be often a family or hereditary feature.

Louis C. Mullikin, an expert with animals, explains his success on the theory of odor. He can, on first approach, pet dogs that are so fierce with other people as to be chained. He has petted wolves and coyotes when they would fight every one else present, and has had panthers snuggle up to him contentedly like a pet kitten. He takes no credit to himself, but says that it is simply a matter of effluvium. His father and grandfather had the same trait, or faculty, and his daughter now displays it to a marked degree.—By Lester Banks.

Belated Honor Paid Founder of New York

The city of Avesnes, Belgium, recently was host to a large delegation of Americans, here to pay tribute to the birthplace of Jesse de Forest founder of New York.

It was just three centuries ago that this son of Avesnes, at the time a refugee at Leyden with other Walloons who were fleeing from Spanish oppression, set sail for America, where he had planned to establish a colony. He died before reaching the shores of the new world, but his sons and son-in-law carried out the plan which he had conceived and perfected during long years.

The Walloon emigrants, landing on Manhattan island at the mouth of the Hudson river, reared there the foundations of a city which they called Nieuwe Avesnes. A few years later Dutch colonists, more numerous than the Walloons, changed the name to Nieuwe Amsterdam. Still later the English again changed the name to New York.

May 20 a monument recalling the above incident was unveiled in Battery park, New York. This was the gift of the provincial council of Belgium, and was presented to the American metropolis by Baron de Cartier, Belgian ambassador to the United States. The monument was unveiled by eight-year-old Priscilla de Forest, a direct descendant of Jesse de Forest.

The day following the arrival of the American delegation an exact replica of the New York monument was unveiled in the presence of a representative of the United States government. On one side it bears a commemorative inscription and on the other an engraving of the vessel in which Jesse de Forest started his long voyage, surrounded by the arms of New York and Avesnes.—From Le Petit Parisien (Translated for the Kansas City Star).

Old Coin Revived

Modern Palestine has adopted as its monetary unit the dinar, or dinarius, of the time of Herod, the Roman governor. Its present value is of two English shillings, or about 50 cents in American money. Originally the dinar was a gold coin issued by the chiefs of the Damascus government and by certain Arabic tribes of the time of Christ.

It became a silver coin as that metal grew more precious. As dinarius the coin became widely known by reason of its use in the literature of the day and since. The dinar was a distinctive Palestinian coin. To give needed support to the young government, the issue of dinars will be secured by an equal sum in British bank notes. The new coin will attain circulation independently of the existing Egyptian pound and be a strictly Jewish affair.—Detroit News.

Petroleum From Coal

The extraction of petroleum from coal by the low-temperature carbonization process is the object of the installation of a plant at Nottingham, England, consular advice to the Department of Commerce state. The promoters expect to make Nottingham a smokeless city (the first in England), to furnish cheap gas and to reduce both waste and danger in the coal mines in addition to securing from 18,000 to 20,000 gallons of oil from every 1,000 tons of coal, which is the expected daily capacity of the plant. Under present circumstances England imports oil to the value of £50,000,000 a year. It is proposed to replace this supply as far as possible with the gasoline and other petroleum products which are to be separated from the small coal heretofore regarded as almost a waste product of the mines.

Valuable Chinese Tree

Many specimens of the Chinese wood-oil or tung-oil tree, which was introduced into Florida some years ago by the United States Department of Agriculture, are now coming into bearing. The oil is expressed from the nuts and is considered one of the most valuable in the paint and varnish industry. It is one of the best drying oils known and is particularly desired in the manufacture of waterproof varnish. The tree does best in a warm climate and does not bear when frequently subjected to temperatures lower than 20 degrees. It has handsome dark green foliage which it sheds during the winter. It is estimated that there are now more than 39,000 of these trees in Florida, 3,900 of which are in bearing.

Hardening Rails

The first application in America of the process of hardening railway rails after they have been laid is reported from Toronto, according to the Electric Railway Journal. A blowpipe is mounted on wheels and passed over the surface of the rail at a speed that gives a temperature of 850 degrees centigrade to all points heated. Immediately after heating, a jet of water is played upon the rail, the effect being to harden the surface and prolong its wearing qualities. The process is effective to a depth of from two to three-tenths of an inch, according to the pressure used in the blowpipe.

"Agin" the Constitution

The motorist had been fined and his right to drive suspended for a year for reckless driving.

"Your honor," shouted the attorney, "I will appeal this case."

"On what ground?" asked his honor.

"On the ground that to sentence a man to become a pedestrian is cruel and unusual punishment," replied the lawyer.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Printer Surely Worthy of His High Position

Skilled workmen are today receiving higher daily pay than ten years ago, says the national industrial conference board. No news or novelty is in that statement. But it may be worth knowing that at the time of making the report printers held first place in the magnitude of their weekly earnings, writes Merle Thorpe in the Nation's Business. Newspaper and magazine printers received an average weekly pay of \$36.14. Rated second were the iron and steel workers with an average pay of \$33.57 a week. And in third place stood the automobile factory workers with \$31.12 a week. Next in amount of their pay checks were the book and job printers, foundry and machine shop workers, agricultural implement workers, chemical factory employees and workers in electric and rubber factories.

Well, who would begrudge the printer his high place in American industry? He makes known the sayings, writings and doings of other men, and for that service the world is much beholden to him. Much ink has gone over the rollers since the times of Gutenberg and Caxton, and now the craft of the printer's hand is supplemented with machinery of artful capabilities. But manuscripts continue to reflect human frailties and fallibilities, and printers must still grope for the meaning of absent minds. Printers are much with the world and in close touch with its sham and artifice. Small wonder that they should become dour and gray with brooding on the injustice of "typographic" errors.

But the great peace will come when the last line is set at last and rule and stick put by and type and setter both alike in proper makeup lie. Others will then do for the printer the mortuary honor to print his name in "caps," and perhaps accord him the dignity of the four-stroke dash. And, like as not, his soul would remain in character with his life, and would relax no standard of his craft—probably the Milky Way would seem only "wrong font."

Made His Point Clear

Sir John Simon, K. C., the eminent advocate, was once addressing a group of young legal students, and among other things he warned them always to sift carefully all evidence, and never on any account to allow themselves to jump to conclusions.

"Now," he continued, "a friend of mine who has just returned from a hunting expedition in central Africa told me of a most remarkable occurrence. He and his party were trekking through a heavily wooded region when the cries of a number of birds attracted him to a bit of overgrown jungle. Peering within he beheld a trunkless body."

"But, Sir John," interrupted one of his hearers, "surely you mean a headless body."

"My dear fellow," retorted the smiling K. C., "didn't I warn you not to jump to conclusions? The body was that of an elephant."—San Francisco Argonaut.

Lugubrious Message

When Miss Marie Lohr, the clever English actress, was appearing in the part of Cinderella in "Pinky and the Fairies," a play that was being produced under the direction of Beer-bohm Tree, she was also rehearsing for a part in the tragic play "Hannele," in which she had to die. The preparation for both productions was being carried on simultaneously at the same theatre, His Majesty's.

In the midst of Tree's reiterated injunctions to the "Pinky and the Fairies" company to be merry and bright, a lugubrious-looking stage carpenter, working on Hannele, appeared in the wings and, beckoning to Miss Lohr, called out:

"Excuse me, miss, but can you step down below a minute? I want to measure you for your coffin."

At the Ends of the Earth

When explorers and naturalists come back to civilization their accounts often read as if they were fairy tales. William Beebe, who has returned from a visit to the strangest islands in the world, the Galapagos, 600 miles off the coast of South America, apparently discovered the source of many tales of fiction. Buccaneers buried their booty there in old days when the islands were called "the Enchanted Islands." Whalers, mutineers and shipwrecked persons have told of their charm. In Mr. Beebe's account, entitled "Galapagos: World's End," he speaks of five hundred pound turtles, fantastic reptiles, and birds and beasts that gave no sign of fear when encountered.

Their Tragedies

To Father—A drop in mining shares.

To Mother—The ink spilled on the dining room rug.

To Brother Dick—Having to attend the local college instead of one of his choice.

To Sister Alice—That she can't have a car.

To Aunt Kate—That her knight has never come riding.

To Grandma—That Willie wriggled during prayers.

To Sister's Fiance—Their first quarrel.

To the Cook—That the policeman ate pie in the house next door the other night and she hasn't seen him since.

To Baby—The tooth he's cutting.—Judge.

ROMANTIC HISTORY OF FIRE INSURANCE

Business, as We Know It Now, Long Conducted.

Most people are aware of the prominent part played by insurance in modern commerce and industry, but it is seldom realized over what a long period of history this form of business extends.

In feudal Europe, long before any system of fire insurance came into being, it was the custom for tenants to recover damages caused by fire, from their landlords, at whose cost the property was replaced, providing the loss was not due to negligence.

In this country in the Seventeenth century accidental fires were made the subject of a petition to the king, whose advisers, after investigation, sent out what was termed a king's brief to churches, sheriffs, justices of the peace, and others, asking for contributions to make good the loss. The system was continued for many years, until in the time of Charles II it was abused and, as a result, abolished.

The first organized effort to found a fire insurance company was made in 1635, when a number of London citizens petitioned the king to allow them to insure houses at the rate of a shilling a year for each £20 rent, the association undertaking to repair or rebuild houses that were burned and to institute certain precautions against fire, such as watchmen to patrol the streets at night.

Political disturbances led to the idea being abandoned, but it was revived by the great fire of 1666, which led directly to the establishment of fire insurance companies.

One of the first was founded the following year by Dr. Nicholas Barbon, a son of the famous Puritan, Praise-God Barebones. The business thus started was taken over shortly afterwards by a company styling itself "The Fire Office," its purpose being to insure houses in London for a fixed premium of 2½ per cent for wooden buildings.

The business developed, and so great was the interest taken in it that the common council of the city of London proposed insuring its citizens' houses at lower rates than the company. The plan, however, was vetoed, the judges upholding that the council had no power to transact such business.

Many insurance companies sprang up at this period, among them the "Thenix Office," which was not, as some suppose, the original of the present Phoenix company; the Union Society; the Company of London Insurers, known nowadays as the Sun Office; and the Hand-in-Hand, which began as the Amicable Contributors for Insuring From Loss by Fire, and with which, it is believed, Daniel Defoe was connected.

A little-known fact is that the present-day fire brigade system owes its existence to these early companies, each of which kept its own fire engine and staff of firemen. Not quite a hundred years ago the companies amalgamated their staffs of fire fighters, and in this way the term "fire brigade" came into being. The first captain of the London fire brigade was James Brindwood, who lost his life in the terrible Tooley street fire of 1861, when £2,000,000 worth of damage was done.

The old "fire-marks" of the companies may still be seen on houses in London and elsewhere. They were metal plates marked with the number of the policy and molded in a distinctive design. Property to which a "fire-mark" was affixed was judged to be safe from incendiarism. The "Sun Office" mark was one of the best known, and in many places it became an object of superstitious regard.—London Tit-Bits.

Already Taken Care Of

Out on Charlotte street an old man, nearing eighty years of age, lives all alone in a large house. Next door to him live the Martin family, who look after the old gentleman's every need. Much expertly cooked food finds its way from Mrs. Martin's kitchen to the old man's table, and Mr. Martin never goes to bed at night without first going in to see that his neighbor is settled for the night. Mr. Martin also attends to his financial affairs and is his friend and adviser in all things.

A few days ago the minister called upon the old man. On leaving he said:

"Good-by, my friend, and may God bless you."

And the old gentleman, who is a little hard of hearing, replied with a smile:

"Oh, that's all right, Martin will tend to that. He tends to everything for me."—Kansas City Star.

Not What He Expected

A clergyman from Cambridge, Mass., had occasion to preach to the inmates of an insane hospital. During his sermon he noticed that one of the patients paid the closest attention, his eyes riveted upon the preacher's face, his body bent eagerly forward. Such interest was most flattering. After the service the speaker noticed that the man spoke to the superintendent, so as soon as possible the preacher inquired:

"Didn't that man speak to you about my sermon?"

"Yes."

"Would you mind telling me what he said?"

The superintendent tried to side-step, but the preacher insisted.

"Well," he said at last, "what the man said was: 'Just think, he's out and I'm in.'"—Christian Register.

DANUBE'S DELTA A WATERY MAZE

Its Many Mouths Present Innumerable Lairs for Piratically Inclined.

Washington, D. C.—Playing hide and seek with Rumanian gunboats in the sixteen mouths of the Danube river, a robber chieftain called Terrente, self-styled "King of the Swamps," is reported to have brought shipping on the great river to a standstill.

"Standing well to the front among the rivers of the world the Danube with its many mouths, presents innumerable lairs for the piratically inclined," the National Geographic society says in a bulletin from its headquarters in Washington, D. C.

"After sprawling in a great angle around the barrier of Dobruja, continues the bulletin, 'the so-called blue Danube drops its load of mud and sand gathered from eight nations of Europe in a large delta at the western end of the Black sea. This delta takes the form of a huge, equilateral triangle fifty miles long on each side. The northern border is the Killa branch, the south, the St. Georges branch, while on the east is the Black sea shore. The two main branches of the Danube are subdivided time and again in their never-ending impossible task of trying to make land and flow over it at the same time.

"Bisecting the triangle is the Sulina branch of the Danube which receives practically all of the shipping trade, since a deep channel to the upper river is maintained through it by the concerted action of the governments of Europe. The treaty of Paris of 1856 created the European commission of the Danube and ordered it to make the mouths of the great river open to navigation within two years. Evidence of how little the diplomats knew of the engineering problems involved in making a huge river serve mankind is shown by the fact that the commission not only worked two years but is still at work.

"Of all the varieties of earth surface, deltas rank high as the most useless to civilization. Mountains are admired for their inspiration, deserts hold rare beauty for those who seek it, but no one goes to a delta even to hunt ducks if he can help it. The Danube's delta is particularly unattractive since the peasants have not been able to adapt it to agriculture as sugar cane planters have large parts of the Mississippi delta. Some deltas such as those of the Amazon and the Yangtze consist of large islands surrounded by considerable water, but the Danube's waters run through a vast swamp which was almost a complete barrier to navigation before the European commission of the Danube took a hand.

"In country that is neither land nor water the reeds and willows take command and do not catch malaria. Deprived of timber the peasant fisherman put the reeds to many uses. Willows are used for basket making and for fish weirs. A plumed reed is cut for fuel and still another kind is woven into mats or used as thatch. Inhabitants of the Danube delta are mostly Russian fishermen. Those who are irritated at fishing restrictions in the United States can appreciate what a fisherman's paradise they live in by comparison. The Rumanian government considers fishing a government monopoly, and every commercial catch must be brought to a government customs house to be auctioned off.

"By the construction of levees and piers, the European commission of the Danube has opened a channel to Galatz, the Rumanian naval port, capable of receiving shipping up to 4,000 tons. The traffic in and out of the river amounts to more than 5,000,000 tons annually. By this route Rumania, fifth nation in petroleum production sends out much of her oil to the world. From the loess plains of Bessarabia and southeast Rumania, continuations of the Black Earth belt of Russia, come tons of cereals and even American corn which is a staple Rumanian product.

"Before the Sulina channel was made products were brought to the sea in lighters and put aboard ships waiting in the open roadstead. Once a heavy storm arose and dashed 24 sailing vessels and many lighters on shore with the loss of 300 lives. Such a disaster is now impossible.

Danube Shorter Than Mississippi.

"The Danube rises in the Alps and flows 1,750 miles to reach the Black sea, breaking through the Carpathian mountains at the Iron gate, which is the Culebra cut of the Balkans. It is about 750 miles shorter than the Mississippi, and although it drains a great part of Europe outside of Russia, the Danube basin is only one-fourth of that of the Mississippi. The Nile, like the Danube, has many mouths, a recent map showing eleven. The Mississippi once divided into many sizeable streams to reach the Gulf, but engineers have succeeded in guiding most of its force into a single channel.

"It may be that Terrente, the Danube pirate, is using the uninhabited Isle of Serpents off the mouth of the river for the headquarters of his fleet. This precipitous island about a mile in circumference figures in Grecian history and is supposed to be the home of the spirit of Achilles. Great flocks of white-winged sea gulls frequent its rocky slopes together with the black snakes from which the island takes its name."