

PA'S ALMANACK.

Where's lots of books in our house, Esop and Thomas Hood, Josephus, Poe and Puck's tales, and others just as good: In fact, up in the parrot, for I've seen them there myself. Are half a hundred dusty books piled on a yellow shelf. But Pa he never touches one from that dusty stack. For when he has the chance to read, he reads the Almanack.

We like to see Pa winter nights sit by the open grate. And read aloud his Almanack and tell us just the date. That Nero played his fiddle while old Rome was burning red. And when that wicked English king cut off poor Raleigh's head. It's mighty interesting, and the jokes that Pa will crack. Are just the kind that fill each page of his old Almanack.

The Amateur Revolutionist.

The Revenge of a Lover and a Child.

By JOHN FLEMING WILSON.

If you should see bronzed men or men with soldierly bearing frequenting a certain office in a small street in San Francisco, and if you knew who the men were or what they represented, you could predict to a nicety the next Central American revolution, its leaders, and its outcome. That is because San Francisco is the place where everything commences, and may have their end in the way of troubles in the "sister republics."

They revived her until she sat up between Vincent's arms and slid from the big table to the floor. Vincent sent the astonished maid out by a gesture of command. "Now what's the matter?" he demanded, hoarsely. "If you're in trouble tell me."

Three years ago the present government of Guatemala missed overthrow by just a hair. As the man who had been financing the insurrection said bitterly when the bottom fell out: "If it weren't for women there'd be no revolutions, and if it weren't for a woman every revolution would be successful." He said this to the man who knows more about troubles political where there's money and fighting than any other man in the world. This man nodded his head with a smile not often seen on his spare face. The financier didn't like the look, and he growled some more: "They might at least have let me hold the government up for my expenses before calling the whole business off. I could have got everything back and interest on my venture."

She panted before him. "It was what I remembered," she replied. "How can I forget? "After I had been five years in the States papa sent me to meet him in Colon. I got off the steamer, and he was waiting on the wharf. I knew he would do it just that way. He put on his glasses with both hands, and looked at me as if he were very glad, and oh! I loved it, for it was just like it was when I was a little girl and ran into the big room.

The other man kept on smiling. "That's the way you fellows look at it. If you can't win sell out at a good price. But that don't win in the long run. One woman can spoil the scheme."

With an oath the major leaped over to him and lifted his head. Vincent's eyes looked clearly into his. Then the wounded man looked over at the little girl, poised for flight a dozen feet away. He nodded at her with an air of abject comprehension, and then died.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Two years before this a young woman landed from the Pacific Mail steamer City of Para, and registered at the Palace as from Mazatlan. She had a little maid who giggled and talked Mexican, some luggage with Vienna and Paris hotel labels over it, and the manner of a deposed queen. She signed herself as "Sria Maria Rivas."

Editor Barnett of the American Grocer, New York, is advocating the establishment of a school for grocers and a state board of examiners for its control.

She got to her feet, and held out a slender hand. "I am Miss Mary Rivas," she said, quietly. "My father was formerly the president of Honduras. I went to school at Bryn Mawr, and I met your sister there. That's why, when I found you were in San Francisco, I asked to have you brought and introduced."

Algeria has a river of genuine ink, caused by the joining of two streams, one of which comes from an iron region, while the second stream flows from a peat swamp. On meeting, the acid of one stream blends with the iron solution of the other, and ink is the result.

When she removed to the flat on Vallejo street, Miss Mary Rivas told Vincent to come and take the first dinner with her. "We'll christen the new place," she said gaily, "and, besides, I hope you'll find that I'm really American and can cook."

There is a great comparison of complexities going on these days whenever returning vacationists get together. The one who can show the deepest brown is the proudest, but this does not always fall to the lot of the sojourner at the seaside or in the mountains.

That night at nine o'clock when the Mexican maid had departed giggling to the kitchen, Vincent's hostess leaned forward over the table at which they sat, and rested her elbows on it. Her bare arms framed her face in a sudden way that took Vincent's heart out of its regular beat. He leaped to his feet when Maria Rivas, dropping her head, burst into a torrent of sobs, her white shoulders heaving as her agony got the better of her.

The girl with the richest and deepest tan in a good-sized crowd the other day had not been out of town this summer, but every day had taken a long walk halting through Central park. The spending of much money for railroad fares and hotel bills is not at all necessary to acquire a bronze complexion. Old Mother Nature with summer winds and sunshine and soft rains is the one to get it from, and she gives it just as quickly on a city roof or in a city park as she does in the distant country or on the mountain top.—New York Press.

As he stood there biting his lips she threw back her head and darted up and to the window. He heard her moan, as if she saw and heard something too awful to comprehend. He walked over and stood back of her till she swung round, and he saw the tear-stained face relax and the swimming eyes close. He carried her to the table, and laid her down across it, and rubbed her hands. Then the maid came in, still giggling hysterically, and together

pocketbook a little list of names, made out in Maria Rivas's hand. He compared this list with the list of prisoners and ordered out a firing squad. Half an hour later the shadow of the flag made by the Woman in the Vallejo street flat wavered over the sand on which lay six men in a tangle. Generalissimo Thomas Vincent went out into the sun and looked at the last postures of the six, and then out across the brimming waters of the Pacific. A mail steamer lay out there in the midst of a cluster of canoes, the American flag drooping from her mast.

An Irishman in a major's uniform came out of the cool of the barracks and stopped beside Vincent. "Another week ought to see us in the capital," he said slowly. "But I don't like this business, general. These beggars don't amount to anything. Why did you order them shot?"

Vincent strode over to her, and gently picked her up. Her quick sobs did not cease as he carried her into the shade, his own face drawn and white. He looked over at the major, who stood gnawing on his stubby moustache. He did not reply to the question until the major repeated it angrily. "It was because . . . they deserved it . . ." Vincent stopped and then went on, almost inaudibly, "God knows why I did it, and then there's . . . the . . ." He stopped once more, for the girl's hard sobs had ceased, and her little hands had darted from the folds of her scanty gown to the young general's throat, and the major saw him set the burden softly down, and then fall forward, the blood pouring from the blade of a knife deep in his throat.

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QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

An English police court comes to the front with an antiseptic New Testament for oath-taking purposes. The covers are guaranteed to be death to germs.

A couple of cyclists in Epping, near London were the principals at a wedding, and they added a new wrinkle to marriage etiquette. The bride and groom rode to the church on single machines, but they returned on a tandem.

The English delight in odd rents, but the oddest is a tenancy at Brookhouse, in Yorkshire, where the rental is one snowball in June and a red rose in December. The rose is easily arranged and the snowball is now made of shaved ice.

A rich gold strike in the Kantishna diggings, 200 miles away, left Fairbanks, Wash., practically without officers. The mayor and all the councilmen joined the rush. All the principal saloon keepers closed up and accompanied them.

Robert was very fond of his neighbor, Captain Simes. It seemed so wonderful that this man had been round the Horn—to the head of the Baltic Sea and to Spain and Australia; it was more wonderful that he had found his way back.



The Elephant and His School.

The great white elephant left the school. He said he was too reduced; the ways of a circus did not suit his most superior mind.

Why the Ocean Doesn't Freeze. If the ocean did not have salt it would freeze somewhat more readily than it does now, but there would be no very marked difference.

How Tonto Found His Master. Some weeks ago, while in the country, I visited the circus the last day of its stay. When I got home, I noticed a small brown and white spaniel crouched by the stoop.

Encouraging the Birds. Any one who has watched a pair of robins or catbirds in nesting time cannot fail to be impressed by the quantities of insects which they catch and carry to the young birds, who are voracious feeders, and like Oliver Twist, are always ready for more.

Walking in front of me was a portly old gentleman, whom Frisky attacked with numerous spells of barking. At first I took no notice of it, but suddenly Frisky darted forward, the chain slipped from my hand and he was instantly jumping and fawning before the old gentleman.

A Queer Barometer. The inhabitants of Southern Chile are said to foretell the weather by means of a strange barometer. It consists of the cast-off shell of a crab.

Prices are High. Prices up in Nome correspond with the latitude. The Semi-Weekly News sells for 25 cents a copy or \$1 a month.

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None, Alaska, is 300 miles west of Honolulu.

Woman Maker of Violins. To play the violin is the accomplishment of hundreds of young women, but few have constructed the beloved instrument from which such wonderful melody can be obtained.

Training in Obedience. A fault of many of our young men and growing boys is their disregard for authority, whether parental or civil, and accompanying this, a seeming lack of respect toward their elders.

An Australian Mystery. With the death of Sir Augustus Gregory the last of the great Australian explorers has passed away. His demise recalls the most remarkable mystery in the annals of the commonwealth.

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E. NEFF, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. And Real Estate Agent. Reynoldsville, Pa.

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LABOR NOTES. A State convention of machinists' lodges met at Boston, Mass.