

NOCTURNE.

By Rebecca Pugh Lyon.

The sun at length has sunk to rest Beneath the mountain's western crest, And softly on the quiet town...

The hour grows late, the silence sweet Scarce broken by passing feet, O lovely night, thy beauty rare...

With tender power possess my breast, With beating heart I venture in To memory's corridors so dim...

And weep for days long since gone by, The hour has passed, the swelling tide Of feeling must not long abide...

THE ROMANCE OF PETROLEUM.

I have just written an article for a well-known literary journal in which I make the pertinent inquiry...

My own conclusion is that the oil industry has never had a press agent. No other industry seems to be so utterly steeped in mystery...

Meantime, New York capitalists had heard of the product, and investigated with a view to investing if the venture was practical. A combination of New York and New Haven capitalists...

In northwestern Pennsylvania there is a stream called Oil Creek, having along its banks many "oil" springs or springs through which a small amount of oil finds its way...

In 1629, Joseph de la Roche d'Allion came down this stream in charge of an exploring expedition sent out from Quebec by the French...

In 1721, Captain de Joincaire, Lieutenant Raoul de Lingry, and a Jesuit priest and party arrived, very much fatigued by forced marching over very rough ground...

Drake was beset from the first with numerous difficulties. He found that it was impossible to secure tools at the few small stores in the village...

Work was immediately started, and from the very first it was a hard fight against nature. Machinery came only after long delays, and the erection of the crude derrick was a matter of weeks...

On my desk at this moment is a copy of the report of this expedition as given by General Montcalm to the commander of Ft. Duquesne. In this

report the General gives what he insists is conclusive evidence that he has found in the Seneca a rival of the fire-worshippers of the East!

It was many years before any effort was made to make commercial use of the seepage from these springs or to increase the flow of oil. Many small towns and villages came into being through the untiring efforts of sturdy pioneers...

At Tarentum several artesian wells were bored to a depth of four hundred feet to a vein of salt water. This water was evaporated; and the product, a sort of crude commercial salt, found a ready market among the early settlers...

In 1848, Samuel M. Kier, a druggist of Pittsburgh, traveled out to see these wells, and investigated these wells and the oil which came from them. He found the oil to be of the same quality as was found on Oil Creek...

With the arrival of the first supply Kier caused it to be bottled in half-pint containers, with a label on which driving in large gilded and brightly painted wagons. The circulars designed by Kier and widely distributed at this time made great claims for the medicinal value of petroleum...

This product was peddled as a medicine under the name of Kier's petroleum by men covering the country by driving in large gilded and brightly painted wagons. The circulars designed by Kier and widely distributed at this time made great claims for the medicinal value of petroleum...

Lack of knowledge of chemistry seriously handicapped him, and he traveled to Philadelphia to consult a chemist, who advised distillation. By working on this principle a fluid of the color of cider was produced, but it was found that it burned with considerable smoke and a residue of carbon...

At the end of two years, coincident with a decided decrease in the production of oil, the little city was burned down and has never been rebuilt. Today the site of this remarkable village is evident only by the rows of empty cellars that mark where the streets were; the unused grades for the water-works are still there...

It was in this manner that the greatest of our national industries was launched on its career. Today there are hundreds of billions of dollars invested in oil properties and, were it not for the agency of oil and its products, more than ninety-eight per cent. of the industry of this country would not be able to operate for lack of lubrication, light, heat, and motive power...

For more than half a century the site of the original Drake well has never been marked by a monument to show it as a place of great historical interest. A few years ago the chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Titusville raised a fund, and erected on the site a large and imposing stone, entirely unmarked by chisel...

Thinking to save money a jeweler discharged his regular salesman and hired an inexperienced boy. One day when he returned from lunch he said, "Well, Frank, did you sell anything while I was out?"

"Yes, sir. I sold five plain band rings. Fine, my boy, fine!" said the jeweler enthusiastically. "We'll make a salesman out of you one of these days. You got the regular price for them, of course?"

"Oh, yes, sir. The price stamped on the inside was 18c. and the man took all that were left, sir.—Boston Transcript.

My sister is awfully lucky, said one little boy to another. She went to a party last night where they played a game in which the men either had to kiss a girl or pay a forfeit of a box of chocolates.

Well, how was your sister lucky? She came home with 13 boxes of chocolates.—Everybody's Magazine.

IMPORTANT GAME LAW CHANGES—1925 LEGISLATURE.

The 1925 Legislature made comparatively few changes in the game laws, but some of them strengthen the game code very materially. One of the most important changes, the result of a conference between land-owners and sportsmen, it is believed will make it possible for the Board of Game Commissioners to reduce game depredations on private property, thereby eliminating a source of much controversy in future sessions of the Legislature...

The capitalists in New York, disgusted with the slow and expensive progress being made, refused to advance further funds to Drake. Nothing daunted, Drake used his own money until it was exhausted. Now came a very dark period for Drake, for he was entirely without funds; but in some way he managed to convince two merchants of the village of his sincerity, and secured their endorsement on his note for money to complete the venture...

By the last of August, 1859, the well had reached a depth of only sixty-nine feet; and on Saturday when the men quit work they were feeling very discouraged, as no trace of oil had been found. On Sunday, August 30, 1859, one of the men employed on the well went there, and discovered that the hole was nearly full of oil.

In a very short time the news spread to the village, and great excitement was the result. Drake was vindicated; the problem of ages had been solved; and petroleum was launched on its astonishing career. Property values increased; strangers came to the village in such numbers that the place rapidly became a busy and bustling city. Many new and large flowing wells were drilled, and fortunes were made over night.

Investors and adventurers came by the thousand to the new El Dorado, and with the constant drilling of new wells the vein was traced over a large tract of territory in Pennsylvania. A large flowing well was struck at Pit-hole, where there were a few poor and struggling farms. In a little more than a month the village became a large city with two railroads, daily papers, hotels, theaters, fire department, water works, and all of the advantages and improvements of a city in those times. In volume of mail handled, it was the third largest in the State.

As is usual in boom towns, vice held the city in its grasp. For nearly two years the attention of the whole country was directed to this city.

One farmer, living near there, sold his oil interests, and, not believing in banks, kept more than a quarter of a million dollars in a small safe. One night this safe was broken into, and nearly the whole sum was taken; and today in police circles the Benninghoff robbery is spoken of as the largest of its kind.

The price of oil ranged from fifty cents to thirteen dollars a barrel during this period; and, as each large well was drilled, a corresponding increase in the value of adjacent land became so great that farmers whose land normally was worth only a few dollars an acre could scarcely believe it when they were offered hundreds of thousands of dollars for their land.

At the end of two years, coincident with a decided decrease in the production of oil, the little city was burned down and has never been rebuilt. Today the site of this remarkable village is evident only by the rows of empty cellars that mark where the streets were; the unused grades for the water-works are still there. The only remaining building of the original town is a church which is still used on occasion by the scant dozen of farmers now living there.

The excitement moved to other places, which lived for a brief space in the manner of Pit Hole City and whose names are highly suggestive—Cash Up, Pioneer, Red Hot, Oil City, Sodom, and Enterprise.

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For more than half a century the site of the original Drake well has never been marked by a monument to show it as a place of great historical interest. A few years ago the chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Titusville raised a fund, and erected on the site a large and imposing stone, entirely unmarked by chisel. It is a native stone, and came from the hills near the well, and in its bulk and solidity represents in a subtle and suggestive manner the strength and character, untiring energy, and steadfast purpose of the man who took the first steps, which led to the discovery to which we owe so much of our present civilization.—Harry Botsford, in Christian Endeavor World.

A Salesman.

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—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Early Ship Lanterns Valued by Collectors

One of the phases of the present vogue for collecting anything connected with the old-time ships is that of earnestly seeking their lanterns or lamps, and very interesting and decorative, with the right surroundings, many of them are.

Numerous lamps are traded as ship's lanterns which never went to sea, says Capt. E. A. McCann in the Antiquarian, New York. If, however, it is a good-looking lamp and the owner is pleased with it, its history is perhaps not so very important, but if one wishes to be sure of the right nautical flavor, some recitation is necessary.

An intimate knowledge of ships and their ways is the best method of discriminating; but as a general index it may be stated that, to circumvent the uneasy motion of a vessel at sea, every ship lamp is built, either to swing from a handle or ring, or to securely fasten by the back, or occasionally, by the base; within these limits there are many types.

The very earliest ship lanterns were metal cages erected in some prominent part of the ship, as a rule over the stern, into which some combustible, such as tow and resin, could be ignited to give warning to another ship and avert collision. This, in fact, is the only purpose, for exterior lights to this day, and they are carefully screened so as not to shine aboard, because any light on the deck is only a nuisance, so far as navigation is concerned, and even on the brilliantly lit modern steamship it may be noticed that all lights are screened from the bridge.

The frigates and ships-of-the-line which followed in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries had very similar designed lanterns, only more elaborate in their ornamentation and careful in construction. Any of these are, however, almost impossible to obtain, and are more suited to museums than to domestic use. Those vessels would also use cabin, gun-deck and other hand-lanterns, which again are extremely rare, though very desirable.

Italy's New Air Service

It is announced semi-officially that within the coming months Italy is to have its first regular civilian air traffic. Four lines are now decided upon—Rome to Barcelona, Turin to Trieste, Trieste to Venice and Brindisi to Constantinople via Saloniki. It is not announced what subsidy will be supplied by the state, but it is taken for granted that a large subsidy will be necessary. Italy feels she has been backward in civil aviation. The newspaper Epoca says that when the fascist government came into power it found that the mechanical equipment of the aviation department consisted chiefly of typewriters. Now, it feels, Italy will be able to take her place on a basis of equality with Germany, France and England. Meanwhile Italy has consistently rejected offers of foreign companies to extend their air service to Italy. Such international lines will now be permitted, it is stated, but only if Italy retains the predominant part of the traffic.

In Buddy's Family

Buddy is a very little boy living in a city in northeastern Indiana. Although he is only three years old, his sayings are sometimes very eloquent. Buddy, like many other little boys, is sometimes naughty and he is sometimes punished. A few days ago he was visiting at the home of one of his little girl playmates. This girl was an only child and although she was sometimes naughty she was not punished very many times. She was, at the time of Buddy's visit, exceptionally bad and her mother wishing to quiet her said to Buddy, "Marjorie is naughty today, isn't she Buddy?" "Uh huh; if she was one of my mother's children she would get a whippin'," said Buddy knowingly.—Indianapolis News.

\$50,000 Radio Story

Here is a prize radio story told to Eric H. Palmer on his visit in connection with his radio exploration tour of the country. According to a San Francisco dealer, he was asked to ship a receiver with full equipment, including a power amplifier and a score of extra tubes, to China. Asking the purchaser how much he expected to hear in China, the dealer was told: "Oh, I don't expect to get much broadcasting out there, but I've got to do something evenings. I've been playing poker and mah-jongg and what not and losing \$200 to \$1,000 nightly and I just can't stop, but if I get the 'listening-in' habit I'll be about \$25,000 to \$50,000 ahead in about a year, the way my luck's going, and I'll be having more fun besides."

Wedding Rings That Lie

Jewelers in many towns in the United States report that wedding rings are losing their significance; that is to say, a wedding ring on the finger of a girl is ceasing to be a sure sign that she is married. Hundreds of girls are buying cheap wedding rings, according to the jewelers, some because they believe the ring will make them more attractive to men, and others because they believe wedding rings offer girls protection against men. Engagement rings also are selling in great numbers, presumably owing to a desire on the part of girls to prove they are sought after by one man at least.

Almonds in Demand

An indicated increase in the production of almonds in the United States has led to a study by the bureau of plant industry of the possible utilization of certain varieties of domestic almonds in the manufacture of food products. The domestic crop is at present largely consumed in the unshelled nut trade, while the large quantity of nuts required for such products as almond bars and almond paste is supplied principally from European sources.—New York Times.

Population Estimate

The population of the United States is now nearly 114,400,000, according to estimates by the National Bureau of Economic Research. This, according to the bureau, indicates that our growth in this respect is slowing down.

Sprinkle Lawn to Music

Musical lawn sprinklers are becoming popular in Boston suburbs. Householders hitch sitchshells and similar chimes to the whirligig which spins the water. Experimenters have enjoyed considerable rivalry in their tonal effects and have amused the children with a brand new toy. Incidentally, claim the inventors of the bell stunt, its jingle reminds them not to go away or to bed with the water unintentionally left running.

SUGGESTIVE CONTRASTS IN COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COSTS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia collects all of her taxes for about \$400,000 a year. Based on the population according to the latest census, this means that Philadelphia collects taxes at the rate of \$219 for each 1,000 population.

Allegheny county's estimated annual cost for collecting all taxes is about \$625,000, although, according to the same census, the population is upwards of 600,000 fewer than Philadelphia's. Thus the collection cost in Allegheny county is \$527 per 1,000 of population, according to one computation.

It costs Allegheny county, which includes Pittsburgh, more than twice as much in proportion to population to collect taxes in the county as it does in Philadelphia. This big difference exists despite comparatively the same favorable facilities for easy collection.

Fayette county's cost for collecting all taxes, according to reputable business men of the county, is about \$250,000 a year. Thus, although having only about one-tenth of the population of Philadelphia county, which is the same as the city of Philadelphia, Fayette's tax payers have to pay nearly as much in the aggregate for collection as do Philadelphia's taxpayers.

The cost per 1,000 of population in Fayette county is about \$1,329. It costs Fayette county six times as much as it does in Philadelphia, in proportion to population.

Delaware county's cost of collection, per 1,000 of population and based on the very lowest possible estimate, is more than three times the Philadelphia cost per 1,000.

Montgomery county's tax payers, likewise, have to pay, per 1,000 of population, at the very least, more than three times the Philadelphia cost per 1,000.

Complete surveys would undoubtedly show that the differences between the Delaware and Montgomery county costs and the Philadelphia costs are even greater than here indicated.

Luzerne county pays upwards of \$337,000 a year to collect taxes. The cost per 1,000 of population, therefore, is at least \$862, or about four times the Philadelphia cost per 1,000.

There is one township in the State (undoubtedly there are many others), where the cost of collection, per 1,000 of population, is \$1,000, or nearly five times the Philadelphia rate. It would be much cheaper to collect in a small, compact township than in a large city.

Chester county, according to one estimate, appears to pay at least three times the Philadelphia cost per 1,000 of population.

For the fiscal year 1923-'24, it cost tax payers \$1,867,129 to collect \$104,536,327 in school taxes. In addition, tax payers had to pay also for the collection of the following local and county taxes: For poor taxes, road taxes, city taxes, county taxes, township taxes and borough taxes.

Therefore it is probable that the cost of collecting all these county and local taxes throughout the State is between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 a year.

A more efficient plan of collection would save tax payers at least \$3,000,000 a year in unnecessary overhead.

It costs \$17 to collect every \$1,000 of school taxes in Pennsylvania. Ohio collects all taxes for \$4.06 per \$1,000 of taxes. Pennsylvania pays four times as much for collecting school taxes alone as Ohio and a number of other comparable States pay for collecting all taxes.

"Dressing Up" School Grounds Delights Eye.

Town pride, enthusiasm, and co-operation can accomplish wonders in beautifying public grounds. Tannersville, in Monroe county, has one of the most beautiful and complete public landscape projects in swing in the whole State. J. B. Bracken, landscape gardening extension specialist of the Pennsylvania State College, is the guiding spirit. Behind it all looms real town pride and enthusiasm on the part of the school board, which decided on the beautification in front of the new consolidated school.

The school board has torn out brush and part of the foundations of an old tannery, installed pipes for draining the surface water, effected a shade tree and plaza approach to the building, all in natural settings, with water prominent in the scene. There is a handsome concrete walk, with two curves, at the front of the school.

Native rhododendron and other growths will make beautiful much of the large space before the school. The plants will be secured near at hand. Of particularly delightful beauty is the bridge walk, on either side of which there are two small lakes. The water is not dangerously deep in either one. Study will be given to water plants and settings for this part of the scene.

A New Political Dodge in Walker Township.

A Hurlersburg correspondent writes the "Watchman" to the effect that the Republican bosses down that way have a new method of getting their voters home for election day. He writes that "they take a handful of salt, go out on a lawn, walk around a stump or stone three times, keeping in the same direction. Then they place the salt on the stone or stump and hide. When the voter comes home to lick the salt they catch him and give him a sumptuous meal of the goodies from silos, hay loaders and corn cobs. After which he is ready to do anything he is told."

—Get the Watchman if you want the local news.