

### An Interrupted Program

By E. Markele.

The afternoon sun was streaming brightly through the Western windows of the top floor chapel of the new penitentiary at P., white with fervent and not unmelancholy voices the assembled convicts were propounding the rhythmical query, "Shall we meet beyond the river?" with an insistence and significance which was later recalled by some of those present, but which passed quite unnoticed at the time. In honor of the opening of the new chapel the rules of the famous penal institution had so far been relaxed as to admit the presence in the commodious organ gallery of the wives, sweethearts and sisters of the members of the Convicts' Aid Association, and of the jailers as well.

To reach the chapel one had to climb six flights of stairs, and past half as many armed guards, who required upon this occasion no "open sesame" other than the mention of the chairman's potent name.

The guests, with the notable exception of Governor H., whose letter of acceptance left some doubt as to his ability to be present, had all reached their seats at the front of the chapel during the singing of the hymn, of which mention has just been made, when a carriage drove up to the penitentiary, from which alighted a gentleman whose dignified bearing hardly needed the confirmation of the identity supplied by the respectful salutation of a couple of gentlemen who awaited his coming, and were graciously introduced by that official to the accompanying members of his suite.

Warden Cuyler blames himself to this day for permitting Doorkeeper Downes—an appointee of the Governor's, by the way—to take that particular Sunday for his day off. Speculation is idle as to what would have been in charge of the main portal of the penitentiary on that memorable afternoon. Certainly no one thought of accusing his alternate of dereliction of duty in admitting, in the guise just described, the noted counterfeiter Wilcox, whose term of imprisonment had expired the week preceding the removal of the prisoners from the old to the new pen, and who was, moreover, supposed to be then in the Far West.

Between the spare, wiry form of the ex-convict and the portly presence of the chief executive of the State there was not less difference than between their respective stations in life, but so cleverly had the former effected his make-up as to deceive, as the sequel proved, even the very elect.

So the board with great promptness and unanimity entirely exonerated the luckless keeper in the searching investigation which followed.

Still less would anyone have suspected Wilcox, whose own term of imprisonment had been materially shortened through his turning State's evidence, of any interest in, or desire to face his unlovely and enraged pals who were at that moment "doing time" through his instrumentality.

Be that as it may, the ponderous doors of the institution had barely closed upon the affable executive and his party, when a distinct and remarkable change became apparent in the bearing of the entire suite.

Presenting a revolver at the head of the astonished sentinel, a pair of bracelets was snapped upon his wrists and a gag inserted between his teeth by the spurious Governor with a noiseless dexterity that left nothing to be desired and communicated to the officials overhead not the slightest intimation of his intentions. Jenks, who was on duty at the head of the first stairway, says he knew from the conversation of the earlier arrivals of the expected advent of the Governor, and was consequently not in the least surprised at the sound of approaching footsteps, and had scarcely turned his head to look at the gentleman addressed as "Governor" when the episode at the front door was with equal precision soundlessly repeated and a second member of the party took up his self-appointed task as the turnkey's successor.

After the third and last guardian of the upper landing had in like manner been summarily ejected from office, the new arrivals paused reverently before the door leading into the chapel pending the conclusion of the somewhat lengthy prayer of the chaplain and it was not until Rev. Ebenezer Howler had fairly started upon the funny story with which he prefaced his intended remarks that the gentlemen quietly entered the room, as though reluctant to disturb the speaker.

Afterward it was remarked that exactly half the party took the left-hand aisle, while the remainder followed the Governor up the opposite one.

The congregation was so intent upon the reverend gentleman's side-splitting remarks that only casual attention was bestowed upon the belated arrivals; otherwise it must have appeared incomprehensible why the visitors, instead of at once taking the seats clearly reserved for them, should pause half way thitherward before the chairs of the half dozen guards scattered about the room, as if awaiting a signal from the Governor. To the credit of the warden be it said, he alone of the entire assembly, with the exception of two deeply interested convicts, "tumbled" to the daring scheme. His eye alone penetrated the disguise of the supposed executive, at whose nearer approach Rev. Mr. Howler abruptly terminated his remarks, while the aged and somewhat near-sighted chairman hastily arose to welcome the tardy chief guest of the occasion.

Half way to his weapon, the warden's hand was arrested and before the most vigilant of the guards could press the emergency call, which would have aroused half the constabulary force of the city, an exchange of firearms for handcuffs had been effected, whereby Wilcox and his allies were in complete command of the situation.

Little attention was paid by the

desperadoes to the guests, who to a man sat shaking in their shoes, too startled to make an outcry, which at that elevation would have been futile, and too ignorant of the location of the signal buttons to render efficient aid, had not the brandished revolvers of the outlaws effectively banished any intentions of that nature.

To the latter circumstance must also be attributed the inaction of the convicts, whose sympathies were of course overwhelmingly with the invaders, as evidenced by the heartiness with which they responded to the leader's suggestion that they "whoop things up with another song" whilst his prison cronies behind the altar curtain were decorously divesting themselves of their prison garb and appropriating the extra suits, which the Governor's alias had found extremely serviceable, and the loss of which effected a complete transformation in that gentleman's subsequent appearance.

To cut off communication with the outside was the work of a few moments, and precious as those moments were, the star performer yet had time for a few "closing remarks," during the course of which he deprecated the necessity which compelled him in self-defense to turn the key upon the assembled gathering and suggested that inasmuch as the services had but barely begun, and were expected to extend far beyond the hour usually devoted to them, it behooved them to make the best of an admittedly awkward situation, for which reason he ventured the hope that the program, unhappily interrupted by him, would be carried out after the departure of himself and friends as previously arranged, assuring the astounded guests and equally helpless guards that the arrival of the relief jailers must eventually release them from their more or less painful predicament. Whatever may have been the intentions of the management regarding the closing services, certain it is that from the moment that Wilcox and his neatly dressed quondam pals smilingly withdrew, and the barred chapel door called convict, custodian and caller alike prisoners, the convicts took complete and undisturbed possession of the exercises.

The closed windows alone prevented the mingled strain of ragtime melodies and burlesque speeches from being wafted streetwards, to the consternation of the neighborhood.

To avoid attracting attention, Wilcox and his two cronies quitted the building alone, leaving the rest of the party to follow at their pleasure. Ten minutes later—thanks to the wigs and other accessories in the waiting carriage—an Hebraic-looking drummer alighted therefrom the Grand Station just in time to catch the Florida Limited, for which his ticket had been previously purchased; his companion, a venerable gentleman whose flowing beard lent a truly patriarchal cast to his countenance, took the Northern Express five minutes later. The third member of the party is believed to have caught an outgoing steamer at the nearest pier. All three have thus far successfully eluded pursuit. The identity of the other members of the party, the last of whom had left the penitentiary fully an hour before the startling condition of affairs was discovered, has never been disclosed.

#### IN A GIANT AUTOMOBILE.

How the Prohibition Spellbinders Are Going to Tour Minnesota.

A giant automobile, with accommodations for a number of "spellbinders," a male quartet, and a brass band, will tour the State of Minnesota during the approaching State campaign. It has been drafted into service by the State central committee of the Prohibition party.

It is their belief that the horseless wagon will "give them the ears" of ten times the number of voters they could hope to reach by the old method of holding meetings in halls and opera houses, and that it will enable their candidates to much more thoroughly cover the territory comprising their several constituencies.

The automobile has four seats, each wide enough to accommodate three persons. On one side, between the wheels, is a small platform for the speaker.

The machine is fitted with a twenty-eight horse power gasoline engine, and with wide, solid rubber traction tires especially adapted to carry the auto over almost any condition of road. It will maintain a speed of from ten to twelve miles an hour on average country roads, and is guaranteed to carry its big load up a 40 cent grade.

The plan of the "cold water people" is to put the machine at work at the State fair at Minneapolis in September, and immediately after to start on a tour of the State. The candidate for governor on the Prohibition ticket, Charles Scanlon, will be with the company most of the time. Towns to be visited will be posted with announcements of the coming of the vehicle.

The campaigners will roll into the town as near schedule time as possible, take a turn around two or three blocks to the blare of their brass band, swing up on the bluest corner, and foist their Prohibition oratory on the voters.

#### An Idea for Weddings.

Of course, the groom must give his ushers some small souvenir of his wedding. This has been the custom for years and years, and many cuff-buttons have been rung on scarf-pins, cuff-buttons, etc. Nothing so original has been heard of in a twelve-month as a groom giving his ushers gold buttons with their initials engraved on them. The very swager thing is to wear white pique or duck waistcoats for weddings, the gold initial buttons making an excellent "set off" for them. The buttons are about the size of a quarter of a dollar, and the initial is deeply cut.—September Woman's Home Companion.

### SEABOARD MAKING MONEY.

The Consolidation Results In Increasing Operating Efficiency.

The Richmond Dispatch of yesterday says: The figures as reported covering the operations of the Seaboard Air Line Company for the fiscal year ending June, 1902, bear out the predictions, which have been made that the consolidation of a number of small lines into one large system would result in increasing operating efficiency. Immediately after the various properties were turned over to the new company and the preliminary figures covering the earnings by months were reported, the management was criticized and the claim was freely made that maintenance was sacrificed to net earnings might be increased.

Comparative Figures.

The figures for the year ending 1902 compared with the previous year, are as follows:

	1902.	1901.
Gross earnings...	\$11,579,815	\$10,929,050
Expenses and taxes...	8,144,219	8,120,861
Net earnings...	\$3,435,576	\$2,808,190

Gross earnings increased \$8,858, and net earnings increased \$626,906 over the preceding year.

For 1901 the surplus for charges was \$329,659, which was equal to 1.5 per cent. on the preferred stock; adding to this surplus the increase as shown for the year just passed gives a surplus of \$956,565, which is equal to 4.8 per cent. on the preferred stock. The amount of increase in surplus is just about equal to the amount of increase in gross earnings, so the management succeeded in handling a larger traffic without increasing expense over the preceding year. As a general proposition, this would be impossible and still maintain the integrity of the plant.

Disproportionate Figures.

It is a fact which cannot be got away from that the cost of handling traffic is or should be exactly proportionate to the amount of traffic. But this rule, like all other rules, has exceptions, or perhaps is capable of explanation. To prove that it should cost more to have a certain additional amount of traffic, it must first be proved that the smaller amount was handled with economy. The present Seaboard Air Line system is comparatively short lines, which, prior to the consolidation, served only local territory, and the properties were operated only with a view of handling such local traffic. After consolidation conditions were changed, through service was established and through business developed; traffic originating, for instance on a Southern division, became, after connecting links were completed and in operation, through traffic of a Northern division. The management was enabled, to load trains heavier and so get better service out of the locomotives.

Has Established Itself.

As a measure of comparative efficiency of the operations of one property from year to year, it is a good guide, but ever here it must be used with a careful knowledge and consideration of changed conditions.

The Seaboard system has established itself and has demonstrated that its financial organization was made on a sound basis and with a careful consideration on the traffic which would offer. The proposed extension to Birmingham will furnish it with an entirely new class of traffic and will add to its general traffic strength from a strategic standpoint as well as increase the earnings of the line.

#### THINGS FOUND IN STONE.

All Sorts of Animals Have Been Discovered in Fossil Formations.

Not only eggs, but birds, too, have been found entombed in stone. One of the greatest treasures in the National Museum at Berlin is a slab of white lithographic slate in which is embedded the complete skeleton of an extraordinary bird called "archaeopteryx." As this is the oldest bird in the earth's history yet found by geologists, great significance is attached to the many peculiarities noticeable in the skeleton.

Another astonishing discovery made by those who search for things in stone is that sea serpents were at one time very common in all our oceans. These pythonomorphs, as they are called, were genuine sea serpents, and had long, snake like bodies, with forelimbs modified into flat paddles, like a dolphin's. Uncanny brutes they must have been, for they actually attained the length of sixty feet in some cases and were undoubtedly very rapid swimmers. Their skulls and jaws were particularly massive, and their voracious habits must have made them a veritable terror to all their marine contemporaries.

But these are things which are not met with every day, and which a person with a little leisure and a hammer is not likely to find in every quarry. However, there are many things of great interest to be found in stone almost anywhere if people care to look for them.

Fossil fish, for example, are exceedingly abundant in some beds of rock. Still commoner fossils, met with almost anywhere, are the shells of mollusks of different kinds. Most of them differ very little in general appearance from the sea shells one finds along any shore at the present day. Others, again belong to mollusks which are no longer represented in our seas.

Always Keep Your Word.

If you promise the children anything, reward or punishment, keep your word. The little wondering eyes and the little busy brains are always "sizing people up." Mine sized me up, and soon found out, to quote one whose words would never be forgotten, that I should fight it out on that line if it took all summer, so they concluded to yield, and gave me very little trouble after they had once learned their lesson. If one threatens and does not perform, the conflicts between the will of parent and child occur daily, and life becomes one continual warfare. The parent's nervous system is ruined and the child's confidence in the parent's truthfulness is gone.—Carolyn Mayhew Speake in Good Housekeeping.

### BOGUS SPANISH FORTUNES

(Continued From Page Nine.)

want," he wrote back. "Please explain more fully what part in this affair I am to play. If you really need money please say so."

On the afternoon of the day he posted this letter a bulky envelope from Spain arrived in South Boston. It was covered with stamps and registered. Within were two imposing legal documents signed and sworn to before a notary in Madrid. One was a copy of the last will and testament of Luis Rodriguez Walsh and the other the appointment as guardian of the beautiful Mary.

Both papers were well plastered with stamps and bore seals and signatures enough to impress anyone, and more than that, throughout both documents the name of Mr. Walsh appeared at various intervals inscribed in gold gothic letters and in each case he was mentioned as Don James Walsh.

Accompanying these alleged court papers were clippings from Madrid newspapers detailing the death of Señor Don Luis Rodriguez Walsh, who was committed to jail for striking an officer and a long article told of his funeral procession.

Translations of the documents and alleged newspaper clippings were inclosed in order that Mr. Walsh might not be put to the trouble of having them changed into English.

"It will now be only necessary for you to send the money for the payment of the processes and for the expenses of your ward to America," wrote the Rev. Pascual Martinez, "and we will start at once for your home with the baggage which poor Mr. Luis for some reason seemed most anxious that you should have."

"I have been able to secure an extension of time from the authorities who hold the baggage, and when you send the money it will be released at once."

The last communication was supposed to put the finishing touch to any doubt that Mr. Walsh may have had and that he would not hesitate any longer to send the much-wanted banknotes.

But Mr. Walsh is not buying any gold bricks, and he decided to get along without the charmed trunk, the \$500,000 and the beautiful, coquettish Mary.

This scheme with which the Spanish girl, priest and political prisoner tried to decoy a few hundred dollars from the pocket of Mr. Walsh is one of the most complete and cleverly planned bunco games ever devised.

It is being worked with success year in and year out and although hundreds refuse to be trapped many fall into the net of the swindlers to the tune of thousands of dollars each year.

It is said that a syndicate of Spaniards, aided by confederates in this country and fugitives from the United States courts, guides the destinies of the swindlers' syndicate.

About two years ago a wholesale attempt was made to fleece 10 men out of money in and about Boston, but owing to an exposure at that time the plans of the schemers in Madrid, with their fictitious prisoner, priest and pretty maiden, fell to dust.

Mr. Walsh is preserving his memories of old Madrid with much care.

It is expected that other cases of a similar nature will come to light, now that Mr. Walsh has given publicity to his experiences.

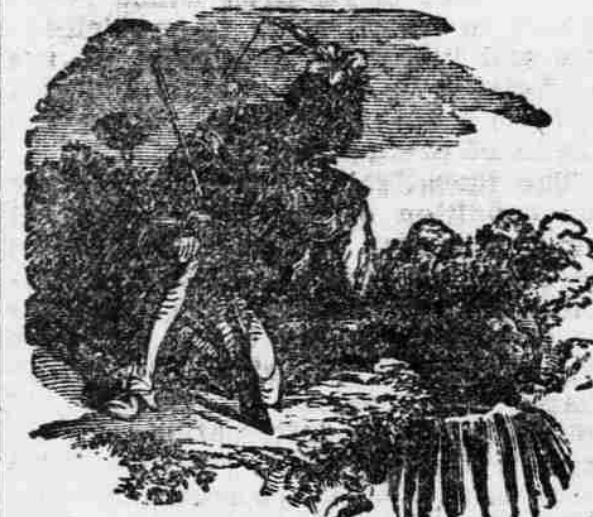
#### Watermelon Cones.

A pretty innovation has appeared in our city in the serving of watermelons. They have not been brought to the table in those huge wedges we know so well, but served in the daintiest looking red cones instead. When piled on a bed of shaved ice these cones look as if a deal of art and a separate fruit cutter had gone into their creation. In reality nothing could be easier to do. The only instrument used is a pewter or silver spoon. This is firmly imbedded in the melon pulp and turned once or twice in a circle. A charming little cone is the result. By grading the size of one's spoons it is possible to produce cones of various sizes and cut every morsel of the soft pulp in this form. A pyramid with the small cones on top surrounded by shaved ice and grape leaves is lovely. A favorite way of serving cantaloupe at present is cut in half and filled with vanilla ice cream.—Good Housekeeping.

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