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CURIOUS BITS OF HISTORY
 By A. W. Macy.
 A STRENUOUS LOVER.

When William of Normandy was a youth of nineteen he fell violently in love with his cousin Matilda, daughter of the Duke of Flanders. The young lady, however, did not reciprocate his affection with equal ardor, though she seems to have entertained a kindly feeling for him. She kept him waiting for seven long years, and would not give him a final answer. The suspense was very trying to one of William's impetuous temperaments, and he finally decided to bring matters to a crisis. Meeting her in the street one day, in company with some of her friends, he seized her and threw her in the mud, with disastrous results to both her dignity and her fine clothes. So humiliated was she, so the story goes, that she consented to become his wife without further delay.

(Copyright, 1911, by Joseph E. Bowles.)

Raleigh is killing the flies. Did Joe Daniels start the movement? If so, good bye old fly.

Some people in North Carolina are attempting to make excuses for the actions of Senator Simmons. Those who are undertaking the job, are surely loading themselves. He is heavy to carry before the people who believe in the principles of Democracy. Why adopt a platform for the whole if each man is permitted to promulgate his own doctrines? Simmons needs an object lesson along this line and, no doubt, will be given one.

Warm times are promised to the North Carolina folks, as it is intimated that Locke Craig will be opposed in the fight for the governorship, and then there is being raised another discussion about Marshal Ney, the question of whose identity is supposed to have been settled years ago. These two questions are widely apart for one struts politics and the other literary folks. Craig's admirers will have a few more things to say and do before he gets in the mansion at Raleigh, it would seem. It is hoped that there will be no such wrangle as in the last campaign.

The retirement of Rev. A. C. Jenkins, a noted Baptist minister, will bring regret not only to his Church but to many of other creeds. He had set the limit of his ministry, and after that he would embark in a literary career. Already he is the author of several books. When one considers the action of Mr. Jenkins and the many others of all denominations all over the world, who give up a life of service to the cause of the Master and go into secular affairs, it is not surprising that the world is filled with men and women who doubt and sneer at religion. Men are after fame and filthy lucre and the lowly walk of the servant of God rarely brings the one or the other.

Interest in Hookworm Disease
 The physicians of the State are manifesting increased interest in the crusade against hookworm disease. Two-thirds of them have supplied information concerning the prevalence of the disease in their practice,

and one-half of them have used the State Laboratory of Hygiene to have examinations made, and practically an equal number have treated anywhere from one to several hundred cases. So keenly are they alive in some counties that they are constantly distributing literature about the disease and its prevention where it will do good. Many have appeared before the county boards of commissioners to secure aid in the establishment of the rural free dispensaries for the examination and treatment of the disease. Dr. Wickliffe Rose, Administrative Secretary of the Hookworm Commission, who visited the State Medical Society at its recent meeting in Charlotte, spoke in the highest terms of the unusually high type of men who constituted the assembly. When the physicians of the State are seen and known one will expect and receive their untiring and unselfish support in every movement for the uplift of the people.

Kill More Than Wild Beasts
 The number of people killed yearly by wild beasts don't approach the vast number killed by disease germs. No life is safe from their attacks. They're in air, water, dust, even food. But grand protection is afforded by Electric Bitters, which destroy and expel these deadly disease germs from the system. That's why chills, fever and ague, all malarial and many blood diseases yield promptly to this wonderful blood purifier. Try them, and enjoy the glorious health and new strength they'll give you. Money back, if not satisfied. Only 50c at Saunders & Fowden.

Talk Your Town
 The past several years of successive bad crops have left the citizens of Williamston down in the dumps. We have formed the habit of kicking and knocking until it seems that we do not know what else to do. The prospects are for the best crops we have had for years.

Now let us right-about-front and become boosters. Organize a Chamber of Commerce or Boosting Committee. Let this committee advertise the good qualities of the town, and hush the knocker whenever and wherever he may be found. Visitors judge you by the reputation you give yourself. "Strangers do not care to come to a city that does not believe in itself, hurrah about itself and bestir itself."

Williamston has a low freight rate and natural advantages for a number of enterprises, such as cotton mills, knitting mills, cotton seed oil mill, ice factory, peanut mill, box and veneer factory, furniture plant and numerous others.

Let us stop whining high taxes, get some factories to help pay the taxes and the rate would go lower.

The competition in this line is strong, other towns are after these enterprises and you need not expect the factories to locate here unless you seek them.

Now is the time to organize, get your committee in working shape and be ready to go after business when the prosperous fall season comes.

Put On New Life. What Do You Say?
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Escaped with His Life
 "Twenty-one years ago I faced an awful death," writes H. B. Martin, Port Harrelson, S. C. "Doctors said I had consumption and the dreadful cough I had looked like it, sure enough. I tried everything, I could hear of, for my cough, and was under the treatment of the best doctor in Georgetown, S. C. for a year, but could get no relief. A friend advised me to try Dr. King's New Discovery. I did so, and was completely cured. I feel that I owe my life to this great throat and lung cure." Its positively guaranteed for coughs, colds, and all bronchial affections. 50c and \$1.00 Trial bottle free at Saunders & Fowden.

Washington Letter
 By Clydie H. Tavennor

Did President Taft throw open Controller bay under conditions especially designed to permit the Horgan-Guggenheim interests—and no other—to gobble up this richest of the Alaska land prizes before anyone else could have a chance to file?

This is the big important question to which the House committee on expenditures in the interior department is seeking an answer.

If such was not the deliberate plan of the administration, why were these lands thrown open by such unusual procedure—by a secret executive order instead of by proclamation?

Another query: If there was no conspiracy between the administration and the big exploiting interests, how does it come that Speculator Ryan, supposed agent of the Morgan Guggenheim, alone knew of the issuance of President Taft's secret (?) order and was able to file a soldiers' scrip on 160 rods of Controller bay water front within three days after President Taft signed the order eliminating the land from the national forest and before any other man could have known of the order?

Another extraordinary feature of the case is this: The unvariable rule had been to give 60 days' notice before any claimant could file on this land, but, according to Mr. Dennett of the General Land Office, when the President's order first came to him the 60 day provision was put in, and when he next saw the order there was no time allowed whatever for notice to the public—not even a day.

That there was actually an understanding between the administration and the men who were to profit through the President's amazing secret order is not a state of affairs so remarkable to those who have been closely following things in Washington. There have been precedents exactly paralleling such a performance. When the railroad regulation bill was sent to the last Congress by the President the public was in absolute ignorance of its contents. But the fact developed later that although the President had not seen fit to take the public into his confidence, he had allowed the railroad interests, not only to suggest the lines along which the bill should be framed, and to load it with jokers against the public interest, but to actually pass upon and O. K. the bill before the people were even permitted to know that its preparation was contemplated.

Before the investigation into this newest Alaska land jugglery is finished it promises to develop a condition of affairs beside which the attempted theft of Alaska coal lands is inconsequential.

The probe is in charge of Representative James H. Graham of Illinois, one of the really big men in the Democratic house, whose career from the very first day he entered Congress has stamped him as a man above partisanship and one especially qualified by service on the Ballinger investigating committee to make the inquiry he is now so conscientiously engaged in.

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Love Finds Another Way

If anyone had told Gertrude Lee that she had prolonged her stay a month at the beach for the sole reason of waiting for a proposal from George Elmore, that young lady would have denied the allegation indignantly. That George Elmore was hopelessly in love with Gertrude was a self-evident fact.

Two months previously, Mr. Elmore had met the attractive Miss Lee at a resort in Virginia and later had followed her to Atlantic City. He was her constant companion.

Elmore and two friends Victor Harrison and Charlie Travers three months previous had spent a Sunday on the water. They had been class mates at Yale ten years ago and none of the trio had married. After joking on the subject for some time, Charlie Travers, who was full of romance, said:

"Well, boys, I've got a proposition to make. One of us has got to get married soon or luck is against us. Let's each draw and the one to whom the lot falls must stand by the bargain. Now, here is the proposition—he must put in a bottle of slip of paper on which must be written that the finder will learn something to his advantage if he communicates with a given address. The bottle must be consigned to the water and the sender must wait a year before he can consider himself free from the obligation. If the person who finds the bottle is an unmarried woman it will prove that matrimony is for one of us."

"Capital," cried Victor. "Splendid," came from Elmore. The lots were cast with the result that Elmore found himself the hero of the romance. He gave the address of his New York lawyers and after much merriment the bottled message was borne off on the waves.

After this little episode, Gertrude Lee and her aunt came to the beach for a few weeks and stayed at the same cottage as did Elmore.

The old, old story was the result. Many a time the words were on Elmore's lips to ask Gertrude to be his wife but always the vision of a bottle floating on the waves held them back. He was bound in honor not to speak of love to a woman for a year. He was afraid to confess to Gertrude how silly he had been for he did not know how she would look upon the matter. Yet some explanation to the girl was most assuredly due.

A letter was pushed under the door. It was from Brown & Burton, his lawyers, enclosing the fatal news. It came in the shape of a short note written in an uneducated hand by Miss Marie Bonner, who expressed her willingness to learn anything to her advantage, as the finder of the bottle.

It took no adept to discern from the letter that Marie Bonner was a person of no culture and belonged to the great army that constitutes the masses. Had she the combined charms of Venus and of Helen of Troy, Elmore would not have felt compensated for the loss of Gertrude.

In this state of mind Elmore dressed for dinner. Afterwards he saw Gertrude and the two sat on the plaza of the hotel.

"Do you think it is bad luck to give away what one finds?" asked Gertrude.

"I most decidedly do. It is an old superstition that I have great respect for," replied Elmore.

"I never have found anything of value in all my life, in fact I never really found anything but once and I have often wondered how it turned out."

"What do you mean? Was it a curio?"

"Not in the sense you mean. I was down in Virginia at the beach where I met you. I knew a very few people at first, so every morning early I would take my maid with me for a walk along the shore. One morning I saw a bottle that was washed up by the tide and I stooped and picked it up. The bottle was tightly sealed and inside I could see writing on a slip of paper. Full of curiosity we lost no time in getting the message out of the bottle to find only a request that the finder communicate with some law firm on Broadway and presumably get a reward."

Elmore could scarcely restrain his anxiety. What of Marie Bonner? Was she a fake or could this have been a similar adventure to his own?

"How did it turn out?"

"That is just what I would like to know."

"Didn't you write to the Broadway lawyer?"

"O, no; instead I just turned the slip over to Marie and told her to try her luck when she returned to New York. Marie left last week."

"Marie!" cried Elmore, excitedly. "What was her last name?"

"Marie Bonner, my maid. Why—what is the matter?" asked Gertrude as she noticed the sudden change in Elmore.

It did not take him many moments to appreciate the fact that the actual finder of the bottled message was the beautiful girl at his side. Nor did he lose time in making the most of his discovery.

When Gertrude Lee left for New York next morning it was as the affianced wife of George Elmore.

Marie Bonner was duly recompensed through the lawyers with a check for a neat little sum. Neither she nor her mistress ever suspected the part that Elmore played in the romance of the bottle.

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