

COST OF CARELESSNESS

Disasters Care Might Have Prevented.

CASES TAKEN TO LAW

Jameson's Raid Due to Misplaced Period—Typhoid Fever From Five Cent Blankets—Insects and Weeds Which Allowed an Epidemic, Cost Enormous Sums.

Sometimes the most insignificant acts of carelessness has produced results which have shaken continents. The misplacement of a period was the cause, it is said, of the Jameson raid and therefore indirectly of the cause of the Boer war.

When there seemed a prospect of a conflict between the Boer Government and the Uitlander population a letter was sent to Dr. Jameson from Johannesburg, signed by Colonel Rhodes and others.

According to the Grand Magazine the original contained the following sentence:

"We feel we are justified in taking steps to prevent the shedding of blood and to insure the protection of our rights. It is under these circumstances that we feel constrained to call upon you to come to our aid should disturbance arise here. Circumstances are so extreme that we cannot avoid this step, etc.

In the message Dr. Jameson received the full stop was placed after the word "aid," instead of after "here." Thus the qualifying clause was cut off and became a part of the next sentence. The Rhodesians came instantly galloping across the frontier on their ill-fated mission.

In May, 1903, eleven boys on board the training ship Cornwall, lying off Purfleet, were suddenly struck down by typhoid fever, and inquiry proved that the outbreak was the result of their sleeping between fever infected blankets brought from South Africa. In that contravention of army regulations no fewer than 200,000 blankets returned from service had been sold to two dealers at the Cape at five cents each, and of these 15,000 dozen were shipped back to London, those that were tainted being indiscriminately mixed with those free from suspicion carelessness of this sort is in very truth a crime of the deepest

order than all in its financial effect upon a great industry was the carelessness which introduced the Australian Bathurst burr into Australia. Wherever this plant has grown sheep's fleeces are thick with the clinging burrs. These spiny seed pods, difficult beyond measure to get rid of, reduce the wool that is full of them to a fraction of its value.

The results of carelessness all too often are beyond the power of man to remedy. An instance in point was the collapse of the Campanile in Venice. For twelve long years before its final collapse Signor Vendrasco, an architect in municipal employ, had been urging and imploring the town and Government to repair the tower before it was too late.

But in matters of this sort the Venetian, alas, too strongly resemble the Spaniards with their everlasting "manana." It is a case of never do to-day what can be left till to-morrow. Poor Vendrasco received nothing but jeers or abuse, and at last, just a month before the day the Campanile fell, was summarily dismissed for making a last urgent appeal that something might be done before it was too late.

Another irreparable loss to the art world was caused in the winter of 1903 by the carelessness of the owners of the Rosso Palace, also in Venice. Because they could not or would not take the trouble to find out who was competent to be entrusted with the task they sent ten "old masters" to be cleaned by a totally incompetent person.

These pictures included two of the finest Van Dycks in existence and two Guido Rents and were all of immense value, both from an artistic and monetary point of view. The incompetent cleaner washed them with an alkaline solution and totally destroyed them all.

An official of an American bank once told the writer that it was not professional swindlers who constituted the chief danger to the banking profession. It was rather the careless methods of customers in drawing checks and thus giving opportunity for fraud. As an instance, he quoted a case tried three years ago before a Maine court of justice.

The cashier of a certain electric company drew a check in favor of a man named Longacre for the sum of \$100. The treasurer of the company wrote the words "one hundred" in the very middle of the check and the figures thus: \$ 100, with a space wide enough for the insertion of another figure between the dollar mark and the 100.

When the check was presented the words read "Eighty-one hundred dollars" and the figures \$8,100. The bank paid it unquestioningly, and the electric company promptly sued to recover the \$8,000. The case created a good deal of interest, especially when the Court's decision was given that the company, not the bank, should be the losers on account of "gross carelessness" in drawing the check.—New York Sun.

Adversity may test us severely, but prosperity tests us more.

WOMEN AND THE BALLOT.

Its Advocates Are Fought by a League in Opposition.

Ever since, over fifty years ago, the first woman's convention met at Seneca Falls much has been heard on every hand about woman suffrage. Its advocates are a compact and active body; over and over again they have brought their demands before the various State Legislatures of this country; under the leadership of able women, like Susan B. Anthony, Rev. Anna H. Shaw, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and others who have commanded attention by their repeated and determined endeavors to obtain what they believe to be the rights of their sex. But of the opposition to woman suffrage among women little is known. It is now coming to the fore armed with a determination fully as great as that of its rivals, the advocates of woman suffrage. Whereas the suffragists state the exact numbers of women who belong to their organization and hold their views, the anti-suffragists maintain that they represent the enormous majority of women who will not mix in politics or express opinions—the "silent woman," who outnumbered by millions those who are contending for the extension of the right to vote to the women of the United States.

Among the opponents are included: Mrs. Lyman Abbot, who is the President; Mrs. Elinor Root, Miss Ida Tarbell, Miss Jeanette L. Gilder, Dr. Emma E. Walker and other pro-



REV. ANNA H. SHAW.

minent women. At the first woman's convention, held in Seneca Falls in 1848, the women who banded together to advocate the granting of the suffrage to their sex were also advocating many other things which the majority of women had deeply at heart. At that time the laws of the State of New York forbade a married woman to hold one dollar's worth of property, or possess her own child, or expend her own wages except with the consent of her husband. For many years women had felt an inward rebellion against the gross injustice of laws that brought about such a condition of inferiority. And therefore they rallied enthusiastically around Susan B. Anthony and the others who advocated "women's rights."

Over fifty years later, when Miss Anthony died, the obnoxious laws mentioned above had been repealed. Woman had fought her way to a commercial, professional, and educational equality with man. But, as for women suffrage, Miss Anthony lived to see only four small Western States grant it, the total population of which is exceeded by the population of each of the Cities of New York, Chicago, and Boston. Commenting on Miss Anthony's death, and the point to which women had advanced during her lifetime of endeavor, one thousand editorials all over the country declared that, in so far as the suffrage was concerned, Miss Anthony had failed to convert women to her way of thinking.

In Australia where women have been voting for a number of years, the Legislative Council of Victoria has voted down the fourteenth time the proposal to confer the right of Parliamentary suffrage on the women. And, to return to our own country, in Colorado, where women have even sat in the legislative halls, it is said that a feeling prevails that no woman will ever be nominated again for a legislative office. One Western newspaper says: "Colorado men would not like talk like this if Colorado women were satisfied with the results of suffrage, and using to the utmost the privilege of taking part in political life. The fact seems to be that, after the novelty of woman suffrage wore off, a large proportion of the women ceased to avail themselves of it. The wives and mothers were not willing to disregard duties which they considered more important for the sake of mixing in the game of politics."

Lately, in various parts of the country, there have been happenings calculated to cheer the hearts of the anti-suffragists. After a determined effort to obtain woman suffrage in Oregon, its partisans were recently overwhelmingly defeated.

Trade Deceptions.

Siberian butter goes to Hamburg, is repacked and sent to the Far East as a German production. Russian sugar goes to Japan in an Austrian disguise, and Russian calico is sold there under a German wrapper. Those are some of the reasons why the Russo-Japanese Commercial Company has been formed in Russia,

The Southbury Robbery

It was the week of the Southbury Hunt Steeplechase meeting, and the Old Red Lion Southbury, was packed with hunting men and their parties.

There were the Earl and Countess of Woodmanstere, Viscount and Viscountess Morden, Sir Jocelyn and Lady Tamworth, Gen. Wynn-Parsons, the Dowager Lady Titcombe, and Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Beddington, a wealthy couple, who had taken a hunting-box in the Southbury country for the season, and, by their lavish hospitality had made themselves very popular in the local society.

Now Mrs. Beddington had some exceptionally fine diamonds, of which she was pardonably proud. But they were also a source of considerable anxiety to her, inasmuch as she lived in constant fear of having them stolen.

On the present occasion, coming down to Southbury from London, where she had been staying a few days, she had a fright of this description, which upset her a good deal, and of which she gave her guests graphic particulars at dinner that evening.

She had noticed a tall, well-dressed man of rather sinister expression, following her about on the platform at Euston, while she was waiting for her train, and she felt intuitively that he had designs upon her jewelry. This impression was strengthened when, finding herself momentarily in a crowd, she was jostled by somebody, and turning quickly round, recognized the same suspicious individual.

And it was absolutely confirmed in the course of her journey when she noticed him standing in the corridor just outside her compartment, with his eyes fixed upon her.

"I can't tell you what a feeling it gave me when I saw him there," she said with a little shudder. "It seemed to send the cold creeps all down my back, and though there were several other people in the carriage I was so frightened that I was half-minded to call the guard; only I recollected that I couldn't prove anything against the man—"

"I should think not, my dear," interposed her matter-of-fact husband, laughing the incident aside with good-humored contempt. "If you had done anything so foolish you might have found yourself in serious hot water. For I have little doubt that you were merely the victim of your own nervous fancy, and that the man in question was a perfectly harmless and respectable member of society."

"Indeed, but I am absolutely certain he was nothing of the kind," replied Mrs. Beddington, with conviction. "And if you had been there, Cyrus, and had taken note of his appearance and his behavior, you must have formed the same conclusion as I did. . . . I tell you, I know the man was shadowing me, and that he was after my diamonds. I don't think he'd even have stuck at—at—violence, to effect his purpose," she added with a shudder, "and—well, I haven't got over the horrible fright he gave me yet."

The lady more or less recovered her composure. But it was evident that she was still by no means herself, and that she was only retaining her place at the head of the dinner table by an effort.

By and by she collapsed altogether, and instead of sitting up to witness the full dress rehearsal of some theatricals, she had to ring for her maid and retire to bed.

Cyrus, however, made light of it. He was too much accustomed to these hysterical attacks on the part of his wife to take them seriously. "It's a pity she will give to these nervous fancies," he said. "She is always imagining that people are after her diamonds. I sometimes almost wish that the diamonds might be stolen and done with—though they are worth £10,000."

Some hours later Cyrus was sitting in the smoking room, when one of the chamber maids entered hurriedly. "Oh! If you please, sir," she exclaimed, "Mrs. Beddington wants you to go up to her at once."

"Hillo! What's the matter now?" inquired Cyrus. "She's had a fright, sir. She woke up a few minutes ago, and saw a man's face at her window, peering into the room; and she says she's sure he meant robbery. And she's that upset by it, sir—"

"I am afraid I must wish you good night," he said. "My wife has had a tremendous fright. She asserts, not only that she saw a man's face at her bedroom window, but that it was the face of the man whom she described to us at dinner this evening as having shadowed her on her journey from London."

"I may say that in order to allay my wife's apprehensions, I have taken her diamonds and other jewelry downstairs and lodged them with the manager for safe custody. Anything you know, to pacify a frightened and hysterical woman. Well, good night, gentlemen."

And Cyrus Beddington retired to join his better half, smiling at the absurdities of the feminine fancy. But a few hours later this gentleman found himself in the unusual position of having to sing small.

There was abundant and substantial evidence that the supposed vision had been, after all, a reality. For visions don't leave ladders and open windows behind them, nor do they pick the locks of jewel cases and ransack them of all their most valuable contents—which is what had happened in the present instance.

The Countess of Woodmanstere was the first to discover her loss. She at once raised the alarm, and it transpired that a number of other ladies had suffered in the same way.

The manager was summoned. The servants were called up. The police were sent for. But the thief had already made his escape. He had climbed in by a ladder through the window of a disused boxroom. The ladder was still there and the window still open. In the turf just under Mrs. Beddington's bedroom window, and again on the plaster of the wall just beneath the sill marks were found which showed that a ladder had been set up there. He had not done badly, either, having lifted jewelry to the aggregate value of seven or eight thousand pounds.

Of course the unfortunate victims were much upset by the theft, which they felt to be more aggravating because of Mrs. Beddington's belief that she had been shadowed by a thief had only been seriously, instead of being lightly dismissed as the creation of her own nervous fancy, the whole thing could have been so easily prevented. They were even disposed to be angry with Cyrus for not having taken steps to investigate that story of the face at the window. But this, as he ventured to point out to them, was hardly fair. His wife had cried "Wolf" so often, and nothing



SHE SHOOK HER HEAD.

had come of it, that you couldn't blame him for disbelieving in the existence of the wolf when at length that predatory animal really came. One satisfactory feature there was, Mrs. Beddington was able to supply the police with a detailed and accurate description of the thief's appearance. This description was at once telegraphed all over the country.

In the course of the day an officer came down from Scotland Yard to investigate the robbery. His presence afforded the guests a comfortable sense of security.

But several of those ladies whose treasures had escaped took their jewelry, when they were not wearing it, to the manager, who locked it away for them in his safe. One who adopted this prudent course was the Dowager Lady Titcombe. On the evening of the second day after the robbery, wanting her diamonds to wear at that night's ball she went down to the office for her jewel case. It was handed to her, and she took it upstairs. In a few minutes, however, she came back, looking rather flushed and perturbed.

"You have made a mistake," she exclaimed. "This is not my jewel case. It is exactly of the same make and appearance as mine, and my key happens to open it, but it is somebody else's."

"By Jove," the detective exclaimed, slapping his thigh. "Then that explains it. I had my suspicions of that precious pair from the first, and have already searched their luggage on the quiet, but could find no trace of any stolen property. Now, of course, I see how they managed it. The lady's story of the man who shadowed her was all moonshine, to divert suspicion. The ladder and the open window—managed, no doubt, by some confederate outside—were part of the same trick."

"Of course she took the jewelry herself when she shammed ill and went off early to bed. And then, when she had safely packed the swag into her jewel case she sends for her husband, and he has the cool cheek to bring it down and lodge it, for safe custody, in the manager's safe—just where no one would ever think of looking for it. No doubt he foresaw the possibility of his luggage being searched, and so hit upon that audacious method of at once concealing and securing his booty."

"It was certainly a master stroke on the part of our friend Cyrus," concluded the officer, with sneaking admiration, "and, but for his unforeseen mistake in the matter of the jewel-cases, would probably have enabled the worthy couple to get safe away with their spoil. But as it is—however, I'll be able to tell you more about that after the next assizes."

—London Truth.

Cheap Surgery in Japan. At a cost of 24 cents Japanese doctors can dress the wounds of 500 men. They use a finely powdered charcoal obtained by the slow combustion of straw in closed furnaces. Satches filled with it are applied to the wounds, and its antiseptic and absorbent qualities generally effect a rapid cure.

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Hybrid Trout.

State Hatcheries Preparing to Breed Them.

Experiments at the Corry hatchery with the aim of producing a hybrid between the brown trout and the brook trout have met with success, apparently. The brown trout is a fish which frequents waters several degrees warmer than that for which the brook trout is adapted, but it is a fish which does not have the gamey characteristics of the brook trout. Fish Commissioner Meehan says that if the happy medium can be struck in a hybrid the state at large will be greatly benefited. It is hoped to breed a fish which will be only slightly larger than the brook trout, but will have the physical characteristics of the brown trout so far as thriving in warm waters is concerned. It is believed that the hybrid will be able to reproduce its kind. Commissioner Meehan says that other hybrid fish do this and he sees no reason why such a hybrid trout should not do so.

Visiting cards and Wedding invitations at the COLUMBIAN office. If

Woman Finds it Funny to Be Rich.

"It's funny to be rich," said Mrs. Grant Smith Mason, whose husband inherited \$13,000,000 from "Silent" Smith, as she swooped down upon the shopping center, says a Minneapolis dispatch. She came in from Aberdeen, S. D., and before she had finished she had actually spent \$1,200 for her clothes—\$80 for numerous gowns and waists, lingerie, etc., and \$200 for hats. This latter extravagance will make Aberdeen sit up and gasp for breath, for they are still wearing poke bonnets in Aberdeen, and every woman is her own millinery creator.

Mrs. Mason said she and her husband considered they were simply custodians of the great fund, and would not dissipate it in riotous living. She was quite positive, however, that they would travel considerably and that her husband would dig no more ditches or work again for a railroad company.

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Farmers all over the state are reported as shortening their operations, on account of inability to get help. In Green county farmers are offering two dollars a day and then can't get help. Their farming operations this year will simply be what they can do themselves.

Woman is often referred to by man as "doubbling his joys and halving his sorrows." That may be complimentary but it would seem to be rather hard on the woman. For in plain terms it means that where things are going well with the man his wife makes them go better. But when things are going ill with him, he expects the wife to share half his burden. And there's more truth than poetry in this presentation of masculine selfishness. Men don't appreciate the fact that the strain of motherhood alone is a burden bigger than all the loads that rest on his male shoulders. They see the wife grow thin, pale, nervous and worn without a thought that she is over-burdened. Among the pleasant letters received by Dr. Pierce are those from husbands who have waked up before 11, was too late to the crushing burdens laid upon the wife, and in the search for help have found in Dr. Pierce's Prescription a restorative which has given back to the mother the health of the maiden and the maiden's happiness. "Favorite Prescription" always helps, and almost always cures. It has perfectly cured ninety-eight out of every hundred women who have used it when afflicted with diseases peculiar to women.

Imitation pearls are plentiful and look so like the real thing that they deceive experts. They are made by means of a transparent glass shell, a little glue, and some essence of the Orient, a silvery, pearly substance, composed of fine scales rubbed from small fish called "bleak" or the "ablete," 17,000 of which require rubbing to get a pound.

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There may be safety in numbers, and yet we are told that too many cooks spoil the broth.

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