Evening Public Tedger THE EVENING TELEGRAPH

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY CTRUS H. K. CURTIS Passings, tharles H. Ludington, Vice President; John C. Hin Secretary and Treasurer: Philip & Collins B. Williams, John J. Spurgeon. Directors

EDITORIAL BOARD: JOHN C. MARTIN . . . General Business Manager

Published daily at Punic Lapora Boilding, Independence Source Philodelphia NEWS BUREAUS:

Wishington Beneat,
N. E. Cor. Pennsylvania Ave. and 14th St.
The San Building
Landon Trees

London Burnat. London Triera

SUIRS(THPTION TERMS

The Kerning Printe Linears is served to subcorrhers to Philadelphila and surrounding towns
at the rate of twoite 1121 cents per week, parable
to the carrier.

By mail to noints outside of Philadelphila, in
the United States, Canada or United States resmeasions, makings free, fifty (5th cents per month).

Six 1801 dollars per year, nayable in advance.

To all foreign countries one (\$1) dollar per
month.

BELL, 3000 WALNUT KEYSTONE, MAIN 2000 Ledger, Independence Square Philade plan.

Member of the Associated Press

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Philadelphia, Tuesday, May 20, 1919

WORK RATHER THAN WORDS

THE first session of the Sixty-sixth Congress has begun, and the program of organization arranged in the conferences of Republican senators and representatives has been carried out.

There is much work to do before the close of the fiscal year; so much, in fact. that if the time shall be consumed with much talk it cannot be done.

The country is not concerned just now with the views of congressmen on the state of the nation. It is concerned with action which will permit the government to function properly after July !

MORTALITY AND MILLIONS

ALL the millions of little Vinson Walsh McLean, all the innumerable safeguards with which he had been surrounded since birth, proved insufficient. So did the jeweled armor of Achilles. though Vulcan himself had forged it. So did all the multitudinous protective influences to which the "Grand Dauphin" of France was subjected to preserve him for a throne which he never ascended. Since time began fate has been ironically impatient of either bargains or persuasion. Its terrible mood of whimsy is inscrutable.

American babies and American boys daily face perils from which the nineyear-old heir to two bundred million dollars was exempt. The destiny which so often saves them, sometimes for noble deeds and high accomplishments, sometimes for obscure careers and failure, is seemingly without plan. The immanent will, with which there can be no trafficking, is all that is revealed.

Vinson Walsh McLean seems to have been a fine, manly lad, whose possession of great fortunes might perchance have been the least of valid claims to recognition. His grief-stricken parents know what they have lost. It has little to do today with his huge inheritance. If all boy" it bitterly intensifies their loss. As a challenge to fate, however, it was as | the truth. fruitless as was the invulnerability bath

which Thetis gave Achilles. She neglected the heel, whereat death

There was neither in Trojan days nor is there now an antitoxin for mortality. Neither is it discoverable why vitality is so strong with many human beings tossed upon the most dangerous seas of life. "Nature's above art in that respect."

CLEANLINESS BEGINS AT HOME

HARRY G. GEAR, superintendent of the Nicetown Boys' Club, has gone to Chicago to tell the conference of the Boys' Club Federation that the way for boys to start a clean-up campaign is to begin with their hands and faces, not forgetting their necks.

The Hunting Park avenue organization has won success because its promoters have hammered away at the fact that the first step toward becoming a good American is to be a physically clean American. When a clean face and clean hands

were made the price of admission to a movie show the Nicetown Club boys were given conclusive evidence that cleanliness was something distinctly worth

Of the multitude of "messages" being delivered from the platforms of the country, that of Mr. Gear is far from being the least important.

WISE COUNSEL PREVAILS

THE decision of the opponents of Sunday sports in the parks not to seek the arrest of those who played tennis and baseball in Fairmount on the first day of the week is wise.

They are content with protesting against the disregard of their view of the proper use of Sunday, apparently for the reason that they have discovered that public sentiment supports the action of the Park commissioners in formally permitting Sunday sports.

This is better than attempting to secure the punishment of a lot of innocent young persons for indulging the natural instinct for play in the open on the only day of leisure which they have.

FINGERS AND TONGUES

DR. CHARLES H. LAWALL, dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, declares all objections to women as pharmacists disappeared during the war and all experience has proved that in many ways women are more desirable than m, their fingers being less clumsy, their its neater and their methods more

nt authority in Philadelp peded the superlocity of femi-

nine fingers, the eyes of all interested will turn to St. Louis, where those attending the one hundred and thirty-first general assembly of the Presbyterian Church will discuss the quality of feminine all our history.

William Jennings Bryan will be among those who will help decide whether or not women shall be permitted to be ministers and elders. It may be that he will deprecate the forcing of the issue because of his belief that in case of emergency a million women will be able to spring to the pulpit at the first forensic call.

MAN'S UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT REVEALED IN OCEAN FLIGHT

Civilization Quickened With Renewed Pride in Glorious Contrast to War-Era Emotions

MAN has been pretty thoroughly ashamed of himself throughout most

of the last five years. Universal war gave idealism a chill douche. The utopias planned as the outgrowth of the age of horror are still prospective. With the picture of a bright future upon our lips we have disdained the present, have almost indeed apologized for humanity. Within four days, however, mundane

self-respect has received a superb stimulus. The whole earth is thrilled, spiritually exalted as man resumes once more his eternal battle with the "unconquerable," as he reduces its once vast domain. "In his heart is a blind desire," sang Swinburne, "in his eyes, foreknowledge of death." Bluminess of fear one

That, in truth, is the proud possession of the intrepid birdmen soaring high above the seas which sever two continents. Burning desire for victory, foreknowledge of tragic perils so complete that irresistible daring is the only antidote, are the character ingredients of these "Columbuses of the air.

A vivid phrase, perhaps, but loosely used. Sen navigation was no novelty when the great Genoese ventured forth into the unknown. Wilbur and Orville Wright invented their airplane only sixteen years ago. Glenn H. Curtiss completed his first successful hydroairplane

Relatively speaking, the mechanical instrument of the celestial voyaging now n progress is as much a novelty as the feat which it is accomplishing. Should t be a subject for wonderment that man, acutely conscious nowadays of his own evolution and his own failures, tingles with pride at these heroic deeds? If all wars are, and ever have been, futile, may not the cynic decry the poignant agony through which this planet has just passed? But his barbs of scorn are dulled against endeavor which spells only the most glorious progress, which gives back to civilization its self-esteem, quickens its ambitions with renewed life.

When flying was first made practicable, reason in all of us tugged tightly at imagination. Fact and fancy, the myth of 'Daedalus." the burlesque anent Darius Green, the reality of failure bitterly experienced by Langley, colored man's thoughts even at the very instant that he was compelled to recognize the miracle of human flight.

One hesitated to draw the horoscope, It was so easy to fondle the idea of swift coursings through the air outpacing the hitherto unchallenged frigate bird. It was also so obvious that veritable prodihis expensive coddling made him a "good | gies of development had to be manifested before the "unbelievable" could become

> Redefinition of "impossibility" came with the pulse-tingling performance of the Frenchman, Bleriot, when at dawn on June 5, 1909, he landed in Calais after the first airplane flight over the English Channel from Britain to France. More than a century before a gas balloon had made the crossing.

It was clear that the progress of modem Daedaluses lacked consecutiveness. In the light of history there was still the sobering reflection that further epochal eats in aviation might come only after a long gap. But the advancement of aerial voyaging was now as winged as the machines themselves.

Under the grim pressure of war, and certainly one result of the tragedy that was for good, the practicability of flying assumed an aspect undreamed of even by extravagant penmen. It is not so many years since Wells, who plumes himself on outrunning his age, introduced into his tale of "Tono-Bungay" an air flight from England to southern France. In a realistic novel, for such the book purported to be, the episode carried a distinct shock. As for subsequent fiction, it has scarcely dared to deal with transatlantic aviation. The truth is sometimes too strange for artistic consideration.

It is strange and inspiring touth with which the magnificent airmen of 1919 are now playing upon the emotions and firing the hopes of civilization. For daring beauty the effort of Lieutenant Harry G. Hawker bears the supreme palm. His nonstop venture between Newfoundland and Ireland was of sublime boldness. For elaborate efficiency of preparation and zealous adherence to the finest standards of the navy the American transatlantic aviation warrants brilliant

In a quite arguable sense Lieutenant Commander Albert C. Read is the victorious pioneer. Geographically considered, the Azores are really part of Europe. They were certainly not regarded as "American" in the era of

New World discoveries. Ponta Delgada means "Delicate Point." Some may consider that the contention that the Atlantic was crossed by airplane in the "hop" of the NC-4 from Trepassey to the green-clad archipelago of the republic of Portugal involves a point of similar fineness. Yet that posi-

tion is not without its validity. Unreserved pleasure must be taken by all Americans in the manner in which the navy has thus far eliminated the stain of tragedy from its undertaking safety of Commander Towers a league in the NC-3 is now assu

The bridge of boats flung over the surface of the Atlantic in time of peace has proved as effective as that other span of

craft which helped to save Europe and our own land in the war crisis. The navy has gallantly justified the tradition it has so consistently maintained through

If anything could have accentuated the insullied heroic splendor of the whole phenomena it was the element of rivalry injected by the British competition. No recorded race was ever akin to this one. None grappled with miracles with such epic confidence and such grandeur of daring.

What practical effects will come of it all in the future cannot be forecast. What has taken place within the last decade had been enough to chasten cautious prophets. What comes of it today is glorious cleansing of the soul of man. Once again he dares to be strong, clean and great-and he is winning.

DON'T GET EXCITED

CERTAIN senators seem · be unduly excited over the report from Paris that the peace treaty contains a provision that it shall be effective from the date when it is signed by three of the great powers of the Entente Alliance.

The most volatile of them are insisting that this is a "trick" provision inserted for the purpose of coercing them topocket their objections and agree to the treaty so that other nations may not enjoy the benefits of the resumption of commercial relations with Germany before we get that opportunity.

Twenty-two nations were at war with Germany. The Peace Commission might have arranged that the treaty should not go into effect until it had been signed by every one of the twenty-two. Assuming that the reports of the three-power clause are correct, the commission has decided. in the interest of the early resumption of friendly relations, that peace shall be declared when a majority of the five great belligerent nations have signed the docu-

And the, have not set any new precedent. If the senators will turn to the volume containing the treaties and conventions between the United States and other countries, issued from the Government Printing Office, they will find there, in an arbitration treaty with sixteen Latin-American countries, the following provision:

This treaty shall be binding on the states ratifying it from the date on which tive signatory governments have ratified

We do not suppose that even the maddest of the senators thinks that this country can prevent Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan from making peace with Germany save on the terms which the American senate thinks proper. If they will use a little hard thinking as a sedative they will in time be able to talk of the peace treaty without a rise in their temperature.

As all chestnut trees Under the Spreading are subject to blight Chestnut Blight in this part of the country. American press humorists will be constrained to plant a horse chestnut tree on the first day of their convention in this city. John Barleycorn, who is to be planted at about the same time, will thereupon doubtless in

Sunday's automobile Victims of accidents in the Phil-Speed Mania adelphia district, with their toll of four dead and nineteen injured, testify in at least one instance to the fact that, though speed regulations for automobile drivers are perhaps already sufficiently drastic, there is no effective remedy for plain foolishness.

If the theories of his later life have proved Wider Range correct, Sir William Crookes has since April 4. when he passed away, made greater discoveries than in all the wonderful years of his earth life.

And along comes an Robbing the Robin Illinois professor of zoology who declares of Glory that the robin is not a harbinger of spring. Some guy will be knocking the crocus and the pussywillow

Henry Ford is now Flivving on Rails considering a tin Lizzie street car, with a gasoline drive. He will have to hurry up with it or it will be superseded by the tinlizzie airplane for short hauls.

Knocking the Boost ment war expenditures to be effective must be directed with wise appreciation of the fact that expediency and necessity are great cost boosters.

"Serious problems. Wait and See wires a correspondent in Washington, "confront Congress." One of these problems is named Lodge and the other is named Borah. But are they really serious?

Mr. Marconi shares in the honors of the oversens flight. Of course, Ebert would be delighted if

American Senate should reject the treaty. Perhaps the fact that it does not wholly anybody proves it to be a good

Racial cross currents may yet cause disaster to many ships of state in Balkan

Paderewski bas described bolshevism as a war against the toothbrush. If he had "hairbrush" it might have sounded to personal.

Maybe the three-nation clause is paravane that President Wilson attached to the ship of state to deflect mines in congressional waters.

Constant Reader - So far as we can What Bulgarian revolutionaries hanker learn there is no truth in the assertion that the crest of the House of Burleson is a after is rope enough with which to hang A larist for the proletariat, snail rampant on an aviation field.

REAL HOME RULE

Cities in Michigan and Several Other States Have Power to Make and Amend Their Own Charters

HOW modest are the charter revision bills before the Legislature in their promises for giving home rule to this city will be better appreciated by the residents of cities in states which permit municipal home rule than by citizens of Philadelphia.

There is no home rule when the city is required to go to the state lawmaking body when it wishes to amend its charter. Virtually the only home-rule provision in the bills-arguments on which a committee are hearing today-is that which gives to the city the right to decide whether work for which definite specifications cannot be prepared may be done by contract or directly by a city department.

TWELVE states have constitutional or A statutory provisions which give the cities control in greater or less degree over their local affairs and over the processes by which those affairs shall be managed. Arizona, California, Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington have granted home rule to cities with a population in excess of fixed minimums. In Colorado the minimum population is 2000. souri it is 100,000. Michigan. Minnesota. Ohio and Oregon permit cities and villages. their size, to decide within certain limits how they are to be governed.

THE autonomy of the Michigan cities is protected by mandatory provisions in the state constitution. That document directs the Legislature to pass general laws for the incorporation of cities and villages. The next section reads in this way:

Under such general laws the electors and authority to frame, adopt and amend its charter and to amend an existing charter of the city or village heretofore granted or passed by the Legislature for the government of the city or village, and through its regularly constituted authority to pass all laws and ordinances relating to its municipal concerns, subject to the constitution and general laws of he stare.

In obedience to the command of the constitution the Legislature has passed a general law for the incorporation of cities and for revising and amending their charters. Under this law any city which desires to revise its charter may do so when its legislative body by a three-fifths vote, or when a petition signed by a specified proportion of the voters of the city ask for it, provided the voters indorse the plan when it s submitted to them. If the voters think the charter should be rewritten, then a commission of nine electors shall be chosen an election and shall be charged with the duty of making such changes as it thinks necessary. When the commission has completed its work it must submit the revised charter to the voters for their approval, and when they have indersed it it goes into effect.

Detroit last year rewrote its charter under this law, the voters approved it and the city is now working under a body of laws adopted by the people themselves.

THE Michigan law also provides for antending an existing charter without troubling the state Legislature in any way. The legislative body by a three-fifths vote may propose the amendment or it may be proposed by an initiatory petition of the voters. In either event it must be submitted to the electors at a primary, special or regular election held not less than twenty days after the proposal. Before the amend-ment or the revised charter is submitted to the voters it must be submitted to the governor, who may veto or indorse it. If he vetoes it the charter commission, or the local Legislature which originated it, may over ride the veto by a two-thirds vote and subonit the changes to the electors. If th changes are proposed by an initiatory petition the veto of the governor has no effect

TF WE had in Pennsylvania a law of this kind every one of the changes propothe charter bills now before the Legislature Harrisburg could have been made right here at home, if they commended themselves to the judgment of the electorate, and it would have been unnecessary for delegations of citizens to go to the state capital to argue in their support, and the time of the Legislature could have been devoted to the consideration of general legislation affecting the whole state.

THE limits within which the Michigan I cities are permitted to act for themselves are clearly defined by general statute. Their charters must expressly provide for certain things, and there are certain things which the cities are not allowed to do and certain other things which they may do or not, as they decide for themselves.

The mandatory provisions require the cities to elect a mayor and a legislative body and provide for a clerk, a treasurer, as assessor or board of assessors and a board of review. While the mayor and legislative body must be elected, the other officers named may be elected or appointed, as the city thinks best. The city must create such other offices as it deems necessary, and they may be elected or appointed. It must fix the qualifications, duties and compensation of its officers. It must provide for the public peace, health and safety of persons and property. It must fix the time, manner and means of holding elections and for adopting continuing and repealing city ordinances and for various other kindred matters.

The prohibitions deal with increasing the tax rate above 2 per cent of the assessed valuation of the real and personal prop erty, with changing the salary of an officer during his term and with incurring a debi without providing a sinking fund and with other necessary restrictions in accordance

with good public policy. The permissive section of the law allows cities to provide for an annual tax no greater than 2 per cent for borrowing money, for the purchase of public utilities, including street railroads; for the creation of any department that may be deemed necessary, for the control of the streets and the space above and beneath them, for the issuance of sewer and water bonds to pay the first cos of installation and for a score of other matters permission to do many of which every Pennsylvania city has to petition the Legis lature.

If Uncle Sam needed as many gas bags as he needs aviators Congress might point

of them left at that time.

Oh, to be utterly utter-Germany must submit to the sentence To utter, to sputter, to stutter: of the court, but may hope for commutation Just to flit from flit to flitter for good behavior. And have folks say, (Exit from the right, skipping merrily.)
TOOTSY ROWL. Of course the real interest centers be-

hind the scenes, where the wire-pullers work To paraphrase a well-known advertising the congressional marionettes. slogan, the Wilson label protects the peace Ratification of the treaty may be a omfort to the Armenians-if there are any

"Barriers Burned Away"

Short Poems on Great Topics

The plane to hop with Is a Sopwith.

Ballybunnion, on the northwest coast of County Kerry."—Associated Press dispatch.

One would naturally expect a Ballybunnio

to be sensitive. But it ought to be on the

Why be alarmed at the delay of the Ger-

man Hunvoys to sign the treaty? The

longer they haggle the more of those delicious

Yet it's hard to please a real German.

One of the Berlin correspondents at Ver-

snilles complains that the German delegates

are crazed by the good food they are get

The favorite toast of the German beer

Life will soon be nothing but rootbeer and

We sometimes think, after studying haber-

dashers' windows, that most of those who

A German may be down, but he's never

The farewell address to the most en-

tangling alliance ever known will be enunci-

A Graceful Applogy

Dear Socrates-I'm in deep distress, as

by reading my letter you may guess, for I

earn from your columns, Socrates, I've un-

wittingly sat on a lady's knees, and it comes

as a shock to see in a paper that one has

been cutting such a caper. So, as this is

certain to meet her eyes, please give me

space to apologize, while, my impoliteness

to refute, I'm handing the lady my best

I remember the way her escort smiled,

how his chat with us the ride beguiled in that blamed old car that was packed so tight

when we went to the circus on Shriners

night. How the dear little girl between the

two gazed solemnly up, neath her bonnet blue, but the lady effaced herself so well

what she looked like I really couldn't tell.

When I think that she held upon her knee

hefty leatherneck like me, you can bet it

isn't blessings I call on Duncan McDonald

of Montreal, who was bailed as having such

foresight far when projecting the pay-us-

you enter car.

My carclessness fills me so with shame that

haven't the nerve to write my name, so I

SUB ROSA'S LAP.

"Vivacious critter!

sign myself, a repentant chap, THE MARINE WHO SAT ON

Vivacious Critter!

Dear Socrates — Very humbly I solicit your held in deciding this most vital ques-tion: Whose hand did the French lieuten-

ant kiss Friday night at the Academy after

Her Pome

the Victory Loan meeting?

wear silk shirts must be color blind.

ated at midnight on June 30.

gardens these days is "The Fourteen Pints."

French meals they will be able to intern.

toe of Cornwall.

"The especially sensitive wireless plant at

We have remarked before that some of the most surprising adventures in life occur at second-hand bookstores. As proof of this comes the following letter from our or Secrates - My father's a La

SUNNY SIDE UP ENGLAND IN THE EAST

He came to Quebec about 1872 with a man

was of the impression that the name was Wil-

flyleaf at the time, and when through with the volume turned it over to my father for

reading. My father read it. He left Wil-

liams some weeks later, having returned the

volume, and came to Philadelphia. This was

in the early eighties. In the spring of 1888 my father went back to Toronto and Almonte

learned that Williams had died two years

before. Williams had been married, and while at the widow's home and about to

father chanced upon that old copy of "Bar-

riers Burned Away." He asked if he

might have it for his bookcase and Mrs. Wil

liams gladly gave him the book, over which

he and his friend had pored sixteen years

My father returned to Philadelphia by

way of Erie, Pa., and while on a train run-

ning between Eric and Philadelphia read

newspaper reports of E. P. Roe's death. He

clipped some accounts of Roe and placed

them inside the book, on the flylenf of

which his deceased friend had written his

name. On reaching Philadelphia he pasted

one of the clippings opposite the title page

and another on the second page of the Dodd

My father had spoken to me several time

Opening of a Chestnut Burr," "Barriers Burned Away" and several other books.

But he never told me the story of his copy

of "Barriers Burned Away" until it came

out so unexpectedly yesterday. Late in 1888

or early in '89 my father permitted the

Williams copy of the book to go out of his

possession—a friend wanted to read it. Be-

fore time for the return of the volume came

round my father had changed his position

back. Some weeks ago he told me that he

wanted to read the story again and asked me

Now for the remarkable happening of ves

erday. I was at Leary's fifteen-cent stand.

I saw a copy of Roe's "Barriers Burned Away." and while it looked so poor a copy

that I had no intention of buying it for my

father, I picked it up out of curiosity. O

course I knew nothing then of the story of my father's copy. I turned to the title

page. Opposite were two clippings (one an

account of Roe's death) and the signature,

"July, 1888." I recognized the writing at

once. Making allowance for some change in

wasn't my father's thirty-one years ago. I

examined the flyleaves, and you may guess

that my heart thumped when I read on the

When I went home I asked my father

when he contracted his habit of cutting clip

pings from newspapers. "Many years ago,"

was his reply. I spoke of "Barriers Burned Away," and he said that his friend's

name was Williams and not "Williamson,

as I had thought. I then showed him the

volume I had picked up. Before I un-wrapped the book he said he had an "im-

pression" that he had written something on

one of the leaves. Immediately on looking

into the book I gave him he recognized it as

So, you see, here's a volume that has been

Dove Dulcet says that the surest path to

failure is to divide your pay envelope fifty

out of sight thirty-one years and comes back to a man through the incurable bibliomania

of one of his sons! J. M. SHIELDS.

his long-lost copy.

first, ."M. A. Williams, Jan., 1874."

the lapse of years, it was impossible that this

to watch for a copy of it.

and "Barriers Burned Away" never cam

& Mead catalogue bound in at the end.

of Roe-told me that he had read

leave on his return to Philadelphia

before.

"TH' NERVE OF 'EM!"

them a wall; named Merritt Williams. Until yesterday I They have held the front of Eden from the Teuton and his thrall: On the snowy stairs of Elburz you may hear. liamson. The two later went to Toronto and their bugles call. Almonte (Ontario). At Almonte, Williams "Ye are safe! Be at ease! Ye are safe!" picked up a copy of E. P. Roe's "Barriers Burned Away." He wrote his name on a

There are gardens in the southland where the Tartar may not go; There is dewy corn in Babel where the desert

TROM Egypt into China they have builded

You shall watch the ships adrifting with the Tigris under keel: In the crooked streets of Bagdad you shall see the camels kneel With the good things out of Persia that the robber could not steal:

In the brain of wounded England lay the silence for a span; Then she rose and wrought a marvel by the steppes of Turkestan

QUIZ

1. What French town is the headquarters

2. What is the meaning of Ponta Delgada?

4. What is the nationality of Harry G.

5. Who invented the shrapnel shell? 6. What is meant by the "Storm and

7. Who said "I am glad I was not born before tea"?

9. What is the second largest city in

0. What is the numerical title of the Congress which began its special session yesterday?

Austrian big guns used in the war, are

3. Hsu-Shih-Chang is president of China. 4. Consortium is a law term meaning fel-

lowship, partnership, union.

5. A pinnace is a small, usually twomasted, vessel. 6. Authory Hope Hawkins is the real name of Anthony Hope, the novelist.

7. Jonathan Swift on "Thoughts on Various Subjects" wrote "Censure is the tax a man pays to the public for being eminent."

logician. Under the pen-name of Lewis Carroll he is world famous as the author of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass."

The Cornish prefix "tre," employed in such words as Trelawney, Tremayne, Trevelyan and Trepassey, means a town.

to give her ninety-five and keep five (per

used to blow : In the vineyards over Gaza you may see the grapes aglow: Ye are safe! Be at ease! Ye are safe!

Ye are safe! Be at ease! Ye are safe!

Oh, ye women-folk of Irak! Oh, ye chil-Ye are safe! Be at case! Ye are safe! Rhys Carpenter, in Scribner's Magazine.

What Do You Know?

of the Austrian peace delegation?

3. Who was Daedalus? Hawker, the aviator?

period (Sturm und Drang) in Stress' German literature?

8. Why is Dublin so called?

Sweden?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz "Nancy" is the current slang name for

the Navy-Curtiss (NC) airplanes. 2. Important seats of the Skoda Works, the huge munitions plants which made the

Prague and Vienna.

S. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was an eminent British mathematician and

fifty with your wife. He says the best way

A crenellated tower has open ape an embattled paraget for a