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Stories by Normal Students.

TIMELY ADVICE.

BY MARTHA V. JAMES.

Captain Allen had been a commander of one of the government forts for many years until one day while supervising the removal of some iron, he was suddenly killed by a large piece that had become accidentally dislodged. After his death, Mrs. Allen and her son, John took up their abode in a neighboring city, where they were supported by the small income left by the father at his death.

They lived thus for many years until the supply of money became so small that John was forced to end his school days and go to work. During his school life he had been friendly with some young men whose fathers were influential citizens in the town, and so it was not difficult for him to obtain a position in a large store, where he came in contact with people of many countries.

His one great delight was to draw and his talent was naturally in the direction of the plans of the forts, for there he had spent his childhood. When customers were few, John would always get out his material and begin work. One day when he had nothing to do, as was customary he sat down at the desk and began to plan the fort where his father had been employed. He became so absorbed in the work that he did not notice the entrance of a Spanish gentleman until he had approached the desk and glanced at the plan. He was greatly surprised to find it the plan of the very fort he had been trying to enter for years. "Young man, he said, is that the exact plan of the fort and it so, how came you to know it?" "Yes, that is the exact plan, for during my childhood I ran in and out among those cannon daily," John replied. "Well, my government has been seeking for that plan for many years, for it is the plan of the only fort in any country we have not secured, and if war should be brought on between your government and mine, it would be invaluable. Sell me that plan and I will pay you ten thousand dollars and promise that it shall never be known." John pondered over the proposition for a few minutes but could come to no definite conclusion. Ten thousand dollars seemed a large amount of money and he thought how comfortably his mother could live all her life. But would she enjoy it if she knew its source? No. But he might keep this knowledge from her. Thus he reasoned, and finally consented to present the plans at three o'clock next day and receive the money.

That evening, as was the custom before retiring, the mother picked up the Family Bible and prepared to read a chapter from it. At one of the verses she stopped, and looking at her son, said, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." To John it seemed that she had peered into his very soul and had answered the troublesome question there. All night he kept repeating in his sleep, "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not," until when morning appeared he had fully decided what to do.

At the appointed time he arrived at the office and there met the sinner in the form of the Spaniard, carrying in his hand the tempting check. Upon seeing that his accomplice had no plans, he inquired the reason. John slowly told him of his mother's words, the battle of his soul and the final victory. The worldly Spaniard was deeply moved and with a vigorous hand-shake promised John that he would never again entice a man to sell his honor.

In after years when John looked back upon that long ago day, he was thankful that he had been given strength to do the right.

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If you have *The Philadelphia Sunday Press* delivered at your home each week, you get, besides the news of the day, a splendidly illustrated ten-cent weekly magazine. Such famous authors as Conan Doyle, Anthony Hope, and Sewell Ford are frequent contributors, and you cannot get better reading. If you order *The Press* served at your home seven days in the week you are sure of getting the best there is, both as to the news and other features.

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(as though the injunction were not as old as English equity), railway rate legislation and a hundred other topics upon which no two of the haranguers by any means agree. Meantime, everybody (in Democratic ranks) prates about "the Trusts" and nobody cares whether or not a tariff system which must inevitably concentrate the capital of the country in the hands of a special class, making a Wealth Trust to dominate the country and to the existence of which a formal organization is not essential, shall be perpetuated.

Next year the Democrats will nominate a candidate, and the party will not disband, but it will have no hope of success unless it takes account of itself, adopts some programme of principles containing germs of permanence and ceases to be merely a noisemaker in campaign years.

Of one thing we may be reasonably sure—there will be a tariff reform party in the United States. At the moment, it is not certain that the Democrats will not permit the Republicans to doctor the schedules and appease the clamor temporarily, but, sooner or later, some party or other, whether now in esse or to be born, will grapple with the problem and, as Mr. Cleveland says, "end the farce," and "throw off this barbarous superstition of industrial isolation so that the country, gladly and confidently, shall take its true place in the industrial scheme of a well-ordered world."

It is to the South that the Democratic party must look for light and leading in approaching the campaign of 1908. This outburst of our esteemed South Carolina contemporary may well set Northern Democrats to thinking.—*Phila. Record.*

Souvenir Post Cards are printed at this office. Half tones supplied. tf.

A Large Deficit in the State Road Fund.

Twenty-Four Millions Needed and Less Than Six Millions Available.

It is very evident that some of the state roads asked by counties of Pennsylvania will go begging for several years to come. Indeed it is very doubtful whether all the roads contracted for will be built, because of the unavailability of funds. The improvements asked by various counties amounts to \$24,518,908, while the available appropriation is only \$5,710,000, leaving a deficit of \$19,219,558. Out of the original appropriation there was available to June 1, 1907, \$3,500,000. The state has paid out on contracts for road construction the sum of \$1,991,048. The balances unpaid on existing contracts amount to \$1,580,952, making a grand total of \$3,572,000, which is over \$72,000 more than the amount available. The sum will have to be paid out of the \$1,500,000 which becomes available for use on June 1st of the present year, in order to complete payments on work already contracted for and in many instances partly constructed. In a statement giving a list of counties, the total number of feet applied for, the amount available to June 1, 1909, and the deficiency Montour and nearby counties shows as follows:

Northumberland applied for 203,828 feet; approximate, \$407,656; available, \$72,406; deficit, \$335,249.
Montour applied for 101,308 feet; approximate, \$202,616; amount available, \$24,138; deficit, \$178,477.
Lycoming applied for 263,773 feet; approximate construction, \$527,524; amount available, \$110,383; deficiency, \$417,162.
Columbia applied for 108,580 feet; approximate, \$219,160; amount available, \$72,439; deficit, \$146,720.

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1906 Crops in Penna. Netted \$17.43 an Acre.

Which is One-third Above the Average in the Whole Country.

Figures just compiled by the Pennsylvania railroad from a great mass of statistics published by the Department of Agriculture, show that in the year 1906 the Staple Crops of the state of Pennsylvania averaged in value \$17.43 per acre, while the average for the entire country was only \$12.88 per acre. The following figures show the extent to which the various products are cultivated, and emphasize particularly the fact that prices received for the crops in Pennsylvania are considerably higher than the average prices throughout the United States.

Hay is the leading staple. Last year 3,993,627 tons were grown in Pennsylvania and the crop was valued at \$53,514,602. The price received averaged \$13.40 per ton, while the average price for the whole country was only \$10.37 per ton.

Pennsylvania's corn crop last year was worth \$30,139,324. The average yield per acre was 40.2 bushels, which was sold at \$.52 per bushel. The average yield for the whole country was only 30.3 bushels per acre, which sold for \$.399 per bushel.

Last year's wheat crop brought to Pennsylvania's farmers \$22,075,623. It was sold at 76 cts. per bushel while throughout the entire country the average price was only .683 per bushel.

The potato crop in this state was worth \$13,598,443 and brought \$.57 per bushel against .511 per bushel throughout the rest of the country.

Oats brought .38 per bushel against \$.317 for the entire country. Pennsylvania's crop was worth \$12,006,268.

Tobacco is a particularly fruitful article, for the yield per acre in Pennsylvania averaged 1,375 pounds and brought \$.137 per pound. The average yield throughout the United States is only 857.2 pounds per acre at \$.10 per pound.

Rye brought \$.64 per pound, against \$.589 for the whole United States, and last year's crop was worth \$3,856,007.

Buckwheat and barley yielded crops valued at \$2,729,160 and \$117,122 respectively.

A fine new line of Wedding invitations just received at this office. 3t.

Forest Fire on Nescopeck Mountains. Over 200 Acres of Timber Land Swept By Flames.

A fierce fire, threatening property and doing damage to timber land to the extent of several thousand dollars, raged on the Nescopeck mountains back of Millinville on Saturday and Sunday and was only checked late on Sunday by the faithful efforts of fifteen men from Millinville and vicinity.

The fire originated from a brush fire on the Daniel Houtz farm and soon spread to immense proportions. Over two hundred acres of timber land was laid waste. Sweeping the entire mountain side, the fire driven by the wind, gained rapidly in its course and soon reached an alarming extent. A call for assistance was made and some fifteen men responded. They fought bravely with brush and after nearly twenty-four hours had the flames checked. These men state that much game was driven from the mountain and it is their belief that many quail and rabbits perished.

Editor Fred Newell, of the *DuShore Review*, pays the following tribute to the newspapers of this section of the state, "It occurred to us as we ran over our forty or fifty exchanges, to note the moral tone of them. These papers are edited by practical men who are pretty well acquainted with the world, the flesh and the devil. In not one of them did we find a defense of immorality. In not one of them did we find a semblance of defense for whisky. In not one of them was there a trace of vulgarity, and none taught or justified dishonesty. Neither could we find a sneer at purity, at religion, at the better things of life. In many of them were bits of excellent advice, little homely sermons on temperance, frugality and industry. All of them were loyal to the home town and advocated honest principles in government and individuals. The note in every one of these two-score papers was for decency, progress, enlightenment, morality. And these editors, a pretty decent lot they are; in fact, we doubt if any profession can offer a higher—or even as high—a showing."

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