

# THE PROCLAMATION.

WORKING UP SENTIMENTS APPROPRIATE TO THANKSGIVING.

A Rough Draft Goes the Rounds and Picks Up Additions in Inks of All Colors—Finally Engraved on Cream Colored, Gilt Edged Paper and Signed.

The conception of that time honored document, the Thanksgiving proclamation, which sails forth annually as the impromptu expression of the national executive's religious gratitude, is the terror of the state department. Every year it is called upon to produce something new in that line, and its efforts to say the same thing in a different way, to avoid if possible verbatim copying of last year's letter, is one of the venerable jokes of the diplomatic greenroom.

About the first or second week of November, everybody knowing that the day falls on the last Thursday of that month, the chief clerk or some assistant secretary suggests that it is time to think about the "proclamation."

The chief clerk accordingly runs down the list of drafting clerks, ascertains which of Uncle Sam's servants is at the time backing in innocuous despatches and dispatches to the delinquent by messenger an order to get up a draft for the proclamation.

This rouses the clerk from his lethargy. He rises to the situation with alacrity. His first inspiration is to turn out a paper different from its predecessors. The second arrests the divine afflatus. What on earth can he say that has not been said?

He writes the word "whereas" and pauses. In despair, at length, he turns for help to the classics—that is, he consults what Van Buren, Tyler and Fillmore have said in past years and makes that a groundwork for a draft. This embryo proclamation is then sent, through the chief clerk, to the assistant secretaries.

The first touch up the document receives is the insertion of a lot of capital letters for definition, which the clerk has forgotten in the throes of composition. Then an assistant secretary, finding it remains in plums fervor, proceeds to insert plenty with red ink marginal notes.

Thus the word "prayer" is followed by "songs of praise," and "tribute of gratitude" is bracketed after worship. So long, so faithfully has this servant of the people discharged this self appointed task that he is known in office parlance as the "divine inventor."

This revised the draft proceeds to some other grand mogul of the diplomatic greenroom, who finds that now that the duty has been duly attended to something complimentary is due the nation at large. So carols, in blue pencil, insert "our prosperity and greatness," the "labors of our people" or "our marts of trade and traffic."

This tricolor draft is now handed around again and encounters an official in a new vein. His lunch did not agree with him. He is in a penitent mood. Seizing a pencil, he adds "that we have not been visited with swift punishment for our shortcomings."

Another handles the document and finds that it is too general, fails to identify the year, so he brings in a few master strokes in purple indelible pot-holes alluding to the "deadly march of pestilence," "afflictive dispensation" and "fury of the elements."

The document now seems to meet the requirements. It is sent to an engraving clerk, who proceeds to "fecit secundum artem," like a drug clerk making up a prescription. There are rules to be observed, rules as inviolable as those governing the Bank of England. A certain cream colored gilt edged paper is used. An elaborately ornamental title is furnished half way down the page in old German capital script announcing "A Proclamation by the President of the United States."

The original whereas has met with many vicissitudes during the travels of the draft.

Restored to its proper dignity, the chief difficulty now is to disentangle the many colored insertions which crawl like caterpillars all over the sheet. By standing on his head, squinting on the bias or thumping his guessing bump to its utmost the engraving clerk at last turns out a highly respectable and decorous looking document.

He submits it to the chief clerk. Meanwhile he waits in nervous suspense lest it be returned with a request for another copy or be disgraced by the insertion of more colored caterpillars.

If the engraved copy is approved, it is taken to the White House. The executive may or may not read it. It's pretty safe to say he does not, but he never fails to sign it. With the president's signature it returns to the state department.

A lithograph copy is struck off and sent abroad to our ministers and consuls.

The original is filed in the "Book of Credence," a somber, venerable volume exhaling an old time aroma from its yellow time stained pages, which preserves from the foundation of our glorious republic the proclamations of all our executives in exquisite script, for the typewriter, that cruel electrocutor of the epistolary art, has yet to desecrate the precious files of the state archives.

Before seeking its mausoleum, however, a typewritten copy of the Thanksgiving proclamation is given out to the press, and the millions of readers think what a very pious, God fearing man is the president.—New York World.

### Economical.

The Boston Transcript has heard of an economical man. He is a locksmith, and needing a sign he went to a sign painter and got an estimate for lettering. Then he nailed two locks to a board and asked the painter to paint after them the word "nuth." The Philadelphia Ledger suggests, however, that it would have been cheaper to have used only one lock and paid the painter for an "s."

### FASCINATION BY SNAKES.

The Tongue Play of the Reptiles a Lure For Their Prey.

The pheasants which formed the subjects of the following observations were hatched out in an incubator from eggs kindly given me by Sir Cecil Miles. The eggs were taken from the hen and transferred to the incubator a few days before the young birds were due to emerge.

Two pheasants were hatched out at about 8 p. m. That evening, at about 6:30, a finely chopped egg was placed before them, but they showed no signs of pecking at it, nor did they peck at grain or sand next morning at 11 a. m. At 4 p. m. they began to peck, but seized very little. One struck repeatedly at a crumb of egg on the other's back, but failed to seize it, though the other bird was quite still.

The little birds showed no signs of fear of me. They liked to nestle in my warm hand. My fox terrier was loath to get at them, much keener than with chicks, probably through scent suggestion. I placed two of the young pheasants, about a day old, on the floor and let him smell them, under strict orders not to touch them. He was trembling in every limb from excitement. But they showed no signs of fear, though his nose was within an inch of them. When the pheasants were a week old, I procured a large blindworm and placed it in front of the incubator drawer in which the birds slept at night. On opening the drawer they jumped out as usual and ran over the blindworm without taking any notice of it. Presently first one, then another, pecked vigorously at the forked tongue as it played in and out of the blindworm's mouth. Subsequently they pecked at its eye and the end of its tail.

This observation naturally leads one to surmise that the constant tongue play in snakes may not be a lure for young and inexperienced birds, and that some cases of so called fascination may be simply the fluttering of birds round this tempting object. I distinctly remember, when a boy, seeing a grass snake, with head slightly elevated and quite motionless, and round it three or four young birds fluttering nearer and nearer. It looked like fascination. It may have been that each hoped to be the first to catch that tempting but elusive worm. Presently they would no doubt be invited to step inside.—Nature.

### HE HAD A NEW THING.

And Genius, as It Always the Case, Got Its Reward.

Two men were seated at a small table near the front door waiting for their sandwiches and coffee when they were approached by a shabby stranger, who touched his hat and said:

"Gentlemen, may I ask a favor of one of you?"

They were silent. It was no new experience to them.

"What I wished to ask was, gentlemen," continued the stranger, "how to spell the word balloon."

They looked at one another in evident surprise and one asked, "The word 'balloon,' you say?"

"Yes, gentlemen. I got into a discussion with a friend, who says there is but one 'l.' I maintain there are two."

"Your friend's right," said one of the men at the table.

"No, he isn't," retorted the other. "You're right. Two 'l's."

"Let me see, now," said the first. "B-a-l-double-o-n-balloon. I think you're wrong, Bill, and that this man's friend wins the bet."

"It's no bet," said the shabby stranger. "We simply got into an argument. You can see for yourself there is chance for an argument. If I had a pocket dictionary, I could tell in a minute. Gentlemen, would one of you loan me a dime with which to purchase one?"

They looked at him coldly for a moment and then each pulled out a dime and gave it to him.

"You're a good thing," said the first one.

"Yes, you've got something new," added the other.

But the shabby stranger did not smile. He simply thanked them, and said he would buy one for his friend also.—Chicago Record.

### Orchids For Cut Flowers.

So many beautiful flowers drop their petals soon after cutting that they are out of favor with purchasers. The efforts of florists are generally in the direction of introducing such flowers as will hold their own for some time after cutting. It is possibly one of the leading advantages of the carnation that it lasts so long on the parlor table, and this is found to be true with many species of orchids which are coming into favor for cutting purposes, quite as much on account of their persistence as on account of their rarity and sweetness. In this closely related family the cypripedium is found particularly valuable. There are not only persistence, sweetness and curious features in the forms and colors of the flowers, but they also have the long stems which enable the American florists to use them without the necessity of lavishly stemming them.—Mechan's Monthly.

### Free Lunch With a String to It.

In most of the free lunch places down town there is a nickel in the slot machine device, which is placed in close proximity to the lunch. So big is the gambling propensity in most men that they will frequently drop enough nickels into one of these machines to pay for a square meal and never "win out." These machines more than pay for the lunches set up by the proprietor.—Chicago Tribune.

### Bursting Flywheels.

From a recent discussion regarding the bursting of flywheels it appears that, although a sudden change in momentum, as from putting on a load, may fracture the arms, it is probable that centrifugal stress from increased speed is a far more prevalent cause of flywheel accidents.—New York News.

### CHARACTER IN WINDOW SHADES.

They Tell Tales About the Inmates of the House, a Young Woman Says.

"I don't know anything about the front of a house that more clearly indicates the character and condition of the inmates than the window shades," said a young woman of observation. "If you see the shades all drawn down to precisely the same level in every window, you can tell at once that the house is occupied by a single family and that the mistress is of a severely orderly spirit. There'll not be a thing out of its accustomed place in that house, you can rest assured. If the shades of all the up stairs windows are drawn down to the top of the bottom sash, while those of the parlor are drawn clear down, you can safely judge the family of that house to be one of those essentially domestic ones that live mostly up stairs, where the bedroom is at once the wife's sewing room and the husband's library and where the parlor is only opened on state occasions. If the bedroom window blinds in the middle story are half way down while those on the top floor and of the parlor are away up, you won't be wrong in saying that that house is ruled by the young folks, who are going to have a flood of sunshine in their bedrooms even if it does fade out the matting and who are not going to have the parlor smelling like a musty old church.

"The room with that one window blind run clear up to the top is occupied by a man, and if you see the window shades at different heights you take it for granted that they have let lodgings there or that the housekeeping is of a decidedly frisky character. One of the most unfailingly indicative shades is that which runs diagonally across the window, with one corner close under the roller and the other half away down the sash. The woman of that window is a slattern, and it's babies to bodkins that the growler is rarely empty there.

"These are, of course, only the broad indications of the character reading that may be done from the position and wag of the eyelids of a house, for I suppose it is not forcing a figure of speech to say that if the windows are the eyes of a house the shades are the lids and can be held primly straight or give a drunk-on-wink."—New York Sun.

### HUNTING PYTHONS IN NATAL.

Burn Forests and Dig Pits to Capture the Immense Reptiles.

The colony of Natal, South Africa, abounds in boa constrictors and pythons. While they do not attack men they are especially destructive of cattle, sheep and oxen, and for this reason parties are formed by hunters and natives to burn the bush and forest in order to exterminate the pests. Some of the soldiers at Pietermaritzburg were recently informed by a party of neighboring Zulus of the whereabouts of a huge python that had been destroying their oxen.

The soldiers, with 200 natives, started off to capture the snake, and having located it the forest was fired for about a mile roundabout, an enormous pit having been previously dug in toward the center of the inclosed space. What with the burning brush and the shouts of the Kafirs they soon drove the reptile toward the pit, where, closing in upon him, they forced him into it. The python proved to be of enormous size, being 32 feet long and 41 inches in circumference. It appeared to be quite stupid or dazed, having just eaten a young ox that had been led into the inclosure.

An enormous cage, with iron bars half way down the front, having been constructed, the snake was got out of the pit and taken to Maritzburg in the cage. Here it is kept on exhibition at the barracks, and it is fed twice a week two Kaffir goats at each meal. It will not eat anything that has been already killed for it, preferring to kill its food itself. The goats are thrust through a small door at the end of the cage alive, when, fixing its great eyes upon them, the snake suddenly lunges forward and crushes them in its powerful folds. After covering them with a thick slime at most an inch deep before swallowing, it flattens them out by squeezing them and then swallows them almost at a gulp. After this the python goes to sleep and does not awake until it is time to feed again.—London Telegraph.

### I and You.

Miss Frances Power Cobbe tells a story in her autobiography which well illustrates that even to intelligent and forceful persons I is big and you very small: "At one of the pleasant gatherings at Mrs. Peter Taylor's, which will not be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to be invited on her open evenings at Aulney house, Miss Mary Carpenter remarked, 'It is a thousand pities that everybody will not join and give the whole of their minds to the great cause of the age, because if they would we should carry it undoubtedly.' 'What is the great cause of the age?' we simultaneously exclaimed. 'Parliamentary reform?' said our host, Mr. Peter Taylor; 'The abolition of slavery?' said Miss Redmond, a negress, Mrs. Taylor's companion; 'Teotalism?' said another; 'Woman's suffrage?' said another; 'The conversion of the world to Theism?' said I. In the midst of the clamor Miss Carpenter looked serenely round. 'Why, the industrial school bill, of course.' No one enjoyed the joke, when we all began to laugh, more than the reformer herself."

### Rings as Marks of Tree Growth.

Mr. James Stewart, one of the most intelligent horticulturists of the south, says in a note on the annual ring growth of trees that he knew a case of a tree 25 years old which, when cut down, exhibited 75 concentric rings. The name of the tree is not given.—Mechan's Monthly.

### Unchanged.

Intimate Friend—Has your husband's love grown cold?  
Sarcastic Wife—Oh, no. He loves himself just as much now as he did when we were married 20 years ago.—Somerville Journal.



### Why Was It

that Ayer's Sarsaparilla, out of the great number of similar preparations manufactured throughout the world, was the only medicine of the kind admitted at the World's Fair, Chicago? And why was it that, in spite of the quality of the medicine, it was the only preparation of its kind to be selected by the judges of the World's Fair?

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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHARTER OF CORPORATION.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by H. E. Hoover, D. F. Robinson, Henry A. Reed, Ed. Gooder and G. M. McDonald, Esq., on the 10th day of January, 1895, under the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved the 29th day of April, 1874, and the several supplements thereto, for the charter of a corporation to be called "The Reynoldsville Novelty Manufacturing Company," the character and object of which is to manufacture and sell W. J. Weaver's Non-Such Dustless Blackboard Eraser and W. J. Weaver's Eureka secret Ballot Box, and such other novelties, articles and inventions as may be selected for manufacture by said Corporation.

McCracken & McDonald, Solicitors Reynoldsville, Dec. 7, '94.

### ESTRAY NOTICE.

Came trespassing on the premises of the undersigned in Fressottville, Pa., about the first of December, 1894, one light red two-year-old heifer with slim horns. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take her away or she will be disposed of according to law.

JOE C. REYNOLDS.

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### Railroad Time Tables.

### BUFFALO, ROCHESTER & PITTSBURGH RAILWAY.

The short line between DuBois, Ridgway, Bradford, Salamanca, Buffalo, Rochester, Niagara Falls and points in the upper oil region.

On and after June 17th, 1894, passenger trains will arrive and depart from Falls Creek station, daily, except Sunday, as follows:

1:20 P. M. and 5:30 p. m.—Accommodations from Punxsutawney and Big Run.

8:50 A. M.—Buffalo and Rochester mail—For Brookwayville, Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Mt. Jewett, Bradford, Salamanca, Buffalo and Rochester, connecting at Johnsonburg with P. & E. train for Wilcox, Kane, Warren, Corry and Erie.

10:53 A. M.—Accommodation—For Sykes, Big Run and Punxsutawney.

2:20 P. M.—Bradford Accommodation—For Beechtree, Brookwayville, Edmont, Carleton, Ridgway, Johnsonburg, Mt. Jewett and Bradford.

5:10 P. M.—Mail—For DuBois, Sykes, Big Run, Punxsutawney and Walton.

Passengers are permitted to purchase tickets before entering the cars. An excess charge of Ten Cents will be collected by conducting them to the station. A mail ticket, valid for all stations, is sold on trains. A mail ticket, valid for all stations, is sold on trains. A mail ticket, valid for all stations, is sold on trains.

General Super. Buffalo, N. Y. Gen. Pass. Agent Rochester, N. Y.

### PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

IN EFFECT NOV. 25, 1894.

Philadelphia & Erie Railroad Division Time Table. Trains leave PITTSBURG.

### EASTWARD

7:04 A. M.—Train 1, daily except Sunday for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 6:50 p. m., New York 11:30 a. m., Baltimore 7:30 a. m., Washington, 7:50 p. m. Pullman Parlor car from Williamsport and passenger coaches from Kane to Philadelphia.

7:30 P. M.—Train 6, daily except Sunday for Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 12:25 a. m., New York, 9:53 A. M. on week days and 10:15 A. M. on Sunday. Baltimore, 9:55 A. M., Washington, 7:30 A. M., Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain sleeping in Philadelphia until 10:30 a. m.

9:50 P. M.—Train 4, daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 11:20 p. m., New York, 9:53 A. M. on week days and 10:15 A. M. on Sunday. Baltimore, 9:55 A. M., Washington, 7:30 A. M., Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain sleeping in Philadelphia until 10:30 a. m.

11:20 P. M.—Train 3, daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 11:20 p. m., New York, 9:53 A. M. on week days and 10:15 A. M. on Sunday. Baltimore, 9:55 A. M., Washington, 7:30 A. M., Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain sleeping in Philadelphia until 10:30 a. m.

11:50 P. M.—Train 2, daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 11:50 p. m., New York, 9:53 A. M. on week days and 10:15 A. M. on Sunday. Baltimore, 9:55 A. M., Washington, 7:30 A. M., Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain sleeping in Philadelphia until 10:30 a. m.

12:15 A. M.—Train 5, daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 12:15 a. m., New York, 9:53 A. M. on week days and 10:15 A. M. on Sunday. Baltimore, 9:55 A. M., Washington, 7:30 A. M., Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain sleeping in Philadelphia until 10:30 a. m.

12:40 A. M.—Train 7, daily for Sunbury, Harrisburg and intermediate stations, arriving at Philadelphia 12:40 a. m., New York, 9:53 A. M. on week days and 10:15 A. M. on Sunday. Baltimore, 9:55 A. M., Washington, 7:30 A. M., Pullman sleeping cars from Harrisburg to Philadelphia and New York. Philadelphia passengers can remain sleeping in Philadelphia until 10:30 a. m.

1:10 A. M.—Train 8, daily