

Daily News Religious Department

Edited by L. L. Nash, D. D.

"MARK TWAIN."

Samuel L. Clemens, who is better known all over the world by his pen name, "Mark Twain," died recently at his home, "Stormfield," honored and lamented by the whole world. He was a unique character and the greatest humorist of his time. His humor was clean and his writings were all innocent, instructive and full of the best of humor. He had caused more innocent smiles than any writer or lecturer that ever lived. He was a philosopher as well as a humorist, and we shall hardly see his like again.

The best thing about Mr. Clemens was his tender, affectionate heart. He lost his wife a few years ago, and the beautiful epitaph he put on her tomb shows the tenderness of his heart. There is not a more tender and affectionate expression in any language than this little poem. I do not know that it is his own composition. I have seen the statement that he said it was not original. Here it is, "a thing of beauty," if not "a joy forever":

"Warm summer sun, Shine kindly! Warm southern wind, Blow lightly here! Green grass above, Lie light, lie light! Good night, dear heart! Good night! Good night!"

Not long ago his daughter died suddenly, and he never recovered from the shock of her death. It is said he died of a broken heart. He went to Bermuda with the hope of recovering his health, but did not improve, and came home to die. After lingering a few days in his beloved "Stormfield" home he quietly fell asleep and went to join his own loved ones in the eternal world. We hope that the gentle humorist is at rest in the home of the good.

The great layman's missionary movement of all the evangelical churches of the world is waking up an interest in the spread of the gospel at home as well as abroad. The churches are being aroused to the great importance of evangelizing our own home land. The salvation of America is the greatest work before the church today. It is the most difficult, for the influx of foreign emigrants is making the evangelization of America the hardest task before the church.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH

This body will convene in Asheville, N. C., on Wednesday, May 4, for the first time on North Carolina soil. Methodism made its first conquests in the southern states of the union, and the first annual conference after the organization of the church, in 1784, was held in North Carolina at the residence of Green Hill, in Franklin county. The house where this first annual conference was held is still standing, a few miles south of Louisburg. But there has never

been a session of the general conference held in the state, and the assembling of the approaching general conference in Asheville will be a notable occasion, not only to the Methodist people, but to the people of the state generally.

Matters of great importance to the church will be considered by this conference. The general conference is the law-making body of the church, and meets every four years. The bishops are elected by this body, and other legislation that affects the general work of the church is enacted. Many important questions will come up for consideration. It is generally conceded that several new bishops will be elected, six having died since the last session—Duncan Greenberry, Smith, Tigert, Duncan, Ward and Galloway. Two of the active bishops are advanced in years, and cannot reasonably be expected to be able to do effective work much longer. The general conference will not only elect the bishops, but decide how many they will elect. The general opinion is that there will not be less than six elected. But no one is authorized to say how many the conference will elect.

The bishops now living and in active service, are A. W. Wilson, of Baltimore, Md.; Eugene R. Hendrix, of Kansas City, Mo.; Joseph S. Key, of Sherman, Tex.; Warren A. Candler, of Atlanta, Ga.; Henry C. Morrison, of Leesburg, Fla.; E. E. Hess, of Nashville, Tenn.; and James Atkins, of Waynesville, N. C. Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald, of Nashville, Tenn., is superannuated.

Extensive preparation is being made at Asheville for the entertainment of the body, and no doubt the beautiful mountain city, in "the land of the sky," will be crowded during the sessions.

In 1844, just 66 years after the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church, the church was divided and the Methodist Episcopal church, south, was organized. The question of slavery was the occasion of the division, and for 66 years the two great bodies of Episcopal Methodism have been working under the jurisdiction of separate general conferences. The question of organic union of the two bodies has often been discussed, but there are many difficulties in the way of organic union. While the question of slavery, that caused the division of the church has been settled, there are other matters that make organic union impracticable. The churches have grown so large that a general conference of Episcopal Methodism, represented in one general conference, would be a very unwieldy body, unless the ratio of representation was very greatly reduced. Besides this, while the fundamental principles of Methodism have not changed and both the churches hold practically the same doctrines, 66 years of separate work has brought about such a difference in administration that it would be impracticable to bring the two churches together in one general conference.

If a plan of federation, under a federal council, could be agreed upon, it would

bring about practical organic union, and wonderfully strengthen Methodism, especially in the great west.

It is believed that the M. E. church, south, is ready for such a federation but the M. E. church does not take kindly to the idea. They seem to think that such a federation would result in a division rather than a union of Methodism. They are in favor of the M. E. church, south, coming back into the bosom of the M. E. church, and excepting Methodism as they have it; but they are not willing to make such concessions to the southern branch as will preserve the methods of administration and the history of the M. E. church, south, as held by them. There can never be any organic union of the two bodies without some concession of each to the other.

A federation, under a general council, would meet the exigencies of the case, and remove the last vestige of discord between the two great churches and greatly strengthen them in the one work for which they stand—"spreading scriptural holiness over these lands."

Among the live issues that will engage the attention of the conference will be the question of admitting the women to all the rights and powers of laymen in the church. This does not strike some of the older men in the church as the best thing for the women, but the times have so changed that the old-time quietly retiring modesty of the southern women is giving place to an aggressiveness that places women alongside of her brothers, and she is demanding the privilege of having her say in the church. She believes that her condition is very different from the condition of the women in St. Paul's day, whose silence in the church he commanded.

The questions of removing the time limit, and the introducing of more democratic methods of administration, will also come to the front. But the general conferences in the past have been very conservative bodies, and there is no need to fear that the approaching session will be less so.

RELIGION FOR MEN

Present Demand for a Replenishment of Churches With Masculine Virtues. (Editorial in Century.)

In the shifting conditions of modern life thoughtful minds are pondering the best ways of adapting church machinery to new problems. One of the features of the present awakening of religious interest is the demand for a replenishment of the churches with the masculine virtues. The demand is not premature. The census shows that in most of the denominations the women outnumber the men nearly two to one. The Christian Scientists, naturally enough, lead off with the largest percentage of women; in that communion the "mother" element might be expected to prevail. The highest percentage of men is found in some of the Lutheran divisions, which may be explained in part by the fact that all the children, male and female, are required to learn the catechism and be confirmed; but it is doubtful whether the proportion of adult males in actual service of the church is larger among the Lutherans than among the other sects.

Various explanations of this disproportion of sex are offered. It is sometimes intimated that the types of religion presented by the churches are more adapted to the feminine than to the masculine mind; but if that were true it would still be questionable whether it was a cause or a consequence. Some light is thrown upon the question by the fact that the church is not the only field of activity in which we find a large preponderance of women. Public education is largely in the hands of women; they are giving to the fine arts far more attention than men, and among our philanthropic workers they are in a heavy majority. The spiritual side of civilization that they find little time for these higher pursuits. The consequences of this neglect by men of the superior interests of their lives we have been reaping the appalling infidelities and dishonesties which have recently been uncovered. It is true that the men have been dropping out of the churches and losing their interest in religious matters, and it does not look as though this were working well. In the quarters where this tendency has been most shown there has clearly been a marked decrease in masculine morality. It begins to be questionable whether sound character is likely to be sustained apart from the spiritual ideals.

If it be evident that the men need religion, it is not less evident that religion needs the men. God made mankind in His image, male and female; the feminine qualities represent one side of the divinity that is in us and the masculine qualities another, and the complete revelation requires both. A church which is two-thirds women can not fully represent this divine life; it can not make a true impression of the great realities of religion upon the community in which it stands. There can be no doubt that the church has been greatly enfeebled by this withdrawal of a large number of men from active participation in its life.

It is the discovery of this fact that has awakened the widespread interest now finding expression in the brotherhoods springing into vigorous life in all the Christian denominations. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew in the Protestant Episcopal church has long been an efficient organization, and the healthy growth of that communion is due in large part to this agency. But all the other denominations are now rallying their men for similar service; in great conventions, east and west, the men of the churches are coming together to envisage their tasks and shoulder their responsibilities. Some of the most interesting gatherings which have recently taken place in this country are these assemblies of men, stirred by the religious motive and eager to find ways in which they may promote the work of the churches. For the most part their action has been entirely rational; they have not proposed much new machinery; they have usually sought to know how they might apply their own power most efficiently to the machinery already in operation.

Of Course.

Harry aged three, was playing about the sewing machine one day and when asked what he was doing, said: "I'm growing my 'Oh, making 'em' into 'Oh, dress.' What are you trimming it with?" "Oh, the scissors."

Have You Noticed—

How prices of things for the table—eggs, meats, groceries, etc., have advanced the past few years, all except



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BEGIN WORK NOW JURY'S VERDICT

President Urges Immediate Fortification of Canal.

TO COST FOURTEEN MILLIONS

Declares It Necessary to Start Immediately in Order to Be Ready When Big Ditch Is Finished.

(By The Associated Press.)

Washington, April 30.—In a message, accompanied by a detailed report from the war department, President Taft today sent to Congress information regarding the necessity for immediately beginning the fortification of the Panama canal in order to have it completed by 1915, the date set for finishing the construction of the canal. The reports accompanying the message do not give the exact locations of the proposed fortifications, but it is explained that this cannot be furnished until information has been obtained regarding the "status and availability of certain parcels of land situated along the route of the canal."

The armament for the proposed fortifications is enumerated as follows: Ten 14-inch rifles, 12 6-inch rifles and 25 12-inch mortars.

The cost is estimated in excess of \$14,000,000. The report states that the board has examined the ground at the terminal of the canal and of territory in the neighborhood of the canal's course with a view of selecting the best sites for the big guns.

"It is the right and duty of the United States to defend the work upon which it is expending such an enormous sum," the President said in his message. "An adequate defense requires suitable fortifications near the approaches to the terminals. I am of the opinion that such works as may be erected for the defense of the canal should be completed, occupied and ready for operation at the time the canal itself is completed and opened to the passage of vessels," the President concludes.

NATURE OF PRIVILEGE

Mileage Tickets Must Be Accepted With Lawful Rules Attached.

Washington, April 30.—In an order just issued by the interstate commerce commission, in which the commission by unanimous action upholds the opinion of Commissioner James S. Harlan in the case of Bernard Eschner versus the Pennsylvania Railroad company et al, the principle of the mileage ticket exchange regulation now in effect on the railroads in the southeast is upheld. The order is of great importance to railroads issuing interchangeable mileage tickets and to purchasers of such tickets.

In this order the commission says: "The right to use exchange orders and mileage tickets is in the nature of a privilege voluntarily accorded by carriers under their tariffs, and must be accepted by those who use such special fares with all lawful and nondiscriminatory limitations that may be attached to them." Three important points made by the commission are that the issuance of mileage tickets is in no sense compulsory, but is permissible and voluntary on the part of the carriers, that purchasers of mileage tickets may not lawfully be constituted into a special class, but must come under the general law common to all passengers, and that purchasers of mileage tickets are bound by the lawful contract features of that form of reduced rate transportation.

The commission goes so far as to hold that purchasers of special reduced rate transportation, such as mileage tickets, have no legal right to demand the same privileges and advantages that are accorded to a passenger who has paid the regular fare at a higher rate. The carriers have never gone to this extent, but while making the mileage ticket regulation for their protection, have afforded the same privilege and advantages to the purchasers of mileage tickets as are given to purchasers of other forms of transportation.

This order of the commission supports the views of state railroad commissions, legislatures and other tribunals in the southeast to which the mileage ticket exchange regulation has been submitted.

The Bludgeon in the Drawing Room.

I have found that there is something about a porch which subjects little traditional minds," writes John H. Fisher under the above title in the issue of Harper's Weekly for April. "When I meet my neighbor in the morning he brings, quizzically, I see you're using Alamo roofing paper on that outhouse of yours. It's poor economy to save on materials. The best is the cheapest in the end. There was a time when I would have tried to explain that the shod is in no way permanent, but now I throw back my head and roar out the great 'Ha-ha-ha' that I have cultivated so carefully for the purpose of 'Oh, I about. It's a fool who places the under side of a barn floor.'"

Carraway Found Guilty of False Entries and Misapplication.

GOT FIVE YEARS IN ATLANTA

Judge Connor gave the Former Teller the Lightest Sentence Possible—No Appeal Filed.

(Special to Daily News.)

New Bern, April 30.—This morning at 10.30 o'clock the jury in the J. R. B. Carraway case brought in their verdict finding him not guilty of embezzlement, but guilty of both false entries and misappropriation of the funds of the bank. The jury prayed the court to give the defendant all the mercy in its power.

Counsel for Carraway at once moved to set aside the verdict, which was denied. Then a motion for a new trial was made, and this was denied also.

Judge Connor then stated that he was disposed to take the suggestion of the jury and that he would give Carraway the minimum sentence of five years in the Atlanta penitentiary.

An appeal was spoken of and bond fixed at \$10,000, but this was dropped and Carraway left for Raleigh this evening charge of Deputy Marshal H. W. Ward.

The cases of Stevens and Taylor, charged as accessories, were continued, and their bonds reduced to \$2,000 each. The general impression that these cases will never be called.

POSTAL WILL INCREASE PAY OF ITS OPERATORS

New York, April 30.—The Postal Telegraph Cable company announces that on June 1 it will make substantial increases in the wages of its telegraph operators in all its important offices of its system. These offices are to be classified according to their comparative importance. The increases will be selective, and will run from 5 and in some cases as high as 25 per cent. Careful examination and full inquiry will be made as to the merits of each individual operator's ability to be the first requisite, years experience and other special fitness will count in each man's favor, and will be graded accordingly.

Efficient and deserving operators will receive pay commensurate with the value of the work that they are able to perform, and less experienced and new operators will have greater opportunity to demonstrate their fitness for advancement in pay or promotion in other ways. It is the company's inclination by continued fair dealing with employees to retain and attract to its service the most skillful and reliable operators, thus maintaining and improving what is already recognized as "the fastest telegraph service in the world."

George Ade Knows.

(New York Mail.) Evidently Tom Taggart doesn't know what a roulette wheel is. George Ade once defined it, "A roulette wheel," said George, after a night at Monte Carlo, "is a contrivance without any number 17 on it."

Wear a Flower For Mother's Sake

To honor the best Mother who ever lived—your own—Sunday, May 8. A white flower for Mother's memory. A bright flower for Mother's living. Plenty of Flowers for this occasion.

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