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Governor Matthews recommended in his last message that a compulsory education law be passed in Indiana.

In the dominions of the British empire alone some 800 individuals perish every year without leaving any trace.

Only two miles of steam railroad were built in New England during last year, and these were equally divided between Maine and Vermont.

Twenty acres of good land in many parts of California, says the California Fruit Grower, is a sufficient area to provide a good living for an average American family of refined tastes and industrious habits.

In 1793 Benjamin Franklin left \$5000 to be loaned to needy apprentices at five per cent. The accumulated principal and interest now amount to \$360,000. Poor Edward himself could hardly have managed it more thriftily.

It is proposed that a college for firemen be established in New York City. In such an institution men could receive a course of instruction in scientific fire fighting by the most approved methods. The project is being advocated by a number of prominent business men.

Professor Henri Moissan, the distinguished chemist, who came to this country to lecture at the Princeton celebration, says the thing that struck him most, apart from the superb equipment for teaching, was the feeling of affection between the students and the professors.

In his recently issued annual report to the President, Secretary of the Interior David R. Francis called the attention of Congress to the necessity of legislation looking to the reclamation of arid lands. He asserts that of the 500,000,000 acres of arid lands 100,000,000 acres might be reclaimed by the conservative use of water.

The eighty-nine Senators, composed of the upper house in the first session of the Fifty-fourth Congress were divided as follows: Lawyers, 65; business men, including bankers, miners, ship-owners and stock raisers, 13; preachers, 1; farmers, 2; journalists, 3; surgeons, 1; and office holders, so-called in the absence of a better classification, 3.

According to the London Figaro the Prince of Wales is the greatest spender in the world. The statement is made that he has spent \$50,000,000 in the last thirty-three years. From the English nation he has received \$25,000,000, and \$5,000,000 more for traveling expenses and special allowances. He has, besides, private debts amounting to \$20,000,000.

The New York papers are sounding a note of warning to the effect that if the port charges be not reduced that port will shortly take a back seat to Norfolk, Baltimore, Newport News and Philadelphia. They carefully abstain from any reference to New Orleans, which has lately been enticed by wrath in the matter of grain exports, notes the Figaro.

As a proof of what has been done by forty years of careful breeding, the result of last year's shearing of the Boorowick flock of pure Merino sheep, South Australia, is given as follows: 15,705 grown sheep averaged 9 pounds 15 ounces of wool per head; 12,509 lambs averaged 3 pounds 11 ounces per head, being a general average of 17,214 sheep shorn, including lambs, of 8 pounds 8 ounces per head.

Professor Kraft-Ebing, who holds the chair on mental diseases at the University of Vienna, Austria, introduced a startling novelty into one of his instructions a fortnight ago by permitting a madman to lecture in his place. The man is afflicted by periodic attacks of mania, during which he is much more clever and wifly than when sane. His lecture on "The Mental Condition of the Maniacs in Periodical Attacks of Madness" was a brilliant success. At the close of it he was again placed in confinement.

The Young Men's Christian Association has recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Its membership is 263,298. Thirty years ago there was not a single building owned by the associations. Now there are 315, valued at \$16,759,890. Last year the contributions for carrying on their work amounted to \$2,296,441. They have 495 gymnasiums, 799 reading rooms, 355 educational classes, with 25,886 students, and 761 Bible-training classes. Among the Indians there are 41 associations, 61 among colored people, 108 for railroad men and 480 for college students.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

Thrilling bugle, throbbing drum-beat,
Business waiting in the air,
Pomp and pageantry and rejoicing, joy of people everywhere,

In the waning of the winter, lit of chorus,
Flash of wing,
And the keeping of a birthday, in the forecast of the spring.

All our heart now knit together as the cannon's thunder pours,
Jubilant saltings over river, fortress, hill, and shore,

While our thought goes back to kindle at the cradle where there lies
Just a simple new-born baby, dear in mother's loving eyes.

—Harper's Bazar.

Washington as a Lover.

AMONG the autobiographic papers of George Washington, purchased by his descendants by the Government of the United States, and preserved in the library of the Department of State, are four poems written in his youth; probably in his seventeenth year. Two of them are undoubtedly original. The other two are manifestly copied from some newspaper or magazine, perhaps from a book, without credit or reference to their authorship. But the boy who wrote the other two could not possibly have written these, as will be seen by the slightest comparison.

One of the original poems has recently been discovered to be an acrostic, which was a fashionable trick of love making in those days, and the initial letters of the lines form the name "Frances Alexa"—the last word evidently being intended for "Alexander." But the poem is unfinished, the remainder of the page on which it is written being blank. The muse of the youthful poet and lover probably became weary. It reads as follows:

From your bright sparkling eyes I was undone;
Rays, you have more transparent than the sun;
Amidst its glory in the rising day,
None can you equal in your bright array;

And all the greatest heroes, felt the smart."
The traditions of the family indicate that the object of this effusion was Miss Fanny Alexander, a daughter of Captain Philip Alexander, a descendant of the Earl of Stirling, from whom the city of Alexandria, Va., was named. The Captain owned and lived upon the estate adjoining Mount Vernon on the north. The young lady was two years older than Washington, and was probably his first love. Nothing is known of their courtship further than the evidence furnished by this poem.

"A Journal of My Journey over the Mountains," which was kept by Washington between the 11th of March and the 13th of April, 1748, when he was a little more than sixteen years old, contains a copy, or, perhaps, the original draft of a friendly, and rather confidential letter to "Dear Friend Robin," who was undoubtedly a youthful schoolfellow, although he has never been identified. The original of this journal is in the library of the Department of State, having been discovered by Mr. Sparks, the historian, in 1827, when overhauling a chest of old letters and documents at Mount Vernon in search of historical material. In 1834, with a quantity of other papers, it was purchased by Congress, and in 1892 was printed literally with copious and valuable

The "Lowland Beauty," to whom Washington so tenderly refers in his letter to "My Dear Robin," is supposed to have been Miss Lucy Grymes of Westmoreland County, who in 1753 married Henry Lee, Esq., of Stratford Hall, and became the mother of the famous "Light Horse Harry"—the Custer of the Revolution. Very little is known of Miss Grymes or of Washington's attention to her. Other writers assume that the Lowland Beauty was Miss Betsy, daughter of William Pantlery of Fredericksburg, who also refused Washington's attentions.

The Fauntleroy family had a fine plantation at Naylor's Hold, on the Rappahannock, about fifteen miles from Wakefield, the birthplace of Washington. In 1752, when he was twenty years old, the latter addressed a letter to Mr. Fauntleroy, which has been preserved, asking permission to make proposal of marriage to his daughter, "in the hope," he says, "of rosecution of a former cruel sentence, and see if I cannot find an alteration in my favor."

This letter was written immediately after the return from the voyage he made to Barbadoes with his brother Lawrence, who was in feeble health at the time, and died soon after. So the "cruel sentence" must have been pronounced before they sailed in September, 1751. The father's reply has not been preserved, but evidently was unfavorable.

This was the most serious love affair of Washington ever had, except the later one which ended in his marriage.

The young woman who jilted him, afterward became the wife of Thomas Adams of Williamsburg. It is a tradition of the town that she married for money instead of love, and rejected Washington because he had less wealth than her other suitor. It is said, too, that after he had become famous and visited the town of Williamsburg as the guest of the people, she watched from a window the triumphal pageant as he passed on horseback through the streets and fainted.

The home of the Fauntleroys was a magnificent mansion, which stood within a beautiful park overlooking the river, and remained until a few years since, when it was pulled down. To Betsy Fauntleroy was addressed the other original poem, which reads:
Oh ye Gods why should my Poor Relations
Beast to oppose thy might and Power
At last surrender to Cupid's feathered Dart
And now lay bleeding every Hour
For her that's Pityless of my grief and woes

amounted to more than 3,000,000 acres.

Bishop Meade, in his "Old Churches and Families of Virginia," says that Washington was an ardent admirer of Miss Mary Cary and at one time asked Colonel Cary's permission to pay his addresses to her, but was refused. The young lady afterward married Mr. Edward Ambler, who was a great swell among the colonial aristocracy, being a graduate of Cambridge and the owner of a large estate near Jamestown. He died in 1768, at the age of thirty-five, and his widow, who survived until 1781, was a frequent guest at Mount Vernon after Washington's marriage, as his diary shows.

About this time Washington wrote another tender letter in which he alludes again to Miss Cary. This was addressed to "Dear Sally," whose other name is unknown, and it reads:
This comes to Fredericksburg fair in hopes of meeting with a speedy Passenge to you if you not there which hope you'll get shortly also I am almost disconcerted from writing to you as this is my fourth to you since I rec'd'd any from yourself I hope you'll not make the Old Proverb good out of sight out of Mind as its one of the greatest Pleasures I can yet foresee to have in Fairfax in either hearing from you hope you'll not deny it to me.

I Pass the time of much more agreeable than what I imagined I should in the same house where I reside (Col. George Fairfax's Wife's Sister) that in a great Measure clouds my sorrow and dolefulness (the not so as to draw my thoughts altogether from your Parts I could wish to be with you down there with all my heart but as it is a thing almost Impracticable shall rest myself where I am with hopes of shortly having some Minutes of your transactions in your parts which will be very welcome to me.

Four years after his affair with Betsy Fauntleroy, Washington became enamored of Miss Mary Phillips, the daughter of a prominent and wealthy Englishman, Frederick P. Phillips, who lived in a superb mansion on the bank of the Hudson, near West Point. While on a journey to Boston in 1756 he met this young lady at the house of her brother-in-law, Colonel Beverly Robinson, who lived in the same locality. After a few weeks' acquaintance he proposed to her, and was frankly informed that she was engaged to marry another. The successful suitor was Captain Roger Morris, a companion in arms,



A MEETING OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND MARTHA CURTIS.

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And will not on my Pye take
I'll sleep amongst my most inveterate Foes
And with glaucous never wish to wake
In deluding sleepings let my eyelids close
That in an enraptur'd dream I may
In soft lulling sleep and gentle repose
Possess those joys denied by day.

With the volume in which this poem appears was another, found at the same time and also purchased by the Government. It bears the title, "Forms of Writing," and contains models of deeds, bonds, contracts, receipts, bills of sale, manifests, and other commercial and legal papers, together with two poems, "On Christmas Day," and "True Happiness." These follow a form of a "Subpoena for Evidences to Prove a Will," and immediately after them appears a receipt "To Keep Ink from Freezing or Moulding."

The latter part of the volume contains the famous "Rules of Civility," by which Washington governed his conduct.

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In the following September he wrote his cousin Richard, declining an invitation to visit England:
I am now, I believe, fixed at this seat,
with an agreeable consort for life. And
hope to find more happiness in retirement
than I ever experienced amidst a wild, bustling world.

The unsatisfied yearning to have children of his own was frequently disclosed in his diary and in letters to friends, but Washington was devoted to his stepchildren, and loved to have little "Patsy" and Nellie Custis at his side.

WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE.

His Steadfastness in the Face of Intrigue and Privation.

Washington and his army were starving the while at Valley Forge, in desperate straits to get something to eat or anything to cover them in that bitter season—not because there were no supplies, but because Congress had disorganized the commissary department and the supplies seldom reached the camp. The country had not been too heavily stricken by the war. Abundant crops were everywhere sown and peacefully reaped, and there were men enough to do the work of seed time and harvest. It was only the army that was suffering for lack of food and lack of men. The naked fact was that the confederacy was falling apart for lack of government. Local selfishness had overmastered National feeling, and only a few men like Washington held the breaking structure together. Washington's steadfastness was never shaken; and Mrs. Washington, staunch lady that she was, joined him even at Valley Forge. The intrigue against him he watched in stern silence till it was ripe and evident, when he crushed it with sudden exposure, and turned away in contempt.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS AT VALLEY FORGE.

hardly so much as mentioning it in his letters to his friends. "Their own artless zeal to advance their views has destroyed them, he said. His soldiers he succored and supplied as he could, himself sharing their privations, and earning their love as he served them. "Naked and starving as they are," he wrote, "we cannot sufficiently admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiers."—Harper's Magazine.

Washington Settling a Post.

In the village of Southampton, Conn., is preserved a piece of cedar post which Washington helped to set in the ground at Farrington. The story associated with the post is told by the Rev. A. N. Lewis in a published address.

He was out walking with his host when he came to a man who was planting a hitching post in the ground by the roadside. The General stopped and said:
"My friend, I own show you how to set your post so that it will never rot."

"Taking it in his hands—those great hands of his—he placed it upside down and held it while the man filled up the hole and stamped the earth around it.

It is a well-known fact that a post set bottom side up in the ground will not absorb water. The sap tubes will not "draw" when the post is reversed.

Wanted to Be Like George.

Willie Littleboy—"I wish I had been George Washington."
"Pa—Why so, my son?"
"Willie—"Why, pa, he couldn't tell a lie, and so when he was visiting and was asked if he would like another piece of pie, instead of saying no just for the sake of being polite, he told the truth and said yes."

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Aluminum skates gain favor. A clever Parisian has invented a machine that can split a human hair lengthwise into thirty-six strips.

A dust excluder for vehicle hubs consists of a cap secured to the outer end of the hub, being easily removable.

An electric roller for massage purposes is composed of plates of copper and zinc and generates its own electricity.

It takes thirty-seven specially constructed and equipped steamers to keep the submarine telegraph cables of the world in repair.

Steels tempered in phenol have been found by M. Sevat to have much greater hardness and elasticity than those tempered in water.

A Massachusetts woman has a patented rather dressing consisting of a compound of wax, rubber, gutta serena, Spanish linseed and paraffin oil, the proportions being secret.

A new nut lock has one corner recessed, in which a pin is placed having a sharp point to engage the fluted sides of the bolt. The pin can be sprung back out of the way to unscrew the nut.

It is reported that Dr. Casarelli, of Rome, has discovered the characteristic germ of yellow fever and that he hopes to utilize his discovery for the prevention or amelioration of the disease.

A new car fender is attached to the track of a car, instead of the car body, thus doing away with the oscillating motion of the car, as the truck always remains solid on the tracks, the car body only springing up and down.

The pneumatic tube system for carrying small parcels and mail packages is to be laid down in Boston. The system has been in use in European cities for the last fifty years, but the majority of the tubes are only three inches in diameter. The Boston system will have eight inch tubes.

Swallow-wort, or the greatcelandine, which Dr. Denisenko asserts is a cure for cancer, has long been used by country people to cure warts. The doctor uses the juice of the plant diluted, both externally and internally, in external cases injecting the fluid hypodermically around the cancerous growth. According to the Lancet, however, experiments with his specific by other observers have not confirmed his results.

Gold Nugget From the Ocean.

Captain J. Dahl, master of the Norwegian bark Handy, when discharging a timber cargo at Irvine, the other day, had with him, says the Boston Journal, a small nugget of gold which he found adhering to his sounding lead after taking soundings off the coast of Newfoundland a few weeks ago. Captain Dahl, who hails from Frederikshald, Norway, was at the time on his way home to Dalhousie, New Brunswick, to load his cargo. The lead had the usual thick coating of tallow on the end which comes in contact with the bottom, and when hauled in he found the tiny bit of gold, about the size of a bean, sticking to the tallow.

A Curious Desert Island.

It is proposed to explore the island or rock of Rockall, which is situated in the open Atlantic, in fifty-seven degrees thirty-six minutes north latitude, about 200 miles west of the Hebrides, and no other land nearer. It is about 230 feet in circumference at the base and sixty feet at the top, and looks at a distance like a ship under sail, being whitened by the guano that has been deposited upon it. It appears to be the emergent point of an extensive mountainous submarine table land, stretching from the northwest to the northeast, and giving rise to a number of dangerous rocks and reefs in the neighborhood. It offers advantages of great promise as a meteorological station, situated as it is in the zone of the most extensive area of cyclones in the Northern Hemisphere, but it is not easy to land upon it when the sea is at all rough. It is but little visited. It bears a few plants which have not been collected and studied, and is the resort of numerous sea birds. The curious peak is situated at a greater distance from any mainland than any other isolated rock of like dimensions in any part of the world.

London Charities.

"Accor" writes from London to the New York Mail and Express: I am ever amazed as the years roll away to note how magnificently England is honeycombed with compassion. London is its most brilliant illustration, through what is true of the metropolis holds true by the United Kingdom. There were in London in 1896 no less than 956 charitable institutions of all sorts, hospitals, missionary societies, nursing institutions, orphanages, Bible societies, and the like. Of these 737 publish their accounts, and I find these 737 enjoyed last year the princely income of \$26,207,100. Every penny of this sum was voluntarily contributed. What an illustration in its suddenness and of the century of that exquisite Scripture truth: "And the greatest of these is Charity."

LOVE'S MESSENGERS.

The rose shall be my messenger,
The herald of devotion;
Each petal sweet shall be the seat
Of tenderest emotion!
And in the heart of each fair rose,
Deep hidden in the core,
There rests my soul, my inner self,
To love but you o'ermeore.
Each rose will die, each petal fade
And wither fast away;
Each freighted heart that speaks my love
Will languish and decay;
No so with love—my soul that's hid
Within each rose's core;
That love will breathe and speak and live
Forever, evermore.
'Twill live for you and speak to you
When roses cease to be;
'Twill breathe the rose's fragrance rare
For thee, my sweet, for thee!
Then haste, my messengers of love
Tell her my each emotion.
Oh, petal sweet, at her dear feet,
Despeak my fond devotion.
—William Manley.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

"What do you mean by being engaged to three men at once?" "Nothing,"—Yale Record.

She—"Doesn't he make a fine clergyman?" He—"He's great! I counted five men asleep."—Puck.

Jones—"The play is said to be an artistic success." Smith—"Are they losing much money on it?"—Truth.

London Native—"That is quite a high building." Foreigner—"Yes, indeed; that's a regular fog-scraper."—Puck.

Bobby—"Pop, what does premonition mean?" Fond Parent—"Premonition, Bobby, means 'I told you so!'"—Puck.

You can buy wearing apparel for a song nowadays, but, unfortunately, a great many people can't sing.—Boston Bulget.

Mamma—"Mrs. Brown says her little boy looks very much like ours." Papa—"Then ours must be better looking."—Puck.

"Let's see," remarked the youth and the damsel; and then they turned down the gas till nobody else could see a thing.—Detroit Tribune.

Sputter—"Do you suppose it's such a very bad thing to be sarcastic?" Cutter—"Not nearly as bad as to think you are and not be so."—Truth.

The young man who is anxious to lay the world at the feet of the girl he adores, three months after he marries her isn't willing even to lay the carpet.

"Are you angry, Miss Spitley?" "I'm engaged. I'm going to make that man's life miserable if I have to marry him to do it."—Detroit Free Press.

"The good die young, you know," said Bilger to Sadboy, the pessimist. "Yes," said Sadboy, "that's because it's the only time people are good."—Roxbury Gazette.

The Countess—"Do show me the coronet!" The Earl—"My dear, I'll show you the ticket for the coronet. It was hypothesized to pay for the engagement ring."—Puck.

Paterfamilias (walking the floor with son and heir)—"Babies, they say, are such helpless things! But what do they think of me? Talk about helplessness!"—Boston Transcript.

"Do you mean to say, Chumley, that you spend less money since you were married than you did before?" "That's what it amounts to. I have much less to spend."—Detroit Free Press.

"You think Briggs is crazy because he stole \$10?" "I don't think that such an act would make a criminal rather than a lunatic of him." "But he had a chance to take \$500." "Oh!"—Cleveland Leader.

"George, this paper says there's a sermon in every blade of grass." "That so?" "Well, you don't get me to go to church any more! I'd get ten dollars that's where I got this blamed old hay-fever."—Puck.

Mr. Cumso—"This is a very bad report to bring me from school, Tommy." Tommy—"I know, papa; but you said if I'd bring you a good report you'd give me a quarter, and I wanted to save you money."—Detroit Free Press.

"Well," said the sarcastic man at the theatre, "I'm ever so much obliged to that girl who sits in front of me; the one with the frightfully big hat."

"I don't see what you're obliged to her for." "For not raising her parasol."—Washington Star.

Miss De Laine—"You seem to be very fond of your friend, Miss Hair. You never tire of kissing her." Miss De Silk—"Well, I do not care much for her personality; but did you notice what a sweet little moustache she has?"—New York Weekly.

She—"Isn't it wonderful to think of the achievements of science? So many things have been brought within the reach of the masses." He—"Yes, indeed! Some years ago golden hair was the boast of a favored few; now, anybody can have it that wants it."—Puck.

Rat-Traps for an Earthquake.

In connection with the late earthquake, a funny story is told of a well-known Conservative Member of Parliament. He lives in an ancient and rat-infested mansion, near what seems to have been the centre of the disturbance. When the earthquake disturbed his slumbers, he jumped out of bed, exclaiming that he would stand this sort of thing no longer. With the resolutions of a desperate man, he then procured and set two large rat-traps, and retired to rest, feeling that he was prepared for the worst. Traps have been set before now to catch submerge; but this is the first time on record of their being employed against earthquakes.—London Truth.