

"HERE'S TO HIM."
Here's to the man whose hand
Is firm when he clasps your own—
Like a grip of steel
That makes you feel
You're not in the world alone.

Here's to the man whose laugh
Puts the sombre clouds to rout—
The man who's fair
And kind and square
To the one that's down and out.
—The Milwaukee Sentinel.

Hoppy's Surprise Party.

"You remember Hoppy? Well, he was with a little bunch of us back among the foothills of Nevada about twenty years ago, where we were attempting to induce mother earth to give us a fortune, and where, I might say incidentally, that we found it—and kept it—thanks to Hoppy."

"He was one of those lank, bony creatures that nature puts on the earth by way of contrast to the beauty and use of other mortals. He got his name from his walk; it always made me think of a man trying to run and changing his mind at the last moment; it was a cross between two gait."

"We tolerated him for the simple reason that so many other people are tolerated on earth—he was willing. Willing to do us any favor or give us any help that lay within his power, and a quiet appreciation of what you did for him—these were the two things that distinguished him and led us to forgive him for the many accidents that he was the chief instrument in causing."

"We were working the hills for all we were worth and getting pretty well discouraged when Hoppy, who was ahead of us, stumbled and slid down the bank he had climbed, throwing the gravel every which way. Had it been any other of us we would have cursed a little, but Hoppy simply rolled over and stared at something he had unearthed. It was gold dirt. And there we found our fortune. We dug in it for all we were worth, and after the days had gone and we were through every man in the bunch had dust enough to make him grin the rest of his life."

"Well, to skip details, on the day when we were packing up ready for the ride to the nearest camp a man rides up in a great stew and sweat to tell us of a murder that had been done somewhere in the valley, and we immediately offered to go and help run down the men who had done the dirty business."

"So it was fixed up that Hoppy should be left to guard the dust. It looked foolish to me, but you know how it is; we were in a sweat with the excitement of a man hunt and perhaps a good gun fight thrown in, yet some of the fellows thought that Hoppy was just the man to put in the position of guard, for he'd fight if we told him to, like a cat in a corner."

"It seems that he had kept the bluff to the last minute so that he might not arouse their suspicions, and then kindly directed them to a place he had provided in that strange foresight of his for such emergencies—a hole furnished with enough dynamite to blow a mountain over almost. They had done the rest, and incidentally had found rest, too, for it was so much work picking them up that we gave up the attempt."

"Hoppy was a hero after that. I'm afraid he never got over our praising him, but as long as Hoppy stood with us he was treated like a man and he was one, too—the real stuff clear through."—W. Werner, in Chicago News.

"Sure," Hoppy answered, wishing they were in China or some other tabooed place.
"I suppose when they saw Hoppy they thought they were going to have a regular clinch in landing our gold, but they made a mistake, as people often did when they figured they could go by Hoppy's personal appearance. You see, the whole thing was a put-up job, somewhere or other they got hold of the truth that they had a lot of dust up there, and they got it into their heads that they wanted it. So they cooked up that scare about the murder and the murderer putting up a game fight and wanting our help. We did just what they wanted—rode off with the chap while they dropped in on the scene to do business."
"They got inside, but Hoppy had his gun a little too handy, so they didn't do anything except sit around and gab. Finally one of the men asked Hoppy for a drink of water. The pal was just beyond Hoppy, near the door, and Hoppy invited him to go over and help himself, but there was where Hoppy made a mistake. Instead of handing the robber a glass himself he let him go over, and the first thing Hoppy knew there were three husky chaps astride of his pitiful five feet by one, and they had his windpipe shut so he couldn't squawk."
"They let him set up after they had tied his hands so tight behind his back his shoulder blades overlapped. And the first thing that over-wanted to know was where was the dust. Naturally, Hoppy had forgotten, as any man in his right mind would under such circumstances. They administered a few kicks to Hoppy's bony anatomy, but that didn't seem to wake his faulty memory. Still he couldn't think, and one of them informed him that if he couldn't remember without a little stronger assistance they'd give him a little to help him along."
"Once more they wanted to know

where the dust was, but Hoppy couldn't remember. They held a little consultation; time was flying and they must work quickly.
"Hoppy watched them with interest, and it didn't take him long to see what they had planned for him in the way of entertainment. The big brutal fellow of the crowd had snatched a long rod we use in prospecting and was stirring up the fire. When it was burning brightly he stuck the end of the rod in the fire and looked over at Hoppy."

"Hoppy wilted a little, and I don't blame him, but he was game. The big fellow wanted to know where that gold was, but Hoppy couldn't remember. When a man has given years of his life to find the yellow stuff as we had, and has found it at last, he isn't inclined to hand it over to the next poor sinner that comes along and tries to take it by force. Hoppy was game."
"When the rod was nicely heated the robber came over to Hoppy and held it about one-eighth of an inch in front of Hoppy's nose, and he wanted to know if Hoppy saw it. Needless to say, Hoppy did see it, and, moreover, he felt it. He was given to understand that not only should he see it, but that he would feel it if he didn't give them the necessary information, but Hoppy was tight—busy praying that he fellows would come, you say? Not at all. He was thinking of something else."

"At the order of the leader one of them snatched off his boots and they made ready to bore a few holes into his sole. Hoppy had a tough one, but he knew as well as they that it wouldn't stand roasting. At the first hiss of the red iron he let out a yell and they had to sit on him a while before he cooled down. This time they got him firm and, as he still couldn't seem to remember, one of them yanked off his shirt and the big chap leveled the red hot iron for his heat. That was too much for Hoppy, and he begged for mercy and promised to tell him where we stored the gold."

"Hoppy told them to go back of the shack near a brown rock and there under a covering of earth they'd find the gold. He acted scared blue, and they hustled out. Hoppy could see them as they hurried up the rise of ground back of the shack. He saw them find the place as he had said with the earth covering. They were as eager a pair and pleased a crowd, Hoppy said afterward, as he had ever seen."

"One of them had a crowbar. He lifted it up and down it went. Then something happened. There was a crash and a blast of flame that went a hundred feet into the air. Mixed in the crash and blaze were men's cries of agony and forms shifted a moment into view, and it was all over."

"We rode hard on the back stretch for we saw and heard the explosion, and I tell you it was an anxious and hot bunch of men that threw themselves off their ponies at the shack or what had been a shack. We dug Hoppy out of the debris of the shack, more dead than alive, but he was just about dead enough to spoil all chance of his dying, and we managed to get the truth out of him."

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CURIOS FACTS.
Chinese farmers foresee approaching storms by observing the actions of birds and insects.
Bronx Borough is increasing more rapidly in brick dwellings than any other borough in New York City.

The city of Philadelphia planned the establishment of a wireless station on top of the City Hall tower, 537 feet above the ground, to give communication with the surrounding country and ocean within a radius of 1000 miles.

Thomas West, known as "the big Indian," died recently at his home near Kanawa, Okla., the townsine which he owned and sold for \$12,000. West was a Seminole and came to Oklahoma in 1866. He was one of the signers of the treaty for the allotment of the Seminole lands, July 1, 1898.

Since March 14, 1900, there have been chartered in the United States 4086 banks, with authorized capital of \$245,933,300, of which 2632, with capital of \$68,565,500, were incorporated under the act of that date, and 1454, with capital of \$177,367,800, under the act of 1864.

ADAM AND EVE.
What's a woman? Ask a man.
What d'you fancy he will say?
"Airs and graces, frills and laces,
Never knows what she wants each day!"
Why, then, gossip, tell me true,
Why you woo her—as you do.

Ask a woman: What's a man?
What d'you fancy she will say?
"Swagging, swearing, overhearing,
Always wanting to have his way!"
Say, then, gossip, if you can,
Why you wed him—horrid man!

Gentle sir and sweetest madam,
Would you know the reason true,
Why to-day you scorn each other
And to-morrow bill and coo?
Ask your parents, Eve and Adam,
They can tell, and—so can you!
—Fall Mall Gazette.

REGINALD.—"How do you like the idea of my growing a beard this fall?"
"Why, I should set my face against it."
"We speak only good of the dead, because as a general thing we have exhausted our supply of blame on them when they were alive."—Philadelphia Record.

A little widow now and then Plays havoc with the single man. She smites our heart with glances bright. Beware, O men, the widow's snite.
—Houston Post.

Editor—"No, take it away. I don't buy poetry." Poet—"Well, all the editors who have read this say it isn't. Won't you look at it, sir?"—Cleveland Leader.

"You are a dog fancier, are you?" "Me? No, ma'am; I'm a dawg hater. That's why I'm offerin' you this beautiful fox terrier so cheap. I want to get rid of 'im."—Cleveland Leader.

Blobbs—"Bighead is pretty good company for himself, isn't he?" Slobbs—"I should say he was. Why, that fellow would rather play solitaire than poker."—Philadelphia Record.

The Lady—"What's your trade?" The Hobo—"Lady, I'm a captain of industry." The Lady—"In those clothes?" The Hobo—"Dis is my fatigue uniform."—Cleveland Leader.

Why should we pay the weather man A stipend, fat and large. If on the ancient, time-tried plan The ground-hog is in charge?
—Judge.

Austere Person—"I can't tip you, young man, unless you have change for a tenner." Waiter (sizing him up)—"Keep your dime, sir; I haven't a nickel about me."—Chicago Tribune.

"So your boy Josh is an inventor?" "Yes," answered Farmer Corntossel. "He has invented a lot of labor-saving devices." "What are they?" "Excuses for not working."—Washington Star.

Grandma—"In my day women didn't fly around out of doors as they do now. They would sit at home and spin." Gladys—"But now they go out and spin much better, if they have a good, fast auto."—Baltimore American.

"Human nature is the same the world over," said the philosopher. "When a man discovers that a law interferes with his personal interest, he wants it abolished." "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum, "I'm looking for some of these aviators to repeal the laws of gravitation."—Washington Star.

He—"You claim it is silly for me to make a fuss about a collar button when I lose it." She—"Yes, I do." He—"Well, here's an item in this paper about a professor of mathematics at Darmstadt, who has instituted a prize of \$25,000 as an inducement to discover the famous theorem of Fermat, which has been lost for over two centuries."—Yonkers Statesman.

News.
By ADA T. DRAKE.

The road which has been running from New York to Boston has got there.

Mr. Jones recently went to his office, leaving the lid off the family jar. An explosion resulted.

Miss Jenks, who was seen to take a street car at the foot of Main street last night, has been arrested.

Miss Mason has been having trouble with her eyes. Yesterday she persisted in running up and down the columns of the morning paper. Then they became fastened on the picture of a departed friend, and at last reports they were glued to the opposite wall.

Professor Seeley, in a moment of deep thought on Friday afternoon, threw his eyes into the fire.

When Mr. Morton arrived at his office this morning he had a young lady on his arm. Dr. Smith is the attending physician.

On Tuesday the night editor, while following a train of thought, walked off a high trestle and fell into a reverie, but his injuries were slight and he is now able to be at his desk again.

Everything looks very bright to-day. It is reported that one of our early risers swept the landscape with his eye.—From Judge.

Pineapple For Hextra.
Two diners at an hotel were disputing as to what a pineapple really was. One of them insisted that it was a fruit, the other insisted that it was a vegetable. The friends determined to accept the decision of the waiter, who was called to the table.

"John," asked one of them, "how do you describe a pineapple? Is it a fruit or is it a vegetable?" "It's neither, gentlemen; a pineapple is always a hextra." he replied.—Punch.

The Sunday-School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR APRIL 18.

Subject: The Conversion of Saul, Acts 9:1-30—Golden Text: Acts 9:4—Commit Verses 15, 16—Commentary on the Lesson.

TIME.—A. D. 37 (?) PLACE.—Jerusalem, Damascus.

EXPOSITION.—I. Saul the Murderous Enemy of Jesus, 1, 2. Saul's intense anger against Jesus and His disciples was not a matter of a single hour or day. The extent to which he carried his hatred in action we see in ch. 22:19; 26:10, 11. In this Saul had persuaded himself that he was doing right (ch. 26:9). It is a striking illustration of how a man who intends to be conscientious can be thoroughly and awfully wrong.

II. Saul the Humbled Penitent, 3-9. The Lord allowed Saul to go a long way in his mad career. But at the proper moment He put forth His hand and saved the little flocks in Damascus. Probably Ananias had prayed, though he could hardly believe when he heard. The Lord often acts "suddenly." The light of heaven that shone around Saul was the light of Christ's resurrection glory (v. 17; 1 Cor. 15:8). It was "about noon" (ch. 22:6), and the glare of the eastern noon is exceedingly bright, but the glory of this "about noon" is the glory of the sun "above the brightness of the sun" (ch. 13:3). Our Jesus is exceeding glorious. The stout-hearted persecutor is thoroughly humbled (v. 4). There are many to-day who speak great, swelling words against our Lord, who, if they should get one look at Him as He is, would "fall to the earth" before Him (Phil. 2:10, 11). Evidently, for all his zeal in persecuting the church, Saul had many a goading thought that he might be wrong, and Jesus indeed the Lord (26:14, R. V.). A start in every one's day who is persecuting the people. Note how tenderly Jesus identifies Himself with His disciples (v. 5; comp. Matt. 25:35-40, 42-45; Eph. 5:30). What an awful moment it must have been in Saul's mind when it fully broke upon him that the glorious One who stood before him was indeed Jesus, whom he had so bitterly hated and so relentlessly persecuted. What an awful moment it will be for many now living when they see Jesus in the glory, and realize that it is He whom they have persecuted and persecuted. The light Saul saw was no mere subjective vision or effect of sunstroke; the others saw it, too (ch. 22:9), and heard the voice. When we look at the original the apparent contradiction between v. 7 and ch. 22:9 entirely disappears. In this passage "the voice" is in the genitive case, which with the verb translated "hearing" indicates the person (or thing) heard speaking the message. In Acts 22:9 "the voice" is in the accusative case, which simply catches the message which is heard, and was not hurrying of Saul into the light. It is not a bad thing for a man to have time to think and to review the enormity of his sin.

III. Ananias, the Obedient Disciple, 10-16. Ananias was simply "a certain disciple." This destroys the doctrine of the Mormon church (and of many others) that the laying on of an apostle's hands was necessary to receiving the Holy Spirit. Ananias was a ready instrument to the Lord's call. But when the definite direction came, Ananias was staggered. He quite overlooked what Jesus had just told him about the change that had been wrought in Saul. Saul, the terrible, fills his whole vision and he protests. Jesus enters into no discussion with Ananias "Go thy way," and then He tells what Saul of Tarsus really was—"a chosen vessel unto Me." How wonderful are God's ways, to transform the bitter enemy into "the chosen vessel." But this former persecutor must himself suffer for the sake of that name he once hated. This, too, a gracious act on Jesus' part to permit Saul to suffer for Him, and to-day the sufferings that Saul once inflicted upon Christ are quite forgotten in the sufferings He endured for Christ.

IV. Saul, the Bold Witness For Jesus, 17-19. Ananias protests no longer. Readily and promptly and heartily he obeys. The moment he sees Saul he tenderly lays his hands upon him and exclaims, "Brother Saul." There were no men on earth that Saul had hated as he did disciples of the Lord. There was no man on earth that Ananias had dreaded as he did Saul. But this was, all changed. Faith in one Lord had made them brothers. And he filled with "the Holy Ghost," the Lord had said nothing about that to Ananias (v. 12). But the Lord had said "he is a chosen vessel to carry My name before the Gentiles," etc., and Ananias knew he could not do that properly unless he was endowed with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; 5; ch. 10:38). Saul did just what every man ought to do as soon as he is saved and Spirit-filled (v. 20). There is no indication that Saul at this time received miraculous gifts through "being filled with the Holy Spirit." He took God's word for it that he was so filled, and went ahead, and the filling with the Spirit manifested itself in the power with which he preached (v. 22).

The Good Grows.
How destructively the good grows and propagates itself, even among the weedy entanglements of evil!—Carlyle.

To Prove and Strengthen Us.
All providences are doors to trials. Even our mercies, like roses, have their thorns. Our mountains are not too high and our valleys are not too low for temptations; trials lurk on all roads. Everywhere, above and beneath, we are beset and surrounded with dangers. Yet no shower falls unpermitted from the threatening cloud; every drop has its order ere it hastens to the earth. The trials which come from God are sent to prove and strengthen us.—Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

PENNSYLVANIA

Interesting Items from All Sections of the Keystone State.

STATE OWES UNCLE SAM
Old Books Record the Receipt of \$2,742,514.78.

Harrisburg. — According to the State's cash book of 1837, Pennsylvania stands indebted to the federal government in the sum of \$2,742,514.78. This money was received in three installments and came as "distribution of the surplus revenue deposited to the credit of the different States by act of congress, June 23, 1837." Receipts of this money had been forgotten until the Murdock bill, calling upon the various States which had received these "surplus revenues" to pay, was presented to congress. State Treasurer Sheatz discovered in an old State cash book the following entries:

Received of the United States, etc., check on the Girard bank for \$750,000. Check on the Merchants bank, \$80,838.26.

April 1, 1837. Second installment, check on Girard bank, \$750,000; Merchants bank, \$80,838.26; Merchants and Manufacturers' bank, Pittsburg, \$125,000.

July 1, 1837. Third installment, check on Commercial bank, Cincinnati, \$150,000; Girard bank, \$680,838.26; Merchants and Manufacturers' bank, Pittsburg, \$125,000. Total, \$2,742,514.78.

Whether the State will have to face interest charges or not is in doubt, as the exact provisions of the Murdock bill are unknown here.

GENEVA WINS DEBATE
Defeats Westminster in Compulsory Arbitration Discussion.

Beaver Falls. — Geneva defeated Westminster here in the annual debate. The question was "Resolved, that compulsory arbitration would be the best method of settling disputes between corporations and labor unions in the United States at the present time." Geneva took the affirmative and Westminster the negative. The debaters were Boyd Tweed and Frederick Reade for Geneva and Paul J. Simison and Adam C. Williamson for Westminster. The judges were W. C. Leffingwell, Pittsburg; Rev. J. H. Bausman, Rochester; A. M. Crawford, Pittsburg.

Site for Johnstown Postoffice.
Johnstown. — That the site for Johnstown's new federal building has been definitely selected by the government became known when notice was served on John Hannan, Joseph Hummel, W. W. Bailey, John Cooney, Dr. W. N. Pringle, Henry Lubken and James Quinn that they had been appointed viewers to appraise a property at Locust and Market streets, which will be taken by condemnation proceedings. The site is convenient to the big business houses.

Commencement at Carlisle.
Carlisle. — The commencement exercises at the Indian school were held April 1. The class is the largest ever graduated, consisting of 52 students from the trades department and 26 from the classical department. The diplomas were presented by Indian Commissioner Francis E. Leupp, and among the large audience in attendance were United States Senators Page and Platt.

Shenango Furnacemen's Wages Cut.
Sharon. — About 600 blast furnace employees at the four furnaces of the Shenango Furnace Company, at Sharpville, received a 10 per cent cut in wages April 1. The men had anticipated the reduction. These are the only furnaces operating at Sharpville, but it is said the four others will make a similar cut when they resume.

Power Plant Burned.
Canonsburg. — The power plant of the Greek coal mine, near McConnells Mills, owned by John M. Greek, was destroyed by fire. Superintendent Edward Mooney said he believed the plant was set on fire and a reward will be offered for the arrest of the supposed firebugs. The loss is placed at \$13,000.

New Castle Women Project Library.
New Castle. — The Young Women's Christian Association plans to start a public library here. A committee of 30 women has been appointed to assume general charge. Each of them is to appoint 10 others to aid her and each of these is to obtain 10 books from friends. If the plan does not miscarry, a library of 3,000 volumes will result.

Wealthy Farmer Is Robbed.
Shamold. — Five masked burglars, at the point of revolvers, made Madison Vought, a wealthy farmer, near Elysburg, open a safe at his home, from which they procured \$700. They escaped.

Loss by Storm.
Washington. — An inventory of damage done by the hurricane in this county shows the loss will reach nearly \$100,000. Every oil and gas company operating in the county reports rigs and derricks razed, while in many instances tubing and other equipment were damaged. The average loss sustained at each well is estimated by oil men at \$300, and at least 150 derricks were leveled. Dozens of men were today repairing telephone and telegraph lines, but it will be several days before service is completely restored.

FULL PENALTY IMPOSED
Victim Held Prisoner for Days and Subjected to Revolting Abuse.

Philadelphia. — Twenty-five years' imprisonment in the Eastern penitentiary and a \$2,000 fine was the sentence imposed by Judge Barrett here upon George Washington, a negro, who was convicted of holding Mrs. Ella Curtin, white, a prisoner in his room and ill-treating and robbing her.

Mrs. Curtin went to the negro's home to make arrangements to have her trunks moved to a storage house. She alleged that Washington kept her a prisoner in his room from March 21 to 23. She was rescued by the police, who had been notified of the matter, by another negro roomer in the house.

The woman, hospital physicians testified, is a physical wreck as the result of her experiences. Several times while testifying to her revolting nature of her experience she collapsed on the stand.

The jury quickly convicted Washington and he was given the full penalty of the law.

TRACK SINKS IN SWAMP
B. & L. E. Engineers Encounter a Second Troublesome Bog in Mercer County.

Butler. — What is believed to be another "bottomless pit" has been encountered by the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railway Company's engineers at Rattlesnake swamp, several miles north of Mercer. The swamp covers several thousand acres and may prove a greater problem to engineers than the Hartstown swamp, a few miles away, which was conquered, recently, after three years' work and an expenditure of nearly \$250,000.

The railway engineers, four months ago, started construction of a cut-off through the Rattlesnake swamp. A solid track over 300 feet of the soft ground has been completed. Yesterday a part of the track sank away and a trestle toppled over. Soundings show the mire is 80 feet deep. A few nights ago the trestle shifted 20 feet from the line of survey. It has been anchored to prevent it from disappearing.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION
State Chairman Issues Call for Meeting in June.

The Pennsylvania Republican State convention will be held in the Majestic theater at Harrisburg on June 10, at 10:30 a. m., to nominate a State Treasurer, an auditor general and a judge of the Supreme Court.

Colonel W. R. Andrews, chairman of the State committee, issued the call which was attested by John R. Williams, secretary.

Under the rule of the State organization there will be a new apportionment of delegates this year based upon the vote cast for President last year. Each legislative district is entitled to one delegate for every 2,000 votes or fraction thereof cast at the preceding Presidential election. Under this rule the convention this year will consist of but 372 delegates, while for the past four years it has consisted of 425 delegates.

KILLED BY EXPLOSION
Another Seriously Burned When Gas Ignites in Tank Being Cleaned.

Bradford. — An explosion of gas in a 600-barrel crude oil still at the refinery of the Emery Manufacturing Company, killed Thomas Brophy and seriously injured Bart Conners.

The oil was pumped out of the still Brophy and Conners started to clean the tar from the bottom. An explosion followed, which burned the trapped men. They emerged from the still with their clothing almost burned off and still ablaze.

Brophy died in an ambulance on the way to the hospital. He leaves a widow and three children. Conners' condition is dangerous, but he has a slight chance of recovery.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

Harrisburg. — Governor Stuart's State highway bill was passed in the house by a vote of 107 to 82 after a strenuous battle. The measure, which provides for construction of a great \$5,000,000 highway across the State from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, through Harrisburg.

The judges' salary increase bill passed the house with 126 votes in its favor, 62 against it and 16 members absent or not voting.

With only two votes in opposition and with exceedingly few members absent or not voting, the soldiers' pension bill passed the house finally, and it will now go to the senate for consideration. The measure provides \$1,700,000, to be distributed in \$6-a-month pensions to all Civil War veterans of this State whose income does not exceed \$700.

Greensburg. — John B. Moloney of Greensburg, was notified by English barbers that he is one of three heirs to a fortune in Ireland estimated at \$450,000.

Musician-Philanthropist Dies.
Pittsburg. — Charles Chauncey Mellor, musician, scientist and prominent business man, life long friend of Andrew Carnegie, and associated with him in many of his charities, died at his home here, aged 73 years. Mr. Mellor had been the guiding spirit in the development of musical culture in Pittsburg half a century. He was actively connected with several national scientific societies.

Occasionally a man listens to a honest opinion because it is so different from his own.