

# "The God of 2.5"

By E. S. WATSON

IN NO institution of higher learning in the United States is tradition stronger and more religiously observed than in the two service schools, the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Commencement day at Annapolis is occasion for one interesting exhibition of that. After the last member of the graduating class has received his diploma from the hands of the secretary of the navy and returned to his seat, the solemnity of the occasion is suddenly broken. At a signal every graduate rises to his feet and a second later the air overhead is filled with white objects. They are their white caps which they have hurled aloft, thus signaling their promotion from midshipmen in the academy to ensigns in the navy.

But most interesting of all Annapolis traditions are those which cluster around a curious statue there. It is the figure of an Indian chieftain, the mock-serious patron saint of the middies—"Old Tecumseh," the "God of 2.5."

All who enter the academy are warned that the great Indian chief frowns on skeptics, but will smile on all believers in his power. It is said that in return for a respectful salute he will grant a passing mark in examinations, which in the navy is rated as 2.5, and the midshipmen file past the stern figurehead of wood, tossing pennies and invoking him to aid them.

This statue has had an interesting history. Until this year, "Old Tecumseh" was a "wooden Indian," that is to say he was originally the figurehead of an American warship, the Delaware. But last May the wooden statue was replaced with one of bronze. Originally, too, his name was "Tamanend" instead of "Tecumseh."

Away back in 1817 the name Delaware was selected by the commissioners of the navy for a ship-of-the-line, which was laid down at the Gosport navy yard in Norfolk, Va. After consulting senators and representatives from Delaware, it was decided that the most appropriate figurehead for the new vessel was that of the distinguished chief of the Delaware Indians, Tamanend. The gentlemen from Delaware then informed the navy that:

"The name of Tamanend is held in the highest veneration among the Indians. Of all the chiefs and great men which the Lenape nation ever had he stands foremost on the list. . . . All we know of Tamanend, therefore, is that he was an ancient Delaware chief who never had his equal. He was in the highest degree endowed with wisdom, virtue, prudence, charity, affability, meekness, hospitality—in short, with every good and noble qualification that a human being may possess. He was supposed to have had an intercourse with the great and good spirit, for he was a stranger to everything that is bad."

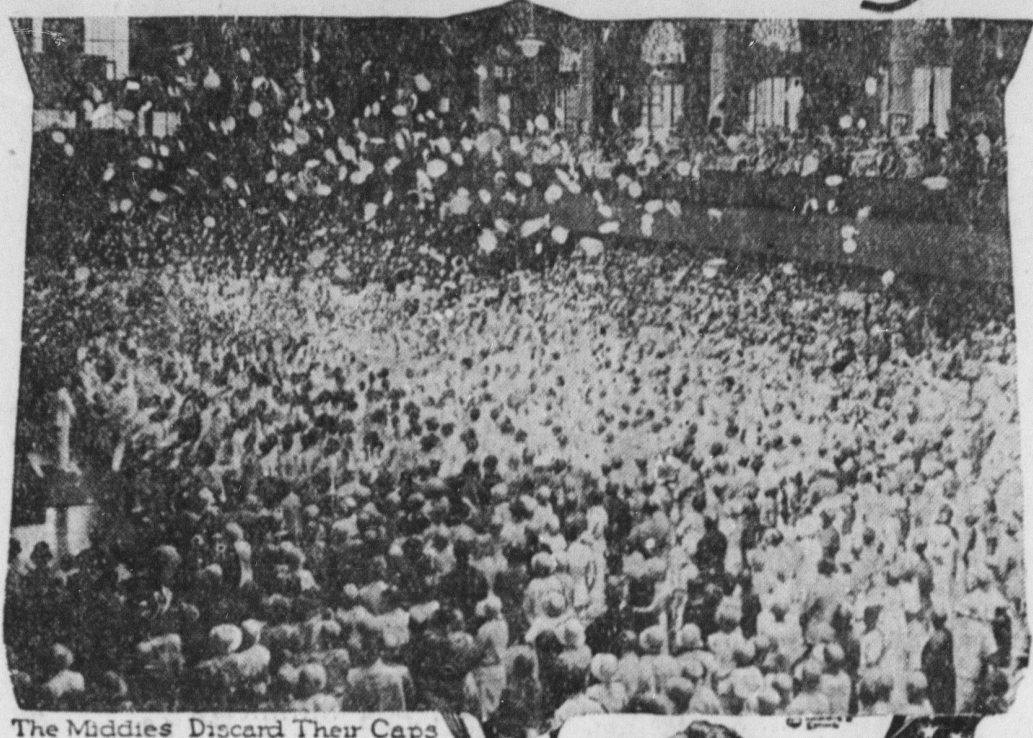
The Delaware, with the great Indian chief poised on her bow, was a wooden vessel of 2,633 tons displacement, mounting 74 guns and with a complement of 820 officers and men. Launched in 1820, she served in Mediterranean and Brazilian waters.

At the beginning of the Civil war the Delaware was out of commission at the Norfolk navy yard. When the navy yard was destroyed in 1861 she was scuttled and burned, but after the close of the war what remained of her hull was sold to wreckers, who raised and broke her up for the copper in 1866-67 and the figurehead was sent to the naval academy.

In the old naval academy "Tamanend" had a place near the Lyceum, a building devoted to gunnery and close to the department of seamanship. When the old building was torn down the figurehead was moved to the Seamanship building. In 1900 it was placed in the gymnasium and later placed on a pedestal facing Bancroft hall.

Gradually the tradition of his mysterious power of imparting knowledge was established. Also by this time he had been renamed "Tecumseh" by the middies and had become the "God of 2.5." Later his powers were increased and he was charged with gaining victories for the navy teams. As the regiment of midshipmen departs for the big games each platoon gives a "left-hand salute" to him that the navy may win that day. Another ceremony is centered around "Tecumseh." When the final examinations are concluded the graduating class gathers before him to read its class history and pay homage to his steadfast aid.

In the archives of the navy is an unpublished manuscript, "The Private Journal of Lieut. S. C. Rowan, U. S. Navy," dated 1841-43, recording an incident of almost a century ago which earned for "Tecumseh's" ship, the Delaware, a reputation for gaining favors with "the powers that be" and helping promotions. This journal, recently presented to the navy, contains an account of an official visit to the Delaware as she lay off Annapolis and its result, which was the largest promotion of officers which had ever taken place in the navy.



The Middies Discard Their Caps

Lieutenant Rowan said: "The last Saturday in July (1841) we got under way for Annapolis. We arrived there on the fourth day, having to anchor at least five miles from the city. Commodore Morris, who had been in Washington for some weeks, came off and informed us that the President and secretary and heads of departments, ministers, distinguished citizens and naval officers would visit the ship in a few days.

"During this interval our first lieutenant, who is a man of energy, did all in his power, with the able assistance of the officers, to put the ship in the perfect condition of a man of war. The officers and crew were thoroughly exercised in every department of ship's duty until the ship was in better order than anyone I had ever the honor to sail in.

"When the steamer reached the gangway Lieutenant Wilson, who was to receive the President at Annapolis, informed the first lieutenant that the President was not on board. The commodore then ordered all the honors to be paid to the secretary of the navy which were intended for the President, except the number of guns and the substitution of the American ensign at the main for the broad pennant.

"Mr. George E. Badger, then as secretary of the navy, led the way and was followed by Webster, Crittenden, Granger, Bell, Senator Preston and numerous other members of both houses with their ladies, as well as other distinguished citizens. When the company had all reached the deck of the ship the steamer dropped astern and a salute of 17 guns was fired and the men ordered down. The officers all came forward and were severally introduced to Mr. Badger by the commodore.

"Refreshments were furnished in the port cabin and mastroom and after the retreat was beaten the officers devoted themselves to the company, taking pains to show them everything. The people went to dinner to the infinite interest of our visitors, all of whom were delighted with the fare as well as apparent comfort of Jack. When an hour had elapsed the drummer beat to quarters for action. Instantly all were flying in apparent confusion for arms, cartridge boxes, etc., and all of which delighted our visitors. In a few minutes all was quiet and silence pervaded the ship.

"The divisions had been reported 'clear for action' and the officers and men stood in their places anxiously waiting the order to fire. Presently the order was given in detail to load and the firing commenced from each deck in admitted confusion.

"Having tickled their fancy to the amount of three rounds of blank cartridges, we ceased firing and secured the guns, and while all hands were called to exercise sail for the amusement of the nobles, a small detachment was busy in spreading tables on the gundeck, gunroom and poop cabin. By the time exercise of sails was finished the collation was ready and the whole party divided and filled the tables and no doubt gratified their palates equally with their curiosity while on board.

"About four the steamer took the party back to Annapolis, where an extra train was in waiting to convey the highly gratified party back to Washington. They left us with the assurance that their visit would be highly advantageous to the service. The subsequent promotion of many old and meritorious lieutenants was no doubt the consequence. The long-hoped-for grade of admiral will no doubt grow out of this visit."

In recent years it was discovered that the ravages of time were threatening to destroy "Old Tecumseh." From time to time heroic efforts were made to lengthen his life but finally it became apparent that he could not stand much more exposure to the elements. Then the class of 1891 got busy. They decided to replace the wooden figure with an exact replica of bronze which should not only be a



Tecumseh, "The God of 2.5"

memorial to all members of that class but which should continue to be an inspiration to all future midshipmen in the academy.

They raised funds to have the work done and received subscriptions varying from \$5 to \$200. Along with the subscriptions usually came letters, recalling fond memories of midshipmen days at Annapolis. One anonymous subscription was sent with this message: "Well, I got ten demerits for hanging a light on Old Tecumseh one dark night, so I guess it's up to me to give him ten bucks now." The bronze which was used in the cast of the new statue was obtained from historic ships and from trophies of many wars and naval demonstrations. So the "Old Tecumseh," who was unveiled last May at a ceremony in which Charles Francis Adams, secretary of the navy, and Rear Admiral Samuel Robinson, superintendent of the academy, took a leading part, and who will stand guard over the destinies of future midshipmen, is not only the patron saint of the naval academy, but is also a visible symbol of the long and honorable record of service of the United States navy.

The original "Old Tecumseh," however, is not the only ship figurehead which is preserved at the naval academy. It also owns one of Grecian design which once graced the British ship Macedonian until that vessel was captured by Stephen Decatur, while in command of the U. S. S. United States during the War of 1812, and one of a bust of Benjamin Franklin, which adorned the U. S. S. Franklin, launched in 1815. But more interesting than either of these, because of the exciting history it had, was a figurehead which once had a place at the bow of the famous frigate Constitution, the "Old Ironsides" of song and story.

The first figurehead on the Constitution, when she was launched in Boston in 1797, was Hercules with his club. This was shot away during a battle with the Barbary pirates in Tripoli and was replaced with a figure of Neptune. During a part of the War of 1812, "Old Ironsides" had only a small billet head. Then in 1834 when, as a result of the stirring poem written by Oliver Wendell Holmes, the ship was being refitted in Boston, a full-length statue of Andrew Jackson was ordered for a figurehead. This caused a great political furor. Jackson's opponents were enraged over what they called the "presumption" of putting the likeness of "Old Hickory" on the famous vessel and declared that no living man, with the possible exception of James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," should have such an honor.

One dark night after the figurehead had been placed in position a young captain named Dewey rowed out to the ship, boarded it, sawed off the head of the statue just below the nose and carried it away in a bag. His friends hailed this feat as a great achievement and Dewey is said to have carried the head to Washington with the intention of presenting it to Jackson himself. Eventually the figure was restored and a new head fastened on with a bolt of huge size so that no other vandal could take such liberties with it as Dewey had taken. It is this historic figurehead which is now one of the most cherished possessions of the naval academy.



## TO BE EXPECTED

Mr. Crowe was a devout church-goer. The young minister of his church was also devout, but easily embarrassed.

Imagine the consternation of Mr. Crowe and the delight of the congregation when the young divine solemnly said at a prayer meeting: "And now, will Brother Pray please crow for us?"

**Film**  
"What's your latest?"  
"A society picture of life in New York. I need the entire four hundred for supers."

**And More to Come**  
He—What's the idea of inviting those horrid Joneses to our wedding?  
She—Well, we need their presents. Don't we?



"It served Van Bibber right. A man of his standing had no business marrying his cook."  
"Why, what has happened to them?"  
"She left him at the end of the first week."

**A Word Only**  
"I am a Communist," said he.  
"Oh, what is that?" said I.  
"It hasn't been explained to me," he answered with a sigh.

**Consolation**  
"My face is going to be my fortune."  
"Never mind. The richest people aren't always the happiest."—Humorist.

**Roads "Cloudy" in the Sky**  
"How did you get here, Zippers?"  
"New biplane."  
"How are the roads?"  
"Cloudy."—Chicago Daily News.

## CAUGHT HIMSELF



(Voice from upstairs)—William, are you just getting home?  
"Why, of course not, dear! I just came down to let the cat out."

**Popular Entertainment**  
An orator finds profits great  
That listeners bestow.  
And what we thought was a debate is only just a show.

**Get Married, That's the Way**  
Single Clubwoman—What I want in life is just freedom and independence.  
Married Clubwoman—Well, that is just what you should have! Why don't you get married?

**Too Hot Headed**  
"Huh!" remarked Mr. Grinch, "I see they have installed a cooling system in the senate chamber."  
"I'd like to find one I could install in your head," snapped his wife.

**Wanted a Screen**  
Flapper Fan—Got a cigarette?  
Sheiky Dan—But I thought you came out in the garden with me to give me a kiss?  
Flapper Fan—Yeah, but I'd better lay down a smoke screen first so nobody will see us.

**Unpleasant Expression**  
"I wish," said the girl, thoughtfully, "that you wouldn't use that expression, 'launched upon the sea of matrimony.'"  
"And why not?" asked the young man.  
"Well, you know what kind of time I always have on a sea voyage."

**What Mugs?**  
"What's become of all those mugs you used to see in the barber shops?"  
"Oh, most of them are shaving themselves now, I guess."

## Restless Children

Children will fret, often for no apparent reason. But there's always one sure way to comfort a restless, fretful child. Castoria! Harmless as the recipe on the wrapper; mild and bland as it tastes. But its gentle action soothes a youngster more surely than some powerful medicine that is meant for the stronger systems of adults.

That's the beauty of this special children's remedy! It may be given the tiniest infant—as often as there is any need. In cases of colic, diarrhea, or similar disturbance, it is invaluable. But it has everyday uses all mothers should understand. A coated tongue calls for a few drops to ward off constipation; so does any suggestion of bad breath. Whenever children don't eat well, don't rest well, or have any little upset—this pure vegetable preparation is usually all that's needed to set everything to rights. Genuine Castoria has Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the wrapper. Doctors prescribe it.

**Make Profitable Use of Time to Get Results**  
Sometimes we are so utterly dull and out of touch with the stimulus of life that we complain how time hangs upon our hands. The truth is time neither flies nor remains still. It moves onward at exactly the same rate today as it did a million years ago. What is happening is an alteration in our reaction to time. All these points of view arise out of a changed state of our mind. One moment we see things one way—the next the same things have an entirely different color. That is why, one day, time seems to be fleeting, and another to drag.

Time is always with us, and all we have to do is to occupy ourselves in a way that will produce the best and greatest results. This means thinking on a constructive basis, so that every moment of life is spent in such a manner as to have in it but a minimum of waste.—Exchange.

Blooming health is evident in a clear complexion. The impurities of the system are eliminated gently and surely by Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills, 25c a box, 372 Pearl St., N. Y. Adv.

**English Birth Rate Low**  
England is still suffering from a dearth of babies. The actual number of births in England and Wales last year was as small as in the year 1890, when the population was only half its present magnitude, according to statistics recently issued by the registrar-general for the year 1920. The rate of 17.8 births a thousand is the lowest reached so far except during the years of the World War. This reduction in births is compensated only to a small extent by the low general death rate of 11.7 a thousand, and the low infant mortality rate of 70 a thousand.

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## BAYER ASPIRIN

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says the U. S. Public Health Service

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**"Cause of Hard Times,"** new book, tells how you can get a job, 25c (silver). Modern Pub. Co., Sta. A, San Diego, Calif.

**Rubber Goods, Seltzer, Specials,** at lowest prices for best goods on market. M. H. White, Box 612-B, Harrisburg, Pa.

**Franklin Wealthy**  
Benjamin Franklin left an estate of \$150,000, which in those days was a considerable fortune.

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"Eight years ago before my last baby was born, I started taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I got such good results that I named her Catherine Lydia. I have six older children and five grandchildren, too. I am 44, but people tell me I look much younger. I am now taking the Vegetable Compound again because of my age. I eat and sleep better and I do all my housework, and my washing. I will do my best to answer letters."—Mrs. H. Dolphore, 6318 York St., New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Lydia E. Pinkham Med. Co., Lynn, Mass.

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