

CIRCUMSTANTIAL "DEATHS" A REVOLUTION IN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The simplest and only really effective way to avoid all earthly troubles, is to die. And the next best method is to appear to die. History is full of instances of prominent men who, either to foil their enemies, or to avoid the consequences of some rash act, quietly disappeared and settled off in some far country after their faithful followers had buried them in effigy with full ceremony.

Indeed, there is a story to the effect that Charles Stuart Parnell, the great Irishman, lived long after he had died. Throughout Ireland an impression prevails among the peasantry that the celebrated leader and statesman, is still in the land of the living, and during the South African war it used to be related among the poorer classes of the Emerald Isle that he was identical with the elusive and mysterious Boer general, De Wet.

It is alleged that Parnell, when he found that by marrying Mrs. O'Shea he had not made, but married the position of the ambitious and wonderful brilliant woman to whom he had been so devotedly attached; when he realized that he could no longer rely upon the loyalty and discipline of his followers; and he became convinced that his existence after the scandal in connection with the O'Shea divorce constituted a source of weakness to the cause of his beloved country, which would derive advantage from his disappearance—he resolved to vanish, either forever, or at any rate until such time when Ireland had obtained her own government. It is added that the coffin purporting to contain his remains holds nothing but a mere lay figure, or sand, and that, having shaved off his beard, he had made his escape in the guise of a priest without any difficulty whatever. This story has been ridiculed and denounced as preposterous by some of the former political associates of the great Irish leader; but for all that it is widely believed among the peasantry and lower classes generally throughout the Emerald Isle.

Police annals in America contain records of many attempts at bogus burials. In most instances the underlying motif is the collection of insurance monies. A man sees financial ruin staring him in the face. His life is insured for a big sum. What easier way to escape it all than to appear to die, disappear, and then live in peace and quiet in some far off country on the proceeds of his insurance after his faithful wife has joined him? However, the red tape surrounding burials these days are such that very few of these attempts succeed.

People sometimes have recourse to bogus burials to protect black sheep members of their families from the ignominy of public trial, conviction, and imprisonment, in cases where they have misbehaved themselves under the criminal law. The authorities are willing to wink at the deception in some cases, since it has the effect of bringing about the civic if not the material death of the offender.

Seven years ago one of the best known and highly respected firms of family lawyers in London failed, involving in ruin many houses of the British aristocracy which for generations had entrusted to it the management of their estates and the administration of their monied interests. One of the two members of the firm, who remained in London to face the proceedings, explained in the court of bankruptcy that the insolvency of his firm was through no fault of his own, but was due entirely to the dishonesty and defalcation of his partner and relative, whom he swore had left the country, and hid died in Germany.

Certificates were produced to show that the man's remains had been brought back to England, and duly buried at Bushy. Subsequently the creditor ascertained that the partner reported dead was alive and well in the south of Europe, and warned that steps were being taken to obtain his extradition, he fled in time to South Africa, where he survives to this day.

In the olden days—and not so very olden, either—these things were accomplished with a great deal more ease. That Theobald, Duke of Praslin, survived for several decades his alleged suicide in prison at Paris, and his entombment, is pretty generally known on both sides of the Atlantic. He had been thrown into jail charged with the murder of his wife, daughter and heiress of the French Field Marshal Sebastiani, whom he was accused of having hacked to pieces with a sword. The motive of the crime was ascribed to his desire to wed his children's beautiful governess. The latter, with her reputation absolutely clear from any voluntary connection with the crime, or even of having encouraged the attentions of her employer, came to this country immediately afterward, married the Rev. Dr. Henry Field of New York, and now rests in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Before the Duke could be brought to trial in a court composed of the Chamber of Peers, it was suddenly announced that he had "done justice to himself," as they say in France; namely, that he had killed himself, by means of arsenic, in deference, it was said, to the entreaties of his kinsmen and fellow peers, who besought him thus to preserve both his name and his caste, from the disgrace that would fall upon both if he should be convicted of so shocking a crime and die the death of a felon at the hand of the public executioner. Some skepticism was expressed at the time as to whether the story of the Duke's suicide was really true; but the revolu-

tion in 1848, which drove King Louis Philips from the throne, followed not long afterward, and had the effect of diverting the attention of people from the matter.

Among well-known people whose death had been doubted is that of the Earl of Aylesford, who was supposed to have died in Texas, and of the gifted William Henry Hurbert, who died in the nick of time to save him from arrest. And there are many others.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE TRACTOR

The principal use to which a tractor is devoted is farm work. When the first came on the market a few years ago they were driven entirely by steam engines. This was very expensive and of course helped to discourage the sale of them. Finally the gasoline engine was applied to the tractor and then it was realized that the "passing of the horse" would eventually be a fact and not a myth.

The war then came and the tractor was given a chance to prove its real value in many places and of course made good, like its brother worker, the truck.

There are approximately 92 tractor manufacturers in the United States today. They are practically all doing good business and have good opportunities before them.

Labor shortage on the farms gave the tractor one of the greatest chances and it made good. Indications point that farm labor will again give the tractor a big chance for work this year. The tractor is inexpensive and gives excellent service.

For field work the tractor is used principally for hauling, plowing, cultivating, harrowing, discing, etc. For stationary work a pulley is provided to which a belt is attached, therefore enabling it to do cutting, feeding, grinding, shelling, shedding, threshing and pumping.

The tractor engine is in many ways similar to an automobile engine. It has the same ignition, timing gears, valves and other small parts, but is heavier and runs much slower.

Usually a tractor is started on gas and run until the engine gets hot, then the feeding gear is switched off to a kerosene tank and kerosene is used. When using kerosene the oil in the crank case should be changed at least every 20 hours of running time.

Tractors are geared on an average of two and three-quarter miles in high speed and two miles in low speed. They are geared to two and three-quarter miles hourly in reverse also.

STOCKYARDS FIGURES SHOW GAIN IN LIVES TOCK BUSINESS

How the live stock business at stockyards has jumped in recent years is shown by comparisons recently made by the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Since 1900, the smallest number of cattle received at Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis, Sioux City, St. Joseph and St. Paul in any year was about 7,200,000 in 1914. The number advanced strongly to more than 12,900,000 in 1918, a gain of 80 percent in four years.

The receipts of calves—not included in "cattle"—at the stockyards of Chicago, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Paul and Sioux City increased from 664,000 in 1914 to 1,362,000 in 1918, a gain of 105 percent.

Swine also went to the stockyards of the cities first mentioned above in greater numbers since 1914. From 18,300,000 in that year, the number grew to 25,500,000 in 1918, a gain of 39 percent. The highest number reached in any former year was 22,900,000 in 1908, and the smallest number since 1900 was 14,900,000 in 1910.

The movement of sheep to the stockyards grew from 1,100,000 in 1900 to 14,000,000 in 1913, after which year the number declined to 10,000,000 in 1917, but it jumped to 12,100,000 in 1918, which was close to the average of the last nine years.

DIRECT MARKETING LIMITED

While it may be attractive to a city dweller to believe that he can have a vegetable garden grown for him 100 miles to 150 miles away, place his orders for the cost of a stamp, and have the produce delivered at his door, it should be remembered that not all farm products lend themselves to direct marketing by parcel post. Usually it is impracticable to market such heavy products as potatoes by parcel post, whereas eggs, butter, sausage, poultry, many vegetables and nut meats may frequently be shipped with profit and at a saving to the purchaser. In general, the greater the value a pound the more favorable is the chance for direct marketing.

A NEW BRUSH FOR FARMERS

Recently Mrs. Brown issued an ultimatum which vitally affected the male members of her farm family. She supported the theory that cleanliness and godliness are twin tributes. She maintained that the cleanliness should extend to boots and shoes which come directly from the stable to the kitchen. In a word, Mrs. Brown, in common

THE COUNTRY IS HOPING THAT CONGRESS WILL NOT MORE THAN "CONSIDER" ADOPTION OF SYSTEM

Congress is now considering the advisability of substituting the French metric system for our present system of weights and measures. Following are a couple of the many arguments against the adoption of the system into daily life appearing in a current issue of the Iron Age.

Days would be needed simply to state the number of changes the "metric system would involve." The cost of the war is but a fraction of what would confront the industries of the country. Compulsory legislation in this matter would plunge the nation into economic disorder, wiping out values in billions of dollars.

In domestic life, for instance, grocers' scales would all require new weights, all notched balance beams scrapped and new ones provided. Peck and bushel measures would have to be discarded, the liter being larger than a quart, new retainers would be required while the hectoliter, equal to four-fifths bushels is too large for a practical unit. Prices of all commodities would have to be readjusted to new units.

In shopping the large numbers involved in sizes would be more than confusing. A simple eight by ten photographic dryplate would become a 203 by 254 affair.

Builders would be confronted by a 762 by 2032 millimeter door instead of the present simple standard two foot six by six foot eight. Railroads would have to replace some 100,000 mile posts and change all speed signs and time tables. All land surveys would have to be changed to the new system of figures.

The metric system in itself is simpler than our own in that it deals only in combinations of ten. This is the argument in its favor. The objections are not to the system itself as to the difficulties of supplanting the present system with it. The meter is about three inches longer than a yard and is divided into ten decimeters, 100 centimeters, or 1,000 millimeters. The kilometer is five-eighths of a mile.

The liter is larger than a quart and divisible into ten deciliters, 100 centiliters, or 1,000 milliliters. The kilogramme is equal to about two pounds and is divisible in 100 centigrammes or 1,000 milligrammes.

Reverend Doctor Primrose (stumbling in the hall)—"Your father seems to be sparing of his light."
Little Willie—"Yes sir he's always that way after the gas bill comes in."

with thousands of other farm households wants her men folks to brush or clean their footwear when they come into the house at meal time or at night.

The Browns, father and sons, prefer to wear boots and heavy shoes during inclement weather, using rubber boots only on rainy days. They do not like rubbers because they come off easily in the mud, and also do not stand up well under rough farm usage. Overshoes suit them during the very cold season, but as a rule nine months in the year they wear boots. They formerly tried to brush the boots off every time they entered the house, but often the broom supposed to be kept on the porch would get mislaid with disastrous results to Mrs. Brown's clean floors.

The attention of the Browns and several million other farm families interested in clean footwear is called by the United States Department of Agriculture to an inexpensive three-way porch brush, which can be made at home from three scrubbing or cleaning brushes, or purchased from most supply houses. It consists of three foot brooms which are arranged, one at the bottom and the other two at the sides, in such a way that the foot can be drawn backward and forward through the device so that the dirt and mud will be removed. A strong box of the desired size, with its ends removed makes a good foundation onto the sides of which the side brushes and one on the bottom may be nailed. Obviously no dimension which could be given would be very useful because the size must suit that of the shoes to be cleaned. Since they are so easily constructed one could be made for the men and one for the children, the chief caution being that the side brushes should be close enough together to cause good friction on the shoe as it draws between them. Because of the friction taking place the device should be fastened securely to the doorstep or other firm foundation. If an old-fashioned foot scraper consisting of a piece of metal, were placed beside the broom device it would prove a valuable adjunct.

Some farmers practice the plan of always entering the house through a work room or shed or closet where they remove their boots and don slippers. The objection to this method is that too often at the noon hour the farmer is hurried and neglects to take the time to make the change.

For use on dairy farms, where considerable work in washing milk cans and other dairy utensils is necessary, the wooden or steel soled shoe is recommended, and is inexpensive enough so that the average farmer can get it to good use.

EGG COMPETITION RECORDS

Egg laying competitions in this country are coming in for close examination and there is some discussion on the question of replacement of birds during the contest year. All the contests in the past have allowed the contestants to ship one or more birds, and in case one of the birds in the laying pen should sicken or die, she was replaced by a bird from the reserve. The best layer in the reserve was, of course, placed in the pen to finish out the record. At the Vineland contest the first year, an entire pen of twenty Barred Rock pullets from Massachusetts died from tuberculosis within five months. The entry was replaced by additional birds purchased in New Jersey and the year was finished with a nice record. A breeder who entered in a western contest one year, recently stated that the females which laid the most eggs, whether in the competing pen or in his reserve, were used to make the monthly pen report.

In Australia, at the government's official egg laying competition, a rule debars replacements of birds that die or become incapacitated in any way. This rule has been found to work out satisfactorily. While it is hard for the entrant who has a pen well up in the test to suffer the misfortune of having his chance spoiled by the death or disease of one of his competing birds, the officials feel that if an extra bird were put in as a replacement, credit for the year's production would have to go to seven instead of six birds. This is correct. No poultryman working on his home plant can compete with egg competitions in which substitution and switching of birds is going on.

It may be argued that replacements are only made in case of death, or illness which renders the bird incapable of continuing the race. That matter of conditions is elastic. If the caretaker is particularly proud of one pen and a hen in the pen stops laying, he may find that she is "out of condition." A practical minded poultryman might say that the hen in question had dried up, but the contest d'affaires removes her and substitutes a fresh one from the reserve. These will always be criticized as long as birds that start are not obliged by the rules to finish.

Prof. Harry R. Lewis, director of the Vineland contest, has started this year with the birds that are to finish, and no others. He has placed a ban on substitutes and replacements. —American Poultry Journal.

HOME AND HAPPINESS

Any girl who concludes that her parents' views are out of date or that home conventions are simply so many old-fashioned notions is not nearly as practical as she fondly imagines herself to be. If she longs to get away from home and does accomplish it, thinking that "freedom" will result in bringing her the happiness she craves, she will, and all too soon, be mighty glad to return to her old habitat.

Of this fact we may each individually rest assured:—Contentment is not found in any certain place, in the pursuit of this or that pleasure or in the taking up of work at which we see others succeeding brilliantly. If we do not try to make the best of existing conditions, if we are too indifferent to share our joys, regardless of how tiny or commonplace those may be, then, no matter how far we may roam from our own fireside or how much recognition is showered upon us, we shall never find that wonderful, elusive something called happiness.

Improve, Not Disprove
The girl who gives way to blue or discouraged moods because her home is not as well appointed as other homes to which she is not invited, is nothing of not foolish. Even granting that she does not possess as much in the way of the world's good things as certain of her chums, she had better forget that fact or set to work to make the best of what she has. If she is "handy" with her needle and knows the possibilities of changes, here and there she can very quickly improve things; or, if she will go a step further and give up some useless bit of finery and with this sacrificed amount purchase some piece of dainty furniture for the home, she will be well on the way toward suddenly developing into a resourceful girl much interested in her home.

The maid who must count her allowance carefully can, if she will help out with the home decorations. Nowadays, when needlework is again coming into its own and girls are learning how to conserve and economize, Miss Practicability will quickly turn her spare change, plus time, to good account. It is surprising how a hand worked centerpiece will give an air to a table, even if that table lacks the high polish we admire. But there are any amount of good stains on the market, and a can of this, together with a determination to transform the old lifeless furniture into new, companionable pieces, will work wonders upon any "set," regardless of its age or design.

Very few, perhaps none, of us have everything we want, and, after all, it

is well for us that fate has so arranged matters. Having too much and "going" too must soon pall on the average person. Indeed, the quest for new joys seems to be second nature to most people. It is only after the present golden day flies, never to return, that we suddenly realize we were happy and had every opportunity to share our pleasure if we had not been downright selfish.

I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day.—Abraham Lincoln.

A husband leads a dog's life," said Mr. Gabb. "That's right," agreed Mrs. Gabb. "He growls all day and snores all night."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

SMART GIRL, THIS

To invent fantastic labels for pet dogs may be allowed; but human beings ought not to be put on that level. The most cutting bit of repartee we remember to have heard in recent weeks, says the "Cleveland Plain Dealer," happened out at the Willoughby beach picnic of a certain fraternity to which we belong. A very young man and a very pretty girl were discussing costumes, horseback riding, golf and fudge. The girl said that she could ride, but preferred the old-fashioned side-saddle. She said she thought it more graceful.

"But, really, Miss Z," insisted the very young man, "do you see anything inherently improper in the divided skirt?"

"Nothing whatever, Mr. Q," answered "For instance, I think that you might wear one with perfect propriety."

"Our prof. gave a lecture on 'Metaphysics in Lampsong,' yesterday." "Was there a mixed audience?" "Mixed? I should say there was. No one understood a word he said."—Yale Record.

Mabel described graphically her sensation on striking her elbow on the bed carving; "Oh, mamma," she cried, "I've struck my arm just where it makes stars in my fingers."

Phillip—"Mother, they call the men in Wall Street either 'bulls' or 'bears.'" Which is papa?"

Phillip's Mother—"It's time to go to bed, Phillip."

Phillip—"Well, I only wanted to know whether I was a 'cub' or a 'cat!'"

Nature's financial methods err; They're certainly a blunder; For when we pay our debts to her, She makes us all go under.

It is a rapid musician who can beat time by several seconds.

"Who is mama's little sugar lump?" "A Nautical View—Mamma: "Don't you know that your father is the mainstay of the family?" Freddy: "Golly! ain't he, though? And the spanker, too!"

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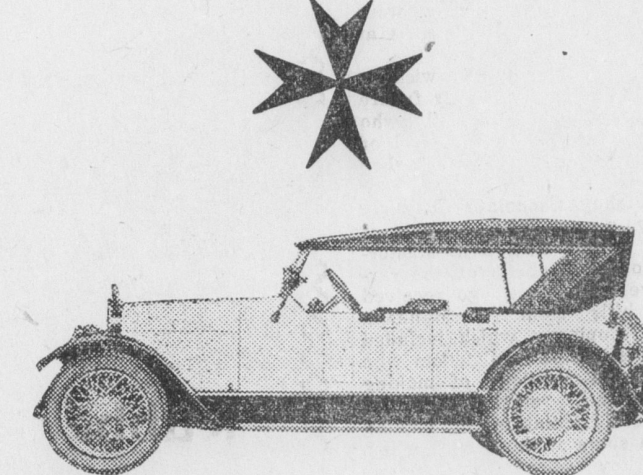
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Student—"Yes, sir."
Professor—"Good! Now, speak up loud. What is it?"
Student (soberly)—"The college faculty."

ReClassification

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