

Mr. Myrover's attention was very much attracted during the 17 years which he had spent in his own town on Grove street to Greenwich village, only may be said to have been his sole passion. The question of girl had never caused the slightest thrill to his heart, but only why every cat in every alley in the northern edge of the village knew him for a benefactor. The cats were the ones that always appeared to him, and more than one of them had found a refuge in his room, much to the disgust of his grim little landlady. So had it been with Myrover when he was a child, so had it continued to be with him when he became a man, and the indications were that the symptoms were to become even more clearly defined in his old age.

Yielding into consideration all of the things one cannot fail to share with Mr. Myrover Matterson his extreme horror when he entered the door of Sam Lucey's laundry shop one Saturday afternoon and met face to face an exceedingly large and exceedingly placid cat. Being a properly methodical person, as befitting an inhabitant of Greenwich village, Myrover had entered that door at precisely the same hour every Saturday since his memory ran, but never before had he met there a cat. Naturally he was shocked, for had not he heard from the days of his pinafores how the Chinamen esteemed cats only that they might be translated into mow hoy and hop k'i? But this cat seemed not in the least perturbed over any imminent danger of the Celestial cook pot, in fact, to one who could interpret the ways of cats as perfectly as Myrover, his very attitude bespoke the fact that he was very much at home. With every hair of his silky black pelt combed to just the proper degree of oiliness, he sat in the middle of the laundry floor and surveyed Myrover with an expression at once redolent with feline beneficence and eloquent with the consciousness of his superiority. Even in his dismay Myrover smiled. With the proper bend in his forelegs in proportion to his portly bearing, and just the suggestion of a curl at the corners of his mouth this lord of the laundry struck Myrover as bearing a forcible likeness to the queer little Chinese gods that he had seen in the windows of the fearsome gilt dragon that grinned always from the facades in Chinatown.

In fact Myrover became immediately possessed of the thought that his cat-like way of incarnation of the Laves and Penates of Sam Lucey's household that he was amazed that the proprietor failed to fall down and worship before him when he dejected from gouging an iron into the solar plexus of a dress shirt to hand down the desired package of laundry. But Sam Lucey appreciated the admiration of his customer, at any rate, and beamed alternately upon Myrover and the mascot of his shop.

"Quite a fine cat," ventured Myrover.

"Yah!" responded Sam, fairly radiating smiles.

After a pause, made audible by the purring of the object of the symposium Myrover ventured again:

"What's his name?"

"Xiao!"

"Indeed," murmured Myrover, "he don't look like it!"

"Yah! Him 18 years old," Sam replied with wonderful relevancy.

"Indeed!" Myrover was interested.

"A Chinese cat, I suppose?"

"Yah!" with increasing emotion.

"And speaks Chinese, of course?" Myrover gave Sam Lucey a searching glance.

"Yah-a-h!"

Sam Lucey was a cheerful liar.

Myrover eyed their lodestone still more closely.

"He'd make prime chop suey, would n't he?" he tentatively averred.

"No! No-o-ah!" Sam Lucey couldn't agree to that.

And Myrover took up his package and departed, seated in the thought that the animated ebony loss of the laundry shop might have condescended to indulge in a nap on his store of linen. He walked more energetically, too, and whistled very loudly indeed never before known of him—for he had not had it proved to him that Chinamen did not eat cats, after all, and that they therefore merged into a white streak in human nature in spite of their inherent weakness for prevarication.

NEW YORK TO THE NEWCOMER

"Well, what is it that impressed you most about town so far?" inquired the old New Yorker, as he settled himself back to get a better grip on his cigar.

"The Singer Building, the Subway, the Hippodrome, the Museum of Art, or what?"

"You'll be surprised, I guess," replied he, "but I haven't been especially impressed by any of the features."

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Paris Pattern No. 2201
All Seams Allowed.

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Price of pattern, 10 cents.

Simply give number of pattern you desire, or cut out illustration and mail it with 10 cents, silver or postage, to The Observer, Charlotte, N. C., Fashion Dept.

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MORE VOTES NEEDED.

Prayer Will Not Avail Much in Sending William Jennings Bryan to the Presidential Chair.

To the Editor of The Observer:

We read in The Observer of the 22d that Col. W. J. Bryan met with the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma Legislature last Friday. In opening for business the chaplain prayed that Mr. Bryan might be elected President in 1908, and upon motion the prayer was put to a vote and was adopted.

There is rural district in one of our neighboring States where the local preacher visits each member of his church after crops have been "laid by," as they say when they finish working the crops. He goes out to a field, crawls up on the fence, takes off his hat and asks a blessing on the entire crop of the respective farms. It is said on one occasion that he went out with a broiler that had very poor land and said brother had done poor cultivating and the weeds and grass were in the ascendency. The preacher took off his hat, looked over the field, said nothing, crawled down and told the brother that asking a blessing there was no good. He would have to use more manure and cultivate his crop better before the Lord would or could help him.

We are a firm believer in prayer when offered at the proper time and place and in the right spirit, but we fear Mr. Bryan will have to have the political field better manured, and more thoroughly cultivated before he can raise a sufficient crop of votes to send him to the White House for an official seat.

BELIEVER.

NEWS FROM LAURINBURG.

A Greensboro Realty Company to Sell Many Residence Lots—Work Begun on Two New Buildings.

Special to The Observer.

Laurinburg, Dec. 23.—The American Realty and Auction Company, of Greensboro, has purchased a number of residence lots on what is called "Middleton Heights," and will offer them for sale December 31st. With the great demand for houses that now exists in this town, these lots will readily sell for fancy prices, and the sale will prove a blessing to Laurinburg people.

Work has begun actively on the new bank building and on the building for the Colonial Screen, Venetian Blind and Door Company. The bank building is being built of white brick and is being equipped with every modern convenience. The new factory will be the only one of its kind in the South.

McKintley's Dying Prayer.

"In the afternoon of his last day on earth the President began to realize that his life was slipping away, and that the efforts of science could not save him. He asked Dr. Riker to bring the surgeons in. One by one the surgeons entered and approached the bedside. When they were gathered about him the President opened his eyes and said:

"Is he a gentleman, I think we ought to have prayer."

"The dying man crossed his hands on his breast and half closed his eyes. There was a beautiful smile on his countenance. The surgeons bowed their heads. Tears streamed from the eyes of the white-clad nurses on either side of the bed. The yellow radiance of the sun shone softly in the room.

"Our Father, which art in heaven," said the President, in a clear, steady voice.

"Hallowed by Thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done—"

The sobbing of a nurse disturbed the still air. The President opened his eyes and closed them again.

"Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

"A long sigh. The sands of life were running swiftly. The sunlight faded out, and raindrops dashed against the windows.

"Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"Another silence. The surgeons looked at the dying face and the friendly lips.

"For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

"Amen," whispered the surgeons."

James Creelman, in "On the Great Highway."

THE SEASON OF PEACE

Christmas is the time of peace and good cheer. Peace of mind that the BELL TELEPHONE brings will cause the busy housewife to enjoy more than ever the happy season. There is no more useful or economical Xmas gift.

A Present Worth While.

REASONABLE RATES.

Contract Department No. 9050.

BELL SERVICE IS SATISFACTORY.

N. W. Norfolk & Western

Through Trains Daily, Charlotte to Roanoke, Va.

Schedule in effect Nov. 2, 1907.

11:00 am Lv. Charlotte, So. Ry. Ar. 1:30 pm
2:15 pm Lv. Winston, So. Ry. Lv. 3:30 pm
2:30 pm Lv. Winston, N. & W. Ar. 3:30 pm
5:00 pm Lv. Martinsville, Lv. 11:45 am
5:25 pm Lv. Rocky Mount, Lv. 10:25 am
7:25 pm Ar. Roanoke, Lv. 9:30 am

Daily.

Connect at Roanoke via Shenandoah Valley Route for Natural Bridge, Luray, Hagerstown, and all points in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia.

Through coach, Charlotte to Roanoke, Va., additional train leaves Winston 7:30 a. m. daily except Sunday, for South-west Virginia and Shenandoah Valley points.

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SEABOARD

These arrivals and departures, as well as the time and connection with other companies, are given only as information, and are not guaranteed.

Direct line to the prominent cities North, East, South and Southwest, schedule taking effect Aug. 4th, 1907, subject to change without notice.

Tickets for passage on all trains are sold by this company and accepted by the passengers with the understanding that this company will not be responsible for failure to run its trains on schedule time, or for any such delay as may be incident to their operation. Care is exercised to give correct time to connecting lines, but this company is not responsible for errors or omissions.

Trains leave Charlotte as follows:

No. 44, daily, at 1:30 p. m. for Monroe, Hamlet and Wilmington, connecting at Monroe with 22 for Atlanta, Birmingham and the Southwest; at Monroe with 28 for Raleigh and Portsmouth. With 22 at Hamlet for Raleigh, Richmond, Washington, New York and the East.

No. 18, daily, at 10 a. m. for Lincoln, Shelby and Rutherfordton without charge, connecting at Lincoln with C. W. No. 10 for Hickory, Lenoir, and western North Carolina points.

No. 34, daily, at 8:30 a. m. for Monroe, Hamlet and Wilmington, connecting at Monroe with 22 for Atlanta, Birmingham and the Southwest; with 24 at Hamlet for Raleigh, Richmond, New York and the East, with 22 at Monroe for Raleigh, Portsmouth, and Norfolk. Through sleeper on this train from Charlotte, N. C., to Portsmouth, Va., daily.

Trains arrive in Charlotte as follows:

No. 13, 2:45 a. m. daily, from points North and South.

No. 4, daily, 11:45 a. m. from Wilmington and all local points.

No. 12, 7 p. m. daily, from Rutherfordton, Hamlet, Lincoln and C. & N. W. Railway points.

No. 29, 12:15 a. m. daily, from Wilmington, 1:15 a. m. from Monroe, also from points East, North and Southwest, connecting at Hamlet with 22.

Connectors are made at Hamlet with all through trains for points North, South and Southwest, which are composed of vestibule coaches between Portsmouth and Atlanta and Washington and Jacksonville, and sleeper cars between Jersey City, Birmingham and Memphis, and Jersey City and Jacksonville. Cars carry all through trains.

For information, time-tables, reservations on Seaboard, or other information apply to ticket agents or address:

JAMES KER, JR., C. F. A.,
21 Selwyn Hotel, Charlotte, N. C.

Southern Railway

N. E.—Following schedule figures published only as information and are not guaranteed, Dec. 4th, 1907.

1:15 a. m. No. 40, daily, for Washington and points North. Pullman sleeper and day coaches to Washington.

1:30 a. m. No. 5, daily, for Richmond and local points, connecting at Greensboro for Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Goldsboro, Newbern and Morehead City, all Danville for Norfolk.

1:35 a. m. No. 29, daily, for Atlanta, Pullman sleeper and day coaches, Washington to Atlanta.

1:50 a. m. No. 27, daily, for Rock Hill, Chester, Columbia and local stations.

1:55 a. m. No. 4, daily, for Washington and points North. Handles Pullman car and day coaches, Atlanta to Washington.

1:50 a. m. No. 16, daily except Sunday, for Statesville, Taylorsville and local points. Connects at Mooreville for Winston-Salem, and at Statesville for Asheville and points West.

10:30 a. m. No. 23, daily, for Columbia and local points, connecting at Greensboro for Washington, dining car service.

10:45 a. m. No. 24, daily, for Washington and points North. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper to New York and Richmond. Day coaches, New York to Washington. Dining car service. Connects at Greensboro for Winston-Salem, Raleigh and Goldsboro.

11:00 a. m. No. 20, daily, for Washington and points North. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper to New York and Richmond. Day coaches, New York to Washington. Dining car service.

11:30 a. m. No. 25, daily, for New York and New Orleans. Limited. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper, Observation and Club cars, New York to New Orleans. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper car, New York to Birmingham. Solid Pullman train. Dining car service.

11:35 a. m. No. 11, daily, for Atlanta and local stations. Connects at Greensboro for Hendersonville and Asheville.

1:10 p. m. No. 41, daily except Sunday for Seaside, N. C., and local points.

1:40 p. m. No. 2, daily except Sunday, freight and passenger, for Chester, S. C., and local points.

1:45 p. m. No. 8, daily for Washington and points North. Pullman sleeper, Augusta to New York. Pullman sleeper, Charlotte to New York. Day coaches to Washington. Pullman sleeper, Salisbury to Norfolk. Dining car service.

1:50 p. m. No. 14, daily, for Richmond and local stations. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper, Charlotte to Richmond.

2:15 p. m. No. 21, daily except Sunday, for Statesville, Taylorsville and local points. Connects at Statesville for Asheville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis and points West.

2:25 p. m. No. 6, daily, for Atlanta, Pullman sleeper and day coaches, Charlotte to Atlanta.

2:30 p. m. No. 28, daily, New York and New Orleans Limited, for Washington and points North. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper cars, Observation and Club cars to New York. Dining car service.

2:35 p. m. No. 53, daily, for Atlanta and points South. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper to New Orleans and Birmingham. Day coaches, Washington to New Orleans. Dining car service.

2:45 p. m. No. 2, daily, for Columbia, Savannah and Jacksonville. Pullman Drawing Room sleeper and day coaches, Washington to Jacksonville.

Tickets, sleeping car reservations, and other information can be obtained at ticket agent, No. 11 South Tryon street.

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