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A Patriotic Home Affair.
BY EDITH LYNDON

It was not only Washington's Birthday that we were preparing to celebrate, but also sister Jean's, which fell upon the twenty-second day of February. We were determined to make this birthday party a very patriotic affair, and began by using our water-colors to such good effect that our invitations, with an American in the upper left-hand corner, holding the star spangled banner, and bearing the wish that the recipients thereof would appear upon the evening of the day we celebrate in a costume made to represent one of the States or Territories, were quite unique. For ourselves we planned gowns of red, white and blue cheese-cloth, Jean wearing a liberty cap, this personating Liberty, while I was to carry a pair of scales, thereby representing Justice. We decorated the house with all "Sorts and conditions" of American flags, and in the most prominent place in the parlor hung a picture of the hero of the day, George Washington. When our guests appeared on the evening of the twenty-second we gave each one of them a small blank book with a cover of heavy water-color paper, upon which was painted our flag; to this was attached with the narrowest of tricolor ribbon a white programme pencil.

Our guests had certainly entered most heartily into the costume plan, for almost every State and Territory had its representative. Florida was represented by a striking brunette in a bright orange gown decked with garlands of artificial flowers, while a basket of oranges hung on her arm. A young man in full Highland costume came as Georgia, thus drawing upon the early history of the Colony. We quickly recognized a young girl in the palest of pink gowns hung over with artificial peaches as Delaware, while a young man displaying in large letters upon one shoulder, "Race-Track Law," and upon the other, "Republican Veto," was plainly New Jersey; Minnesota was there in the person of a youth dressed as a miller. Virginia, the State named in honor of the "Virgin Queen," was a young girl in full Elizabethan dress; Pennsylvania was represented by a sweet little Quakeress and a typical William Penn; a young lady adorned with every imaginable kind of modern small timepiece was Connecticut. Washington was with us in the person of a young man dressed as Geo. Washington, while "Mother Massachusetts," history was recalled by a most fascinating young lady dressed as a witch.

We gave our guests half an hour in which to guess what States the various costumes represented, and to register their guesses in the little blank books. At the expiration of that time we found who had been most successful guessing, also who had been least, and awarded prizes accordingly. We next distributed numbered slips among the company upon each of which was written the part we expected the recipient to take in the remainder of the evening's entertainment. We had prepared these slips with considerable thought. We heard that Miss W. played a pretty arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner," so we asked her to come prepared to play it, and her slip read, "No. 1—Piano Solo, The Star-Spangled Banner." Miss S. has obtained an enviable reputation as an elocutionist; in response to the request upon her slip she favored us with "Grandmother's Story of Bunker Hill Battle."

All of our guests, however, were not musical, nor were there many gifted elocutionists among them, so one company of nine or ten received slips requesting them to get up a charade bearing upon American history or life, while a somewhat larger company was asked to get up a tableau representing a scene in United States history.

The charade company made a pleasing hit of acting out of the word "American" (A-merry-can), giving us four acts in all, three for the syllables and one for a final representation of the whole word. It was left to the tableau company to give the most amusing part of the programme, a burlesque of "Paul Revere's Ride." Paul Revere's steed was a dilapidated hobby-horse

and Ned Wills, who personated "Paul Revere," roared furiously to and fro; John Blank at suitable intervals put up placards reading: "Medford," "Lexington," and "Concord," and as the name of each historic town appeared a group rushed out armed with old swords, staves, etc., ready to answer the rider's summons.

Like all things our pleasant evening had to come to an end, "Paul Revere" having "spread the alarm."

Games for Spare Moments.

MORNING, NOON, AND NIGHT.—The first player must understand the trick of the game, and begins by going up to some one and asking, "Will you go in the morning, or at noon, or in the evening?" The one questioned can reply by saying either of the three times. Suppose morning was answered. The game will properly proceed like this, for example:

Leader. What will you take?
Answer. Melons.
Leader. What will you wear?
Answer. I'll wear a mackintosh.
Leader. What will you do?
Answer. I'll mix mortar.

If noon has been answered, the replies should begin with n; if evening, with e. If no one but the leader understands the game, the replies will be given haphazard; and if wrong, another person must be asked.

MEASURE GAME.—One is selected to stand up in front of the rest, while each guesses his height. The name of guessers, with their replies are recorded. Then an exact measurement is made, and the one who is nearest right gets a prize, while the one farthest from right must do something to amuse the rest. The game can be continued by guesses as to length of arm, width of shoulders or any other dimensions.

A Dickens Enigma.

My first is as nought to my son, and still less to my daughter.
My second, raised high in the land is sunk in the water.
My third is something to write, but nothing to read.
My fourth, often large as to value, is sought not for greed.
My fifth, always lurking in blue-fish is never in bass.
My sixth, very strong in a horse, is no use to an ass.
My seventh, at the head of the table, is dropped in a chair.
My eighth is heard in the wind, and is lost in the air.
My ninth, while it lives in the city, is still out of town.
My tenth, quite pronounced as to dress, "isn't in it" in gown.
My eleventh, essential to turkeys, is banished from chickens.
And my whole is a character famous in Dickens.

Mary Augusta Sargent.

Puzzles for the Curious.

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL.—This week we will introduce you to five persons who have been noted in their time. First we will name an American poet and call him (timber and praise). His first name was Samuel and he died in 1850. Second will be a British poet whom we will call (a collection of tents and to blossom). His first name was Thomas and he died in 1844. Third is an English lecturer whom we will call (fidelity and completely). Her first name was Emily and I think she is still alive. Fourth, we will call (intervening and a heavy weight). His first name was Arthur and he was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1787. The fifth one we will introduce as (a grove and to abandon). He was an American statesman whose first name was Levi, who died in 1851.

Forty-Five Stars in the Flag.

The American flag on and after next Fourth of July will have 45 stars. A notice has been sent to the army and navy officials to that effect. An order has been issued also to the custodians of public buildings in the United States to begin at once to put in the additional stars in old flags or secure new ones which must comply with the order. There will be six rows of stars. The first, third and fifth rows will have eight stars each, and the second, fourth and sixth, seven stars each.

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FOOD FOR THE FLAMES

DESTRUCTIVE BLAZE IN THE HEART OF PHILADELPHIA.

Over \$1,000,000 Worth of Property Destroyed—Several Firemen Injured—Had Blaze in Syracuse—Many People Hurt in a Chicago Fire.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—One of the most valuable blocks of buildings in this city has been destroyed by fire. It was the block bounded by Market, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Juniper streets, in the very heart of the city. A few steps to the right looms the massive city hall, around the corner stands the Pennsylvania railroad terminal, and directly across the way John Wanamaker's great store stretches from street to street. So fierce were the flames and so strong the wind which aided its destructive work that even this building, distant the width of Market street, was saved almost by a miracle from total destruction, and Mr. Wanamaker places his loss at \$100,000.

The total loss is variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000. The losses are very generally covered by insurance. The fire originated in the basement of the six-story building extending from 1309 to 1317 Market street, occupied in the lower floors by Hanson Bros., grocers, and above by the machine factory of Hirsch Bros. The smoke was discovered by a policeman, who promptly turned in an alarm, but the fire made such headway that before the engines could be put to work the building was a mass of flames. With uncontrollable rapidity, it then spread in all directions, destroying about 30 buildings before it had been finally controlled. The fire reached the big tower of Wanamaker's store about an hour after it started, and the energies of the department were then concentrated upon saving that building. The tower was entirely destroyed, together with the valuable stock and fixtures. The roof all along the Market street front was badly damaged, and a great deal of the stock in the front of the store suffered from smoke and water.

Several firemen were hurt, but none seriously, and one man dropped dead from excitement. He was John L. Felt, bookkeeper in the employ of a carpet firm at 1220 Market street. Felt, who was an old man, became excited while helping to get goods out of the store and succumbed to heart disease. He was a native of Boston.

Had Blaze in Syracuse.

SYRACUSE, Jan. 26.—Fire last night destroyed the Dillaye block and part of the Butler block on South Salina street and damaged the Keeler block on Clinton street. The following stores were burned out: W. W. Kimball & Co., pianos and organs; New York Clock house, Palmer's millinery store. The total loss is about \$400,000; mostly insured.

The intense cold and a heavy gale of wind made fire fighting the hardest kind of work. The flames were confined within high walls, and it was impossible to reach them with streams except from the Salina street front. Finally lines of hose were laid on the roofs of adjoining buildings, and after five hours of work the flames were got under control.

The store of J. W. Yale & Co. was crushed by the falling of the roof of the Butler block. Colonel J. W. Yale, Mrs. Wesley Yale and Mrs. George K. Frazer, prominent society people, were in the store on the ground floor. The falling timbers cut them off from the street, and as the rear of the establishment was a mass of flames it seemed almost impossible that they should escape. They succeeded in crawling down the freight elevator shaft, however, and forcing their way through masses of debris and escaped by the cellars of adjoining property.

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two spectators were badly hurt as a fire which destroyed the Williams block on Monroe street.

The injured men are Jeremiah O'Rourke, fireman, struck by falling wall, will probably die; John Workman, fireman, fell into the building when roof collapsed, body badly crushed, may die; Patrick Patterson, fireman, struck by falling bricks, leg broken; Jeremiah Redcraft, fireman, both ankles broken by falling wall; James Barker, engine contractor, badly injured about head and neck; Sherman P. Quinlan, fireman, leg broken and body badly bruised by falling wall; Harry Goughman, fireman, fell from building, leg badly crushed; two unknown young men struck by falling shutter, badly cut and bruised.

The fire originated in the basement of the building and spread with such rapidity that within a few minutes it had become utterly useless for the firemen to attempt to save the structure. After a hard fight they managed to confine the flames to the Williams block, but they were able to save nothing in it.

The total damage to the building and contents is estimated at \$286,000.

Horses Perish in Flames.

TOLEDO, Jan. 27.—The explosion of a gasoline stove in the harness room of Joseph Popp's livery barn caused a destructive fire, which killed several horses and blooded horses were suffocated by the smoke, while 20 others were so badly burned that the majority of them will have to be shot. The total loss will aggregate \$50,000 in horses, carriages and harness and \$8,000 on building. The thermometer stood three degrees below zero during the progress of the fire.

Children Burned to Death.

CLEARFIELD Pa., Jan. 27.—Four small colored children named Webb were burned to death in a fire which destroyed a double dwelling house at Curwensville near here. The house was occupied by the Webbs and another colored family, all of whom escaped in safety except the little ones. The building was owned by the Elk Tanning company, which has a large factory at the same place by fire Monday.

Workmen Burned to Death.

JACKSON, O., Jan. 27.—The Star furnace has been destroyed by fire, caused by a heavy fire. Hugh Harrison and Frank Davis, workmen, were burned to death.

CUBA'S DUAL VICTORY

A SPANISH WARSHIP CAPTURED AND A GARRISONED TOWN TAKEN.

Hand to Hand Conflict in Which the Patriots Again Demonstrate Their Valor. Weyler Narrowly Escapes Being Captured—Spanish Troops Routed.

HAVANA, Jan. 25.—In Cayamo, province of Matanzas, near Cardenas, the insurgents, which is now the topic of all Havana. The Spanish gunboat Cometa has been blown up by the Cubans at that place, and the town of Cayamo has been destroyed. The Cometa was one of the fastest gunboats used in the island service by the Spanish navy. She carried two cannon and a crew of men.

The attack made by the insurgents on the gunboat was a surprise. The boat was anchored near the shore, and there was nothing to indicate the possibility of a surprise. A heavy fire from the shore suddenly announced to the Cometa's crew the proximity of the enemy.

The fire was returned immediately, and the Cometa drew nearer land so as to use her guns with greater effect. A few moments later, however, she struck a torpedo and was blown to pieces.

Few men of the crew escaped. It is said here that only six of them are still alive. They surrendered to the insurgents when they reached the shore.

Burned the Town.

The sinking of the gunboat was immediately followed by the attack upon Cayamo. The insurgents used a dynamite gun and explosive bombs with the greatest effect, and the Spanish garrison soon surrendered. Then the patriots reduced the town to ashes.

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Spanish scouts were engaged in the reconnaissance, the firing of some concealed shot was accidentally discharged, giving the alarm to the royal troops.

Before the Spanish advance guard recovered from its surprise the rebels, seeing that their plan had partially failed, rushed from their places of concealment and attacked the enemy with great fury, inflicting severe loss in their resistance onslaught. So bold in fact was the insurgent column that it pursued the rapidly retreating Spaniards to a point almost within range of the troops in General Weyler's main body and easily within the compass of a field glass if the captain general had cared to inspect the dispersal of his own soldiers.

Weyler May Fight a Duel.

KEY WEST, Jan. 26.—A duel between General Weyler and Admiral Navarro is expected in Havana in consequence of the reported loss of the gunboat Cometa. There has been friction between them on account of the navy's poor work, and General Weyler's enthusiastic comments on this loss of a vessel are said to have increased the ill feeling. When they met last, a personal collision is said to have been averted only by the interference of officers present.

WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS.

Susan B. Anthony Opens the National Convention With an Address.

DES MOINES, Jan. 27.—The National American Woman Suffrage annual meeting opened here with a fair attendance. Seventeen states were represented.

Rachel Foster Avery, corresponding secretary, reported over 3,000 articles published during the past year in nearly 700 papers and read by more than 1,000,000 people in 49 states. Although the national headquarters at Philadelphia had done good work during the past year at an expense of \$1,300, she recommended the resignation of the headquarters to New York to co-operate with the national organization.

Susan B. Anthony, president, delivered her annual address. It was devoted largely to a statement of the work in California, which she regarded as very satisfactory. She said that California's defeat is simply victory deferred, for the legislature is sure to resumat an amendment, and they will be victorious in November, 1908. Nevada, Oregon, Washington and

Montana are also likely to have suffrage campaigns, and prospects for success are good. She urged a more thorough local organization for the education of the voters.

"What we need," she said, "is house educational work throughout every precinct. We may carry amendments without education of this kind, but we are not likely to."

AGAINST THE TRUSTS.

A Bill to Abolish Them Introduced in the New Jersey Legislature.

TRENTON, Jan. 26.—Another effort will be made this year to pass an antitrust bill. Senator Daly has introduced a bill in the senate the purpose of which is to declare illegal all trusts combinations or pools intended to fix fictitious prices on the necessities of life.

The bill is the same as that introduced in the house last year by Mr. Allen and which was smothered to death at the investigation of the score or more big trusts existing under New Jersey law.

The state of New Jersey is the home of nearly all the large trusts in the United States—that is, the state in which their charters are granted—and there is no law to prevent them.

Mr. Daly's bill provides that all trusts, combinations, pools, agreements or arrangements between persons for the purpose of buying, selling or fixing the price upon any article of merchandise shall be declared to be a conspiracy to defraud and unlawful and against public policy.

Any person or persons connected with or in any wise conducting such pools or trusts shall be subjected, upon conviction, to a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not less than two years or more than five years.

The bill is in the hands of the committee on corporations. Senator Daly proposes to push the bill until it is disposed of in some manner.

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