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SUBSCRIPTION TERMS fer. Dails Only, six cents. By mail, postpate Philadelphia, except where foreign postage 1, Dails Only, one month, twenty-five centers, one year, three dollars. Alt mail subparable in advance.

Address all communications to Evening Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia. REVESED AT THE PHILADELPHIA POSTOFFICE AS SECOND-

KEYSTONE, MAIN 8000

CLASS MAIL MATTER. PRILADELPHIA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1915

Take stock of yourself now and then. It may teach you why your friends

are dropping off. Duty of the City to the Unemployed

SEVERAL hundred men will be put to work as soon as the relocation of the sewers to make way for the subway begins. This sort of help for the unemployed is the best possible. It puts food in the mouths of the hungry and clothing on the backs of the shivering and deprives no man and no woman of that self-respect which is the most valuable asset of every solvent citizen. The surest way to pauperize a man is to exhaust his reserve supply of this asset.

Now, if \$500,000 spent in preparation for the new subways will relieve so many men and give comfort to so many families, what will \$40,000,000 expended on the subways themselves do? Any boy in the grammar grades of the public schools can answer this simple question. In the March election on subway construction is wrapped up the relief of thousands of unemployed right here in Philadelphia. If work on the new rapid transit system can begin this spring, instead of some time next year, a whole year of narrow rations and possible starvation is avoided.

But the benefit of subway construction would not be exhausted by the employment of workmen here. The manufacture of the steel that will be needed will give work to idle steel mills. The cement and the timber and the motors and the cars and all the raw material and finished product that will be required before trains can be run will be repremented by living wages and a full pay envelope every Saturday night to workmen in a score of different industries in various parts of the country.

Even if present inadequate transit facilities were not a compelling cause for beginning the work at the earliest possible moment, the reason which lies in the benefit that would follow the expenditure of two score of million dollars in these days of slowly recovering business confidence would alone be enough to justify instant action by Councils in ordering a March election.

Black-is-white Econony

CHAIRMAN McCOMBS, who is about to sound the tocsin and bring together "deserving Democrats" for a feast of jubilation, does not miss the mark very far when h declares that the people are economizing and expect the Government to do likewise.

But shouting frugality and voting extravagange is not the kind of economy the country is after. It wants the real thing, not a fake substitute. To take thirty millions out of the Treasury for investment in steamship lines, which it is deliberately planned shall be unprofitable, is a sort of black-is-white

Mr. McCombs should recollect that only a minority of the people are fools and a malority will be required to elect the next President.

What German Submarines Can Do

ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ knew what he was talking about when he said that if the British navy attempted any raid on the German coast it would have to reckon with the submarines. The German submarines showed what they could do a while ago when they sank a British warship in the North Bea; but on Saturday they startled the Brit-7sh and astonished naval experts of all nations by appearing in the Irish Sea off Fleetwood. 33 miles north of Liverpool, and sinking three British merchant vessels. The submarines rose to the surface, hailed the crews of the yearels, gave them time to leave in the lifeboats, and then blew up the ships.

This feat was accomplished 800 miles, by the shortest route, from the nearest German The submarines had to sail down the North Sea, through the strait of Dover and the English Channel, out into the Atlantic, and then up St. George's Channel into the Irish Sea. On the way to their work of destruction in the Irish Sea they sank another

British ship off Havre. The development of the underwater warship that can operate so far from its base and escape detection at will has given to the German navy a weapon the effectiveness of which it is not possible to overestimate. Merchant shipping is powerless before it, and warships cannot guard successfully against its attacks. The Zeppelins may terrorize the and ellies, but the submarines do the work of destruction at sea, and menace the navai supremacy of the British as it has not been threatened before since the war began.

Philadelphia Wants a Wilson Elm

FREE President was deeply moved last year by the privilege of participating in the national Fourth of July celebration here, and he will certainly be impressed by the weight of his obligation to his country when he is salred to come here in the spring to address wheat 4000 allens who will secure their final efficenship papers within a few weeks.

The opportunity to talk to so large a numter of man who will soon oust their first vote a a free land would appeal to every patriotic Imprican. But it must appeal with irreextille attempth to a man who has given his to to teaching others the art and science of Stirs and the obligations of citizenship. The enident is expected to accept the invitation

hour the elightest heultation. And while he is here the opportunity oun plum to him to assist in the restoration legandance Square to its ancient beauty. a brace there are getting old Paresters a at work, othership out the field the very four. It is unjustifiable in theory

cutting down those hopelessly decayed. There should be a presidential elm in the Square, planted by the first President who ever participated in the national celebration of the Fourth in Independence Hall. Arrangements can easily be made to combine the observance of Arbor Day by the planting of an elm. by Mr. Wilson with the induction into American citizenship of 4000 men by planting in their minds a proper respect for the privilege and obligation of American sovereigns.

Be Americans First

T IS remarkable that any association of American citizens should organize a national movement "to re-establish genuine American neutrality" and make their basic demand the adoption by the United States of a policy which would at once put the

nation squarely in an unneutral position. There are millions of good American citizens whose sympathies in the great war are with the Fatherland. If Germany controlled the seas and were able to give safe conduct to ships loaded with munitions of war for the Kaiser's troops, these citizens would resent any attempt to close the American market. They would be right in so doing. It is not for a neutral to make its policy fit the changing fortunes of war, according to its sympathies. It must follow precedent and International law.

It is even more unfortunate that an organization should be formed to introduce into our politics the animosities of foreign nations, or to pledge candidates to a course favorable to this foreign Power or that. Such a scheme is freighted with peril for the United States, and with more peril for the men willing to embark on so hazardous an enterprise. The war may be over before another election of importance takes place in this country, and it will be fortunate if it is, for when our foreign policy and our interpretation of international law become partisan questions, to be determined by popular vote, then crisis will pile on crisis and our days of peace be numbered.

The way to be neutral is to be neutral, which means to give the advantages of our open markets to whatever nations wish and are able to take them.

Smug Apologists Instead of Leaders FORTY thousand men yesterday fought their way through snow and rain and

slush to the tabernacle. Almost unanimously these 40,000 thundered their approval of the evangelist's bludgeon blows for decency. Those two great audiences were a shame and a humiliation to smug men of Philadelphia, for they showed in the most convincing way that there was in them a thirst for better things and they were ready, under mili-

tant leadership, to tear into shreds the whole fabric of political corruption, or any other kind of organized corruption existing in this city. Yes, a humiliation to smug men of Philadelphia who might, if they had wished long ago, have driven into their holes the whole coterie of plunderers who have waxed fat by pillaging the municipality.

There were 40,000 men hungry for good leadership, such as smug gentlemen might have given. Who are these gentlemen? Their names were printed in boldface type last fall. They will have a chance again to be champions for honest government or apologists for dishonest government in the approaching municipal campaign. And in that campaign the 40,000 of yesterday will vote.

An Innocent Victim of Fame

 $F^{ ext{AME}}$ and youth have been thrust upon the White House baby together at an age when he is too young and too weak to resist either. His youth is a concomitant of his entry upon the stage of life. But his fame is due to the accident of his parentage and the place of his birth. It has compelled him, at the tender and defenseless age of two weeks, to submit to the unsympathetic gaze of the photographer, who after telling him to look pleasant, graciously permitted him to resume his natural expression. And the photographs of the tender thing have been spread broadcast for the satisfaction of the curiosity of these anxious to know what a President's grandson looks like.

The infant could have told them in advance that a baby is only a baby unless it is your very own. In such a case it becomes something too precious for words, as every mother knows. So the prematurely famous child in Washington may be pardoned if he fails to understand why grandmothers, and just mothers, and would-be mothers are so anxious to look at his little round face with its blinking eyes, its button of a nose and its triangular mouth with the dimple at one corner.

The attention that the youngster will appreciate most of all that he has received is, doubtless, the invitation to join the Young Men's Christian Association, extended by the newsboy who delivers the papers to the President, for the smaller a boy is the more delight he finds in being called a man.

There are people who get all they can and can all they get, says "Billy" Sunday, and not all of them are ward politicians.

George Wharton Pepper qualified as an

epigrammatist when he said that "It is a perilous thing to serve schemes instead of Chairman McCombs, of the Democratic

National Committee, is going ahead with his plans for 1916 on the assumption that Barkis is willin' Unless they exercise great care those gen-

tlemen who are trying to make a political issue of American neutrality will never know what hit them. They may have voted sheep in Colorado, but that is not so disgraceful as it is for

years in Philadelphia. A diamond outter could make a brilliant gem from a lump of putty as easily as the Democratio Senatorial caucus can make a perfect measure out of the ship purchase bill.

men to vote like sheep, as they have done for

The guards demonstrated that they could save the Liberty Bell in less than a minute if Independence Hall should get on fire, but they have not been trained to save it from falling apart on a transcontinental journey.

If the tax on olsomargurine were lowered so that it would not be worth while trying to cheat the internal revenue collector the poor who have to use it would be benefited and no one would suffer. The tax of 10 cents a pound in a levy by the Government to the table of

TEARING WHITE RAGS TO SAVE SOLDIERS

The Big Neutral Enterprise of Sending Bandages to the Hospitals of Warstricken Europe-The Law of Help Put Into Practice.

By VANCE THOMPSON

KNOW now what Ruskin meant when he said "the highest and first law of the universe" was the Law of Help. I have seen that law in operation. No. 41 West 38th street, New York-It is

not far from Fifth avenue. You will see in the shop window a great black and white sign which reads: "SURGICAL DRESSINGS COMMITTEE."

And through the window you will get a glimpse of a long counter at which many women stand-hour after hour-folding up pieces of white cloth. That is all you can see from without and it has an air of mystery. If you are a practical minded person you will go in and ask what it is all about. Then you will learn these things:

The Surgical Dressings Committee is an outgrowth-a towering growth now-of Miss Anne Morgan's Vacation War Relief Work. It began early in November, when the reports from our American hospitals in France began to come in. What was wanted most over there was a supply of properly sterilized bandages. In that sort of thing we are far ahead of all the Continental nations and even of England, where antiseptic science and its birth. In the American Hospital in Paris, in the hundreds upon hundreds of hospitals that have been created everywhere in France, there was a demand for what are technically called "dressings"-scientifically folded pads of linen, muslin, cotton; for bandages of all shapes and sizes, for fracture pillows and absorptive pads, for flannel bindings and all the other cloths wherewith wounds are dressed.

So the committee was formed, with Mrs. Mary Hatch Willard as chairman and Miss Carita Spencer as secretary. They raided their own linen closets and the linen rooms of their friends. J. B. Corbin, a kindly man, who had already taken degrees in the Law of Help, gave them rent free the huge floor in West 38th street and the cellars beneath A first lot of rags was cut and folded. The Waters Chemical Laboratory sterilized the packages; of course, in a fine gratultous way. And November 15 the first shipment went to the American Hospital in Paris. That was the beginning.

Many Women Volunteer

Dr. Joseph Blake, in charge over there, cabled for more. In addition he sent over one of his associates, Dr. J. Peter Hoguet, to act as consultant surgeon for the committee. Doctor Hoguet knows, of course, exactly what is wanted, both in the ward room and in the operating room. And now the work "marches," as they say in France, with military precision. Many women volunteered to help-a scorce, two score. Should I print a complete list it would look as though I had torn a page or two from the society

Then a Mere Man Helped

When things have to be made possible there is always a Man. Mr. del Grella, attracted by the sign, went in one day and they put him to work. In a mauve colored silk shirt and overalls you may see him any day nailing up boxes, building tables and cupboards, hauling goods. He is, they say, an efficient exponent of the Law of Help!

The great difficulty in the beginning-as it is today-was to get enough linen. Mr. Willard, in his motorcar, was sent out to raid New England. He had adventures, I assure you, but they have no place in this relation of plain facts. The women of New England istened to him and opened their linen re They filled his motorcar. They filled the farm wagons. Linen that had lain a hundred years in lavender-"grandmamma's bridal sheets," in one instance-were given to stanch the wounds of strangers 3000 miles

And the thing grew. It grew amazingly, There are today 75 "sections" contributing to the work. They are scattered all over the country-in Philadelphia, in Pittsburgh, as far west as Kansas City and as far south as Flerida. Under competent local surgeons the "sections" make the dressings and forward them to New York, where they are sterilized. repacked and sent on to the clearing house in

How many do you think they have sent?

120,000 Dressings Since November 15, the date of the first

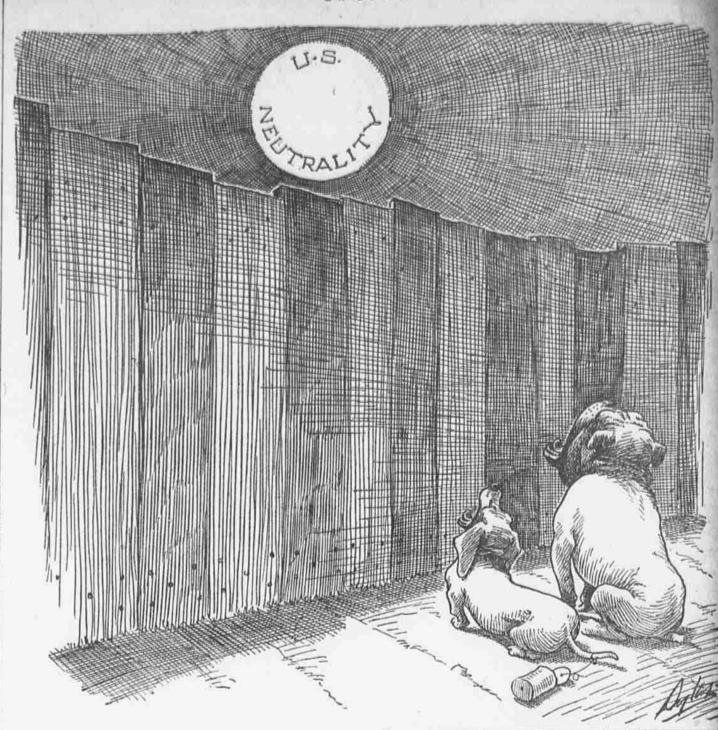
shipment, 120,000 sterilized dressings, pads, pillows, bandages and all the rest, arranged in orderly wardroom kits or operating kits. It's a fair record, ch? Most of them have gone to France because that is where the demand came from. One lot was sent to Siberia and another to Budapest. But that is chance. The Law of Help knows no frontlers. Its warrant runs across the world of war. And the committee (here is the point) will send these kits to any hospital, in any country, if a properly authenticated request is made. Notably they are glad to send them to the small hospitals which have been extemporized all over Europe in these dire days.

Everything is donated. Nothing is bought The cloth, the rent, the letter paper, the stamps, the pretty stenographer, the packing cases, are all free gifts. The express vans cart the goods for nothing; the steamships carry them free; in Havre Miss Anne Morgan's agents take them from the dock and rush them to the hospitals-all free. So, if you will send in your old sheets and pillow cases, your tablecloths and undergarmentsall your "white goods," as they say in the trade-they will be made into dressings and dispatched (mark you!) to any authentic hospital in any country you name; and the gift goes free. The kits have been sent to France heretofore because in the invaded countries the need is direst and most immediate; but you may send your gifts where your sympathy wills. It is a neutral work,

Jobs for the Unemployed

How fast it has grown in New York alone you may gather from the fact that a sec loft has been taken at No. 461 Lafayette place. And here the Law of Help takes a wider extension. The Church Co-operative Association, which is helping the unemployed, has sent 200 workless men to aid in the work of making bandages and dressings. It pays each man 50 cents a day and he is kept at work until he can find employment at his own trade. The Grace Church Bettlement is paying as many more unemployed men and woman and keeping them busy at this work.

You see it to helping both ways. It is aiding the ghastly work of "drawing" the little secunded overson and is allowating in a gall "OW-00-00!"



measure the poverty of workless men and women at home.

And Miss Spencer emerges from a whirlwind of work to say: "If the women will only clear out their linen closets and send us all their old linen and go to the shops and buy new linen and things it will be good for trade, too. White Goods and Fingers

"What is needed most?" you ask. "White goods and fingers," says Miss Speneer with epigrammatic curtness. "We want all the linen, cotton, muslin we can get. It doesn't matter what the stuff is-furniture covers or anything. What is not fit for bandages or pads can be shredded up to stuff fracture pillows with. Above all we want old blankets-for flannel binders, you know. And we want automobiles. If those who want to help and cannot give their own time and labor will send their automobiles for an hour or two a day they will be doing splendid service. And then volunteers! We need many, many more fingers and hands and brains. There is so much to do, and every hour the work grows. You see we do not ask for money. What we want is cloth

great" The women's clubs and the church societies are doing a great deal in the way of collecting old linen and cotton, and the "sections" are springing up all over the country, but the cry from abroad is tragically loud these days.

and fingers-and the need is very, very

Give a Petticoat My dear girl, tear up your petticoat and

save a soldier's life! I watched Mrs. Beardesley packing up kits

of flat dressings from 2x2 to 10x10 in sets of six. A smiling woman, erect and young, I did not wonder greatly that she had stood all day at the long table in the linty loft. Then she said: "I can hardly realize that I am standing here doing this work. It seems like part of another life. For in our Civil War I stood at a table, just so, in my old home down South, helping my mother make lint and bandages for our wounded boys."

Then she spoke of the rough appliances of those days, the unsterllized dressings, the crude horror of the rude hospitals where wounded man died of poisoned wounds. And better than any one there-better than any one of us who had looked in the face of the world war-she understood the splendid usefulness of the work she was doing as, one by one, she piled up the clean, poisonous white

It is good work; it is many-sided and reaches far; it is, I think, the best work that neutral hands can do-and hands are

German War Songs

From the English Review. This Intellectual sentimentalism, which the 'Kaiser found is to easy to play upon, is revealed in the grandeur of their martial songs and the reversnce with which they sing them. "Die Wacht am Rhein," "Zwei Granadiere," "Deutschland ueber Alles," "Hell Dir im Bleggeskrane", these are no ordinary songs of "Destachland ueber Alles," "Hell Dir im Blegeskrans"—these are no ordinary songs of
patriotism. They are pregnant with old German thought and tradition. Like the melody
of the Lorelel, they reflect the deep root of
German romance, of German thwarted loves
and ambitions; they are the living voice of the
old Gothic cathedrals. No country in the world
has such cherished traditions as the Germans.
There is a quality in their music which seems
to spring out of memories of the soil, of the
cauties, of the Father Rhein. The students at
the universities meet and drink precisely as the universities meet and drink precisely as their ancestors did in Luther's time. Lore, sentiment, tradition, antiquity-these are a national cuit, visible in the national respect for learning and research. It is no exaggeration to say that the Germans are still steeped in madieval thought and habit—the proud and conscious "barbarians" of Europe. So in the young Emperor they saw nothing untoward or artificial. He seemed to Germans to stand at their head He seemed to Germans to attend at their nead as the very "gelst" of their genius, the incor-porate figure of the true German valor, armed cap-a-pie like some heaven-sent emissary of Wetan to bring deliverance to his people.

The Island of Hong-Kong.

From the New Orleans States. Hong-Kong is a small island, containing 27 square miles, lying to the northeast of the astuary of the Pearl River and 30 miles from Canton. The new territory, the Kowloon autension, contains 256 square miles. The population of from Kong and the new territory approximates force, and the Suroness population of containing and the Suroness population does not exceed from of which pay are

FEBRUARY, A MONTH OF BENEFICENCE

It Has Had an Unfortunate History, But Its Interesting Associations and Gifts to Mankind Raise It to a Position of Proud Distinction in the Calendar

"A little month."-Hamlet.

ALL little months February is the OF ALL little months February is the littlest. No wonder. In the making of the Calendar, February took most of the hard knocks. No wonder, indeed, that it is a dwarfed, stunted, sawed-off month. might call it vacillating, if its vacillations had not become regular. February, however, need not be looked down upon, for it has higher distinctions than its diminutive proportions-and that mystery which it presents to the youngster whose birthday happens on the 29th. The joke, too, of vanished birthdays is unimportant. Once there was no February, not even in

the Roman calendar, from which we derive our own. Romulus never thought of it. The omission was corrected by his successor in the Kingship, Numa Pompilius, who decided that 10 months were not enough and accordingly started off the year with January, rele gating February to last place. Three centuries later-in 452 B. C.-the decemvirs moved February up to second position. When it was found that the calendar was still out of joint, February was selected as the goat to be operated on and an intercalary month was inserted every second year between the 23d and the 24th day. J. Caesar abolished that nuisance and assigned 29 days to February-30 days every fourth year-but Augustus kicked because his month was shorter than July. So Julius took a day from Februnry and gave it to August.

The Month of Purification

Numa gave the month the name of Feb ruarius, which comes from the Latin word, februare, to purify. It is the month of purification. In Roman times it had that character, and in the calendar of the holy days of the Christian church, Candlemas is the festival of the Purification of the Virgin. Lent begins in February.

Our English ancestors designated the snowdrop as the purification flower, partly because of its whiteness and partly because it blessomed about the time of Candlemas. In like manner, by the way, they designated the crocus to St. Valentine, as it appeared near the day set apart in honor of that friend of Cupid.

Februa was a Roman festival of general explation and lustration. On the Ides of February, the 13th, the Lupercalia were held. Originally the rites were celebrated in honor of Lupercus, who was the guardian deity of shepherds and kept the wolves away. They were associated, too, with the tradition of the shepherd who suckled the twins Romulus and Remus in a cave at the foot of Mount Aventine; but the Lupercalia of later times bore no relation to the Romulus legend. The object of the festival was, by purification and sacrifice, to secure the fruitfulness of the land, the increase of the flocks and the prosperity of the whole people.

"On the Lupercal"

On this occasion, you know, the commoners had come out "to see Caesar and to rejoice in his triumph," and when Antony, on that fateful Idea of March, had secured the ears of "friends, Romans, countrymen," ha reminded them thus:

You all did see that on the Lupercal I thrice presented him a kingiy crown, Which he did thrice refuse.

With such beneficent, religious and historical associations as February has accumulated, it certainly is not the least among the dozen months.

Poets may sing of the "the leafy month of June" and "the merry month of May" but an old book gives this humanly interesting description.

The Red of the Apple

"February comes in like a sturdy country maiden, with a tinge of the red, hard winter apple on her healthy cheek, and as she strives against the wind, wraps her russetcolored closk well about her, while with bent head, she keeps throwing back the long hair that blows about her face, and though at times half blinded by the sleet and anow, still continues her course couragenusly Though Spencer's Fabruary may have b

somewhat different from ours, it is neverthe-

less an engaging picture that he gives;

Then came old February, sitting In an old wagon, for he could not ride, Drawn by two fishes for the season fitting. Which through the flood before did softly alids And swim away; yet had he by his side His plough and harness fit to till the ground And tools to prune the trees, before the pride Of hasting prime did make them bourgeon wide

It is true that the poets have somewhat slighted this courageous month, but their neglect is compensated for by the praise of winter, which you shall find in one of Lowell's most exhibarating essays and in a chapter of "Walden.' Which reminds you that some of the winter poets, even if they did not mention February by name, are appropriate reading for the month that begins to-

Groundhog Day Tomorrow

How much of the winter is left you will know tomorrow. The groundhog, known to the New Englander as the woodchuck, will come out of his hole, and if he casts a shadow, a return of wintry weather may be expected. Foul weather tomorrow if a good omen. The superstition is not confined to this country. Germany's barometer is the badger. He peeps out of his hole ou Candlemas Day, and when he finds snow, walks abroad, but if he finds the sun shining he withdraws into his house, A German proverb runs thus: "The shepherd would rather see the wolf enter his stable on Candlemas than the sun."

Groundhog Day pales into insignificance beside the festival of St. Valentine, which some pessimists think has so degenerated that it no longer deserves the name of festival. However that may be, the observance of the occasion is not what it was 200 and 800 years ago. A writer of the 18th century describes the principal ceremonial as follows:

"The Lottery of Love"

"On the eve of St. Valentine's Day the young folks of England and Scotland, by a very ancient custom, celebrate a little festival. An equal number of maids and bachelors get together; each writes their true or some felgned name upon separate billets. which they roll up, and draw by way of lots the maids taking the men's billets, and the men the maids'; so that each of the young men lights upon a girl that he calls his valentine, and each of the girls upon a mi whom she calls hers. By this means each has two valentines; but the man sticks faster to the valentine that has fallen to him than to the valentine to whom he is fallen. For tune having thus divided the company late so many couples, the valentines give balls and treats to their mistresses, wear their billets several days upon their bosoms of sleeves, and this little sport often ends in

love." The history of St. Valentine's Day began away back with the Lupercalia. The principal custom, at the very beginning, was in the nature of a lottery.

Two Birthday Anniversaries February is so rich in days of peculiar in terest and significance that it is hard to do ft.

fustion. February gave us the savior of the Union to whom Lowell paid splendid tribute: The kindly-earnest, brave, foreseeing man-feagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame. New birth of our new soil, the first American

And this is what Will Carleton calls

Washington Month"! February—February—
How your moods and actions vary
Or to seek or shun!
Now a smile of sunlight lifting.
Now in chilly snowfakes drifting.
Now with loy shuttles creeping
Silver webs are spun.

Now with leaden torrents leaping. Oceanward you run.
Now with bells you blithely sing.
Neath the stars or sun.
Now a blade of burdonk brins.
To the surring oce:
Many bleasings rest above you.
You one day (and are we leve you.
Gave us Washington.