

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

CALLED TO CHICAGO.

Dr. Thorpe Offered the Chair of History at the University There.

Professor Francis Newton Thorpe, one of the youngest of the members of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, has been honored by a call to the University of Chicago, to occupy the chair of history in that university, which he fills at present at the University of Pennsylvania.

A burglar entered the residence of Rev. Father Hegarty, of St. Joseph's Catholic church, South Easton, Wis., who was in the church adjoining holding service.

A notice was posted at the Western File Works at Beaver Falls to the effect that the plant would resume operations full time on April 27.

George Buchanan, colored, of New Haven, was arrested in Wheeling by officer Gardner for murder, he having shot and killed Henry Smith, colored, at Canonsburg last July.

George Murphy, a passenger brakeman on the Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad, made a miraculous escape from instant death at Columbia.

Efforts are being made to form a pool between the Altoona Iron Company, the Portage Iron Company, of Dunessville; the Hollidaysburg Iron and Nail Company, and the Kleaner Iron Company, the four leading iron concerns in Blair county.

Robert Elliott, of East Brady, a brakeman on the Allegheny Valley railroad, fell between the cars at Wood Hill and was instantly killed.

Rev. John M. Miller, of the Methodist Episcopal church at Greenville, has resigned his pastorate on account of ill health.

The Longmont Iron Company and the Conshohocken Tube company, of Conshohocken, have gone into the hands of receivers.

Rev. N. Lucock, D. D., of the Pittsburg conference, has resigned the pastorate of the Smithfield Street M. E. church, Pittsburg, to take charge of the Union M. E. church, St. Louis, Mo.

One of the largest timber deals in many years has just been closed by the purchase of 26,000 acres of timber land in Center, Clinton, Union and Lycoming counties, about 30 miles east of Heliopolis.

Three masked men entered the house of John Whaling, a merchant at Everson, and carried away \$300.

Mrs. Catharine Conley, of Pittsburg, has laid claim to a tract of land in Mercer county worth \$100,000.

The woods surrounding the Shamokin Powder Company's works, at Irish Valley, were set on fire and the flames soon crept towards the magazine.

Every officer in the Sixth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, has written to Colonel Perry E. Washabaugh requesting him to make a strong effort to have the regiment selected to represent the brigade in New York on April 27.

Carrollton Adams, of North Branch, Wyoming county, was shooting at a target when he accidentally shot his wife in the head, killing her instantly.

The miners of the Essen Coal company, of Federal, held a meeting and decided not to go to work under the ironhead.

The miners of the Pottsville Water company, at St. Clair, and before the great flow of water was checked, a portion of the road-bed of the Reading Railway's Mill Creek branch was swept away.

Workmen remodeling Westmoreland county court house, at Greensburg, found many ancient documents bearing the signatures of George Washington, William Penn and King George.

It was accidentally discovered the other day that several boys in the First ward school at New Castle were in the habit of carrying revolvers to school.

Kittie Hane's house, at Johnstown, was the scene of a drunken revelry, and in the morning one of the participants burned it down.

Grimes Mattox, an Irwin merchant, was held up by three men, but recognized one's voice and named him and all fled.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Abstract of the Important Measures in Both Houses.

April 12.—The Senate met at noon for the first time since the death of ex-Senator Voorhees, who, until a recent day was a conspicuous member of the body.

April 13.—Senator Chandler introduced his bill empowering the secretary of the navy to take possession of the armor-plants of the Bethlehem and the Carnegie companies.

April 15.—The Chipmunk oil fields, the Seneca oil company and the Seneca nation of Indians in Western New York occupied this morning and Senator Quay not only exposed some alleged shady transactions between the oil company and the council of the nation regarding an oil lease, but at the same time secured action by the Senate designed to render null and void a lease which the company secured from the council of the Indians.

It was the Indian appropriation bill that was under consideration and the Senate spent the day on it.

April 15.—Representative Smith, of Jefferson, called up the title bill to-day and proposed numerous amendments. He was successful in having them adopted, and advancing the bill to the third reading calendar.

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PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

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Harrisburg, April 12.—After a desultory struggle, lasting three hours, the new capitol bill passed the house on second reading without a division.

At the Senate the following bills were introduced: Mr. Hyde, E. H., authorizing contracts between overseers of the poor in any borough or township in counties not having county poor houses and the overseers in charge of the poor in adjoining counties having county poor houses.

April 14.—The Senate got down to business at 11 o'clock, but there was very little work done during the first hour.

At 12:45 the Senate took up the calendar, and the first bill on final passage was the bill entitled "An act providing that all candidates in Congressional, judicial and legislative districts be nominated at primary election."

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MAY DAY.

FESTIVAL OF THE FLOWERS, ITS ORIGIN AND OBSERVANCE.

May Day 4000 Years Ago—The Day in Egypt, China, Mexico and Peru—Old Customs in Connection With the Holiday.

FOR the origin of May Day with its joyous associations, we are compelled to go back to a time when men personified the powers of nature and called them gods and goddesses.

Immediately following the prayer Mr. Garman, of Maryland, moved that as a mark of respect to their late associate the Senate adjourn, adding that many Senators desired to attend the funeral.

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May pole to be found in all England. The custom of remembering the day, however, still survives, and little girls wearing garlands, and carrying with them a doll decorated with flowers, termed the "Lady of the May," still go about the towns on this day, presenting their doll to the passers-by as a modest hint for halfpence.

from the ballads which are the principal literary survivals of the famous hunter. Every entertainment, at one time or another, has a contest in archery as a special feature, a peculiarity of the Swiss games also, which have probably inherited this part of their programme from the exploits of William Tell.



A MAY DAY IN THE DAYS OF CAESAR.

It is a strange circumstance that the chimney sweeps and bootblacks of London should be the only people in that great metropolis who now do honor to the May Day.

It is a singular fact, as showing not only the universality of the custom, but also the fact that all the varieties probably had one origin, that many of the features of the celebration in countries very widely separated are almost identical.

The custom gradually fell in caste until finally it remains only among the dregs of society. Every May Day, however, it is religiously observed by the street boys, who, with green branches or leaves in their hands, parade to the music of a fife and drum, attended by two or three figures fantastically attired and a "jack-in-the-box," which is indispensable to the occasion.

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Who the jack originally represented, or what was the significance of his presence on so joyous an occasion, can not now be ascertained, but he is always on hand, and in different countries assumes different forms.

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From street to street goes the little procession of ragged and dirty folk, halting here and there to dance and caper about, while one of the number diligently passes the hat to collect such pennies as the spectators feel like contributing, but poor and dingy as it may be, it is one of the survivals of the grand parades in honor of Flora, of which emperors and kings were proud to be a part.

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In France there are more remains of the old-time customs, and even to the present day the dance of the milkmaids marching in procession with their cows is seen in scores of villages at this season.

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When the pole was at the height of its glory in England it was also in great favor in the Low Countries, where May poles as high as the mast of a three-decker were often set up.

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Some, turned into flagstaffs, still remain, and their former use may often be ascertained from the remains of the paint with which they were formerly decorated, for the Dutch were artistic, and, besides decorating their May poles with stripes of red, white and blue, like barbers' poles, they often ornamented the top with an iron band, which, at the time of the annual festival, was covered with flowers, thus making a very presentable wreath.

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A tub containing a tree or shrub was occasionally substituted for the wreath, but as the tub was hard to get up and easy to fall down, it was not in much favor.

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In the quiet country districts of France, Germany and Italy there are still queens of the May, young girls who are on this day crowned queens of the festivities.

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A little floral arbor is provided, in which the queen sits in state all day long, taking no part in the festivities; no one speaks to her; save a bow or courtesy in passing, no one pays her any special attention, and the situation would seem rather dreary, but the honor of the position has compensations, and at every May Day there is lively competition among the various candidates.

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In many parts of Europe the May festival takes the form of games and athletic sports of various kinds. In England there were formerly the Robin Hood games among the country people, which kept alive the memory of the merry outlaw and his companions.

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Various persons, dressed in character, enacted in an open square a pantomime representing some scene chosen and dedicated as a library, encourages and fosters the habit of reading.

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That this is generally known and appreciated is shown by the fact that of late years a very large proportion of the houses built contain a room set apart for that purpose.

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called "front parlor" and the other "back parlor," or, more euphoniously, perhaps, parlor and reception room. At the present time, however, one of the rooms is almost invariably dubbed "the library," even if it has only a beggarly array of books.

It is meet and fitting that the library should be a general sitting room and the place where the best of the home life centers. Most plans that are drawn now give the library one of the choicest locations in the house, and full advantage is taken of this fact in the fitting and furnishing of the room.

Reds and browns are the most pleasing colors, but these may be shaded to light fawn color, terra cotta, or warm yellow if necessary. There may be a paneled ceiling and hardwood floor, the latter covered with rich Oriental rugs, if means permit.

In a new house where everything is planned from the beginning, the problem of fitting the library is comparatively simple. Instead of movable bookcases, which are always cumbersome,

some, low shelves should be arranged around the walls as permanent fixtures, or they may be carried up to the ceiling to fill odd corners.

The attached plan shows that the architect has provided a most attractive library, finished in cherry, with flooring of maple, the whole room lending itself to the most artistic furnishing, and that without a great outlay of money.

The arrangement and sizes of the rooms are shown by the floor plans, the width of the house being forty-

four feet four inches, and depth, including veranda, twenty-five feet two inches.

This design can be built in the vicinity of New York for about three thousand five hundred dollars, though in many sections of the country the cost should be much less.

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MAY DAY DANCE OF LONDON BOOTBLACKS.

the flood, being instituted by the never-to-be-enough-praised Emperor Chi-Whee, who was fond of flowers and employed exactly 1,000,000 men to take care of his garden.

Leaving, however, the claims of the glorious Chi-Whee to be defended by his own people, it is worth remembering that a festival, in many particulars bearing a close resemblance to our May Day, was celebrated all over Italy and the south of Europe at the beginning of the Christian era.

At the beginning of the Christian era, when every one who could spare the time went into the woods and fields for a day's outing, gathered flowers and returning laid them on the altars of Flora. It is also interesting to know, that on these occasions the goddess of flowers was personated by a young girl, the prettiest who could be found, who, during the day, received the homage of her friends and was crowned with the spoils of the fields, a genuine Queen of the May.

As cities grew, it became inconvenient to go far into the country, for the excursion steamers and railroad trains packed full of pleasure seekers were not, and a substitute was found by bringing a tree into town, setting it in the ground in a public place, decorating it with flowers, which the country people, in the hope of gaining shekels, or oboli or denarii, or whatever other coin was legal tender for debts public and private in the neighborhood, were easily

induced to bring in. Thus, in the May pole is seen the descendant of the green tree, and the dancing about it in circles is explained by the fact that the only way to dance around it at all is in a circle, and also, perhaps, the circle has always had a mystic significance, being much used in charms and incantations.

From authors of our own tongue we may glean almost innumerable references and allusions to the pretty custom of hallowing the May Day, and we also learn that less than 200 years ago the May pole was as indispensable in every English village as the stocks or the pillory.

When the Puritans came into power the May Day dancing and flower gathering were tabooed and May poles were all cut down. But after grim old Oliver passed away the people began to amuse themselves again, erected taller May poles than were ever known before, and danced about them harder than ever.

But, as often happens in such cases, when nobody opposed the May Day and its pole, both soon fell into "innocuous desuetude," and now there is hardly a

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PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

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It is well within the memory that when a house contained two rooms on the first floor in addition to the dining-room, one was