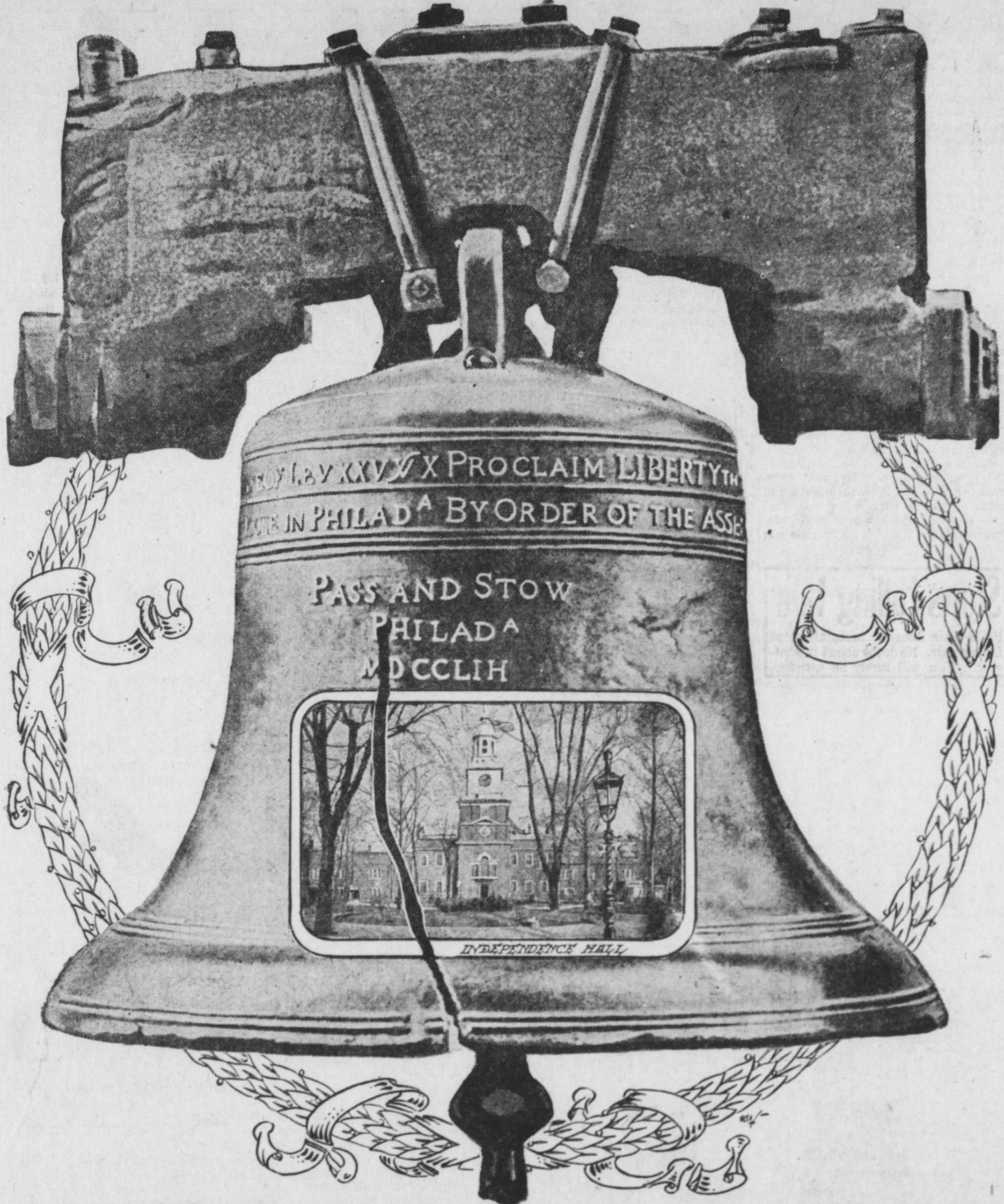


LIBERTY BELL IN DANGER



Since negotiations have already been opened by the management of the Panama exposition and commonwealth of California with the city of Philadelphia to obtain the Liberty Bell as one of the exhibits for that occasion, and since it seems that the crack in the bell is extending, a definite settlement of the question as to whether the relic should be permitted to travel any more appears to be about due, and just now, when the anniversary of the nation's independence is upon us, is a reasonable time for discussion of the matter.

Wilfred Jordan, curator of the Independence Hall Museum, measured the second crack before the bell's last journey and then measured it again after its return. He found that it had increased in length to a slight degree.

No one knows just when this second crack occurred, and opinions differ; but compared to the old crack it is of recent origin and is distinctly visible. Mr. Jordan, however, was the first to call attention to a long and almost invisible extension of the second crack and finds that it now reaches one-third way around the bell, from the end of the old original fracture, which was chiseled out in 1846 in an attempt to make the bell sound properly.

Putting an end to the bell's pilgrimages would in no sense at all be due to a disinclination of the people or councils of Philadelphia to allow the west to view and possess the sacred relic even for a short time. Indeed Philadelphia would be only too glad to send it, for since the bell has already helped by its travels to lessen the sectional feelings between the north and south, so it would help unite the citizens of our republic who live on the Atlantic seaboard with those who live on the Pacific.

Little do either sections realize how intimately the bell is connected with the consummation of our nation, early political ideals and with the fondest of its impulses in Colonial days. This old bronze relic not only helped to proclaim independence, but for years before 1776 rang loud to celebrate the hopes of the people and rang low to intone their woes!

Upon its sides is this inscription: "And proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."—Lev. 25, 10. A strange Providence indeed wrote that inscription on its crown many years before its throbbing clangors and melodious eloquence had aught at all to do with liberty!

Announcing proclamations of war and treaties of peace; welcoming the arrival and bidding God-speed to departing notables; proclaiming some accession of the English royal family to the throne and the secession therefrom of the American colonies! Its more customary use, however, was to call the members of the assembly of Pennsylvania together at the morning and afternoon sessions and to announce the opening of the courts.

Despite the fact that the Liberty Bell is one of the most treasured of national relics, it is not originally an American product, but a foreign importation; and imported from England, too, where it was first cast according to the order given in October, 1751, by the superintendents of the state house of the Province of Pennsylvania—now Independence Hall.

Thomas Lester of White Chapel, London, cast the bell, and by August, 1752, it arrived in Philadelphia and was erected on trusses in the state house yard. While being tolled and tested early in September of the same year it was cracked by the clapper, though by no unusually powerful stroke. Concerning this accident, Isaac Morris wrote, March 10, 1753:

"Though the news of our new bell cracking is not very agreeable to us, we concluded to send it back by Captain Budden, who had brought it from London last August, but he could not take it on board, upon which two ingenious workmen undertook to cast it here, and I am just now informed they have this day opened the mould and have got a good bell, which, I confess, pleases me very much, that we should first venture upon and succeed in the greatest bell cast, for aught I know, in English America. The mould was finished in a very masterly manner, and the letters, I am told, are better than (on) the old one. When we broke up the metal our judges here generally agreed it was too high and brittle, and cast several little bells out of it to try the sound and strength, and fixed upon a mixture of an ounce and a half of copper to the pound of the old bell, and in this proportion we now have it."

Herman Pass, from the Island of Malta, and Jacob Stow, a son of Charles Stow, the doorkeeper of the assembly, were the two ingenious workmen referred to in the above letter. After the second casting of the bell it was again hung and tested in the spring of 1753. More defects were soon found, however. The American casters, Pass and Stow, who were not bell founders by trade at all, had put too much copper in the metal so that its sound was impaired. Disappointed with that failure and also nettled at the gibes of their townsmen concerning it, they asked permission to cast the bell a second time. Thomas Lester, the original maker of it, also offered his services, but the authorities decided to allow Pass and Stow to proceed again, and thus the third and present casting was made, and again the bell was raised; this time in the state house steeple itself. That operation was completed by the end of August of 1753, when the American casters were paid £90 13s. 5d. for their labors.

Then began its chimes, August 27, 1753, when it called the assembly together, ringing out the old, ringing in the new; sounding its melodies for innumerable public and private events during more than four-score of years.

The first individual for whom it rang was Franklin; sent "home to England" to ask redress for the grievances of the colonies in February, 1757.

The bell echoed the hopes of the people's hearts and its melodious "Bon Voyage" sounded over the Delaware as he sailed away.

When the planing and splitting mills were closed and the manufacture of iron and steel products was prohibited by acts of parliament in Pennsylvania and the king's arrow was affixed upon pine trees and the trade of the colonies in all parts of the world restrained, the bell was again tolled to assemble the people in the state house yard to protest against such outrages.

Thus did the bell, long before the Revolution, become the beloved symbol of truth and freedom, reinforcing with pugnacious and violent peals, the cry of determined citizens, in the largest political meeting held up to that time in the state house yard, that none of the ship "Polly's" detestable tea, that had just been brought into the port, should be funneled down their throats with parliament duty mixed with it."

When the port of Boston was closed in May, 1774, and the heart of the country was growing heavier with its affliction, the bell was once more carefully muffled and tolled in a solemn and prophetic manner, both to announce the closing of the port and, a little later, to call a meeting to relieve suffering in Boston on account of the restriction of its trade.

As the conflict with England approached the bell was rung more and more; its use became a matter of course, and then, on April 25, 1775, just after the reports came to Philadelphia of the Battle of Lexington, it rang wildly to assemble 8,000 people in the state house yard and to inspire their souls to a resolution pledging their all to the cause of liberty.

It rang also to assemble the Continental congress to its daily sessions, both at Carpenter's hall and Independence hall, and, finally, its crowning achievement, the one wild, defiant and joyful ringing that, more than all the previous reverberations it made, gave it the sacred name of "The Liberty Bell," occurred on July 8 (and not the 4th, as is generally believed), after the Declaration of Independence had been adopted.

This greatest of its jubilees called the citizens together in the yard to hear read in the stentorian tones of John Nixon the first public proclamation of the Declaration, and never did the old wooden rafters of the state house steeple rock and tremble with more sympathetic vibration than at this time.

When returned to the old state house steeple again one of its first uses was to ring upon the announcement of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, in October, 1781, and in the following month to toll in welcoming Washington to the city. A year and a half later it helped to proclaim the treaty of peace with Great Britain, and in December, 1799, it was muffled for the first time in many years, though not to mourn for lost liberty or over tyrannical deeds, but to lend its almost hushed music to the funeral solemnities of Washington himself.

CURRENCY BILL IS IN CONGRESS

Administration Measure Introduced in Both Houses.

BANKERS' APPEAL UNHEEDED

While a Number of Amendments Suggested From Different Sources Had Been Made, the One Most Desired Turned Down.

Washington. — The administration currency bill was launched on the troubled seas of legislative consideration, when it was introduced in the Senate by Senator Owen and in the House by Representative Glass, the Banking and Currency Committee chairman. The House immediately referred the measure to the Banking and Currency Committee.

Several changes had been made in the bill as the result of the numerous conferences, in which President Wilson, Democrats of the House and Senate committee, Treasury Department officials and committees of bankers took part, following the publication of the proposed measure several days ago. The changes embodied some of the suggestions made by those interested in the legislation.

However, despite earnest appeals that the federal reserve board to control the proposed new currency system be increased and that the bankers be given representation, no change in this provision was made. The board will consist of seven men, to be appointed by the President. In the Senate, Senator Cummins contemplates proposing an amendment which would make the board an elective body.

Retiring Bank Notes.

Reinserted in the bill was the original proposition for retiring the present bank notes within 20 years and the substitution of additional federal reserve notes for them. This eliminated the proposed limit of \$500,000,000 in reserve notes contained in the bill as originally made public. In replacing the bank notes the government 2 per cent. bonds upon which they are now issues would be refunded by 3 per cent. bonds without the circulation privilege.

Chairman Glass made preparations for the speedy consideration of the bill by the House committee. He secured the passage through the House of two resolutions to facilitate the work. One provided for the printing and distribution of 25,000 copies of the new bill. The other, which passed after a partisan discussion, provided \$5,000 for the payment of experts to be employed by the committee.

PROTECTION FOR BIRDS.

New Regulations Will Go Into Effect About October 1.

Washington. — Regulations for the protection of migratory birds in the United States have just been completed by the Department of Agriculture and will become effective October 1, or as soon thereafter as President Wilson approves them. A bill to protect such birds was passed March 4. A closed season of almost five years, until September 1, 1918, has been established on certain game birds, "which have been hunted beyond the margin of safety."

PULLED FROM ROOF BY KITE.

Boy of 11 Years Falls Six Stories and is Killed.

New York. — James Kossina, 11 years old, is probably the youngest victim in the long list of fatal aviation accidents. He was carried to death while flying a kite. James was on the roof of a six-story tenement in the East Side when a gale from the East river caught his kite and pulled him to the edge of the roof. He did not think of letting go of his kite string until too late to save himself, and he fell six stories to the ground, being instantly killed.

SNAKE ATE CHINA EGG.

Farmer Wondered Why Reptile Seemed Indisposed to Fight.

Newton, N. J. — While hunting for eggs at her home at East Swartwood Mrs. Jackson Rose found a blacksnake coiled in a hen's nest. She told her husband, who armed himself with a rake and killed the snake, which appeared disconsolate and failed to show fight. Rose saw a large lump in the snake's throat. He performed a surgical operation with his penknife and found a china egg lodged in his snake-ship just back of the head.

FOULQUIER, AIR-MAN, KILLED.

Frenchman Falls 250 Feet While Testing a Monoplane.

Chalons-Sur-Marne, France. — The French aviator, Maurice L. Foulquier, while testing a monoplane for the first time, fell from a height of 250 feet and was killed. Foulquier had been accustomed to a biplane and the accident is attributed to the fact that he failed to realize that a monoplane required different methods of handling.

Few Do
"Why is that man so much in demand at public gatherings?"
"He knows the words of 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'"
High living never qualifies one for the higher life.

IF YOU ARE A TRIFLE SENSITIVE
about the size of your shoes, you can wear a size smaller by shaking Allen's Foot-Ease, the antiseptic powder, into them. Just the thing for Dancing Parties and for Breaking in New Shoes. Gives instant relief to Tired, Aching, Swollen, Tender Feet, and takes the sting out of Corns and Bunions. Samples FREE. Address: Allen S. Clusted, Le Roy, N. Y.—Adv.

Between Devil and Deep Sea.
Simeon Ford, New York's well-known humorist, said whimsically the other day, apropos of the death of J. Pierpont Morgan: "We learn from Mr. Morgan's life that wealth does not bring happiness. We know already that poverty doesn't bring it, either. What on earth then is a man to do?"

Advice to the Innocent.
We have a letter from a young woman who asks:
"Can I succeed as a chorus girl and remain innocent? My friends tell me that I am very beautiful."
We are unable to give expert advice concerning the possibility of succeeding as a chorus girl and remaining innocent, but we feel safe in saying that if the young lady is provided with a suitable supply of innocence in her present environment it would be a pity not to keep it right there.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Important to Mothers
Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* in Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Donald's Opinion.
Donald was an old Scotch beadle who officiated in a Highland kirk where the minister, never a bright star at any time, believed in giving full value for the money, as it were, in his discourses. A stranger once asked him his opinion of the sermons.
"Ah, weel," replied Donald, "you'll no get me to say anything against them, for they're verry guid, but I'll just remark this much:
"The beginning's aye over far frae the end, an' it would greatly improve the force o' it if he left oot a' that cam' in stween."

In the Barber's Chair.
"No sooner was I seated in the chair," began Jones, "than the barber commented on the weather, and directed a current of discourse into my ears.
"Je ne comprend pas," said I, with an inward chuckle, thinking his volubility would be checked.
"In very good French he started in afresh. I looked at him as if bewildered, and then interrupted him by asking:
"Was Sagen Sie?"
"He began to repeat in German all that he had been saying, when I shut him off with:
"Oh, talk to me with your fingers. I'm deaf and dumb!"

Very Unusual.
"You newspaper fellows are ordinarily hard pressed for funds, are you not?" asked the genial stranger.
Our natural pride forbade us to agree with this outsider's conclusion. So we said:
"Why—er—not necessarily. What makes you think so?"
"I'll tell you. I am acquainted with a member of your profession—and a fine chap he is too. The other day I wanted to talk to him, so I called him up on the phone and asked him if he would lunch with me. He accepted, and at the appointed hour we sat at the table. I opened the conversation thus:
"Well, what's the news? Anything unusual in your line?"
"Yes," answered the reporter, "this."

BANISHED
Coffee Finally Had to Go.
The way some persons cling to coffee, even after they know it is doing them harm, is a puzzler. But it is an easy matter to give it up for good, when Postum is properly made and used instead. A girl writes:
"Mother had been suffering with nervous headaches for seven weary years, but kept on drinking coffee.
"One day I asked her why she did not give up coffee, as a cousin of mine had done who had taken to Postum. But Mother was such a slave to coffee she thought it would be terrible to give it up.
"Finally, one day, she made the change to Postum, and quickly her headaches disappeared. One morning while she was drinking Postum so freely and with such relish, I asked for a taste.
"That started me on Postum and I now drink it more freely than I did coffee, which never comes into our house now."
Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Write for booklet, "The Road to Wellville."
Postum comes in two forms.
Regular Postum (must be boiled.) Instant Postum doesn't require boiling, but is prepared instantly by stirring a level teaspoonful in an ordinary cup of hot water, which makes it right for most persons.
A big cup requires more and some people who like strong things put in a heaping spoonful and temper it with a large supply of cream.
Experiment until you know the amount that pleases your palate and have it served that way in the future. "There's a Reason" for Postum.