

The Question Box

Dispute.—To settle a dispute will you tell what are the marriage laws in Delaware, and whether one may get a license if under age without consent of parents?

A.—Men and women reach lawful marriage age in Delaware at 18 and 15 years respectively. Licenses are required, but the consent of parents is not necessary after these ages have been reached.

A. N. B.—Please give rule or form by which one's age, and the number of one's brothers and sisters, may be determined by using figures—one column telling the number of sisters, another of brothers, and the third column the age?

A.—I doubt if there is any such form. The age and birth month of a person may be told by directing the person to set down the number of the month of his birth (January counting as 1, February as 2, etc.) and multiply by 2, then add 5, then multiply by 50, then add the present age in years, and then subtract 365. Then ask him to state the result, add 115 and point off the last two figures, which will represent the years of age. The left hand figure will represent the month of his birth. For example, if the figures are 624, his age is 24 years and he was born in June.

D. B. C.—Please advise me how to make blackberry wine? How much spirits is required to keep it from spoiling? (2) Also how to keep cucumbers in vinegar, as they get soft in brine and are not fit to use?

A.—Cover blackberries with cold water, crush with a wooden masher, let stand 24 hours and strain, and to one gallon of juice put three pounds of brown sugar. Put in wide mouthed jars for several days, carefully skimming off the scum that will rise, then strain again and pour through a funnel into your cask. Then let it remain till March, and strain and bottle. These directions carefully followed out will insure you excellent wine. This recipe is copied from the White House Cook Book. Nothing is said of spirits.

(3) When cucumbers are taken from the vines wash and put in a bucket or half barrel alternate layers of cucumbers and rock salt and cover with a cloth. Use no water, but keep the cucumbers covered with salt. Put on a weight to keep the cucumbers under the brine which will form. To prepare to use soak the pickles in hot water and keep in a warm place, pour spiced vinegar over them and let stand overnight, then pour off and put on fresh vinegar.

X. Y.—Kindly print the addresses of a few of the larger toy manufacturers? A.—Business addresses are not permitted in this column. Ask a dealer in toys about it.

F. H. E.—Was the father of Secretary Taft known in the political world? A.—Not largely, except that he was Attorney General in General Grant's last cabinet.

Macy.—Please give direction for making ink. A.—The drawing is made with black India ink on tracing cloth, which is nearly transparent. When the drawing is completed it is put in a frame with the blue print paper beneath, and the sun prints through the cloth, except where the opaque lines have been drawn. When the paper is put in water it turns blue except where the lines protect it from the sun, and the lines remain white. Then the print is put through a washing process which makes it permanent. The material may be obtained from dealers in photographic supplies.

R. R. D.—What are the highest salaries paid to postmasters? A.—The postmasters at New York and Chicago are paid \$8,000 each. Other offices whose gross receipts are over \$600,000 a year, and there are several of them, the salary is fixed at \$4,000 a year.

D. B. C.—What was the origin and significance of "Flag day"? A.—It was originated by George Balch, who was in charge of a free kindergarten for the poor in New York City, in 1888. It occurs on June 14th, the day on which, in 1777, Congress by resolution fixed upon the design of the flag of the United States. Mr. Balch's idea struck a popular chord and was soon incorporated into the laws of New York, an act prescribing the method of its observance in the schools.

Mrs. R. W.—Your half dollar, if in perfect condition, has a premium of one cent.

Smoker.—What is the reason for the difference in the color of tobacco smoke when it rises from the pipe and when ejected from the mouth? A.—The smoke from the bowl of the pipe is blue because, coming direct from the red-hot tobacco, it is highly oxidized. The smoke coming from the lips is gray because it is highly watered and hydro-carbonized.

Student.—Is it possible to say positively from which one of Noah's sons the Mongolians sprang? A.—It is not. Some ethnologists assert, however, that the Mongolians from the earliest history were a nomad race of mixed stock, and distinct from the Aryans proper, and also distinct from the Semites and Hamites. The presumption would seem to favor their Japhetic origin, but even this cannot be positively affirmed. Shem had five sons, the descendants of only two of whom are recorded, so it is possible that the Mongolians have a claim to Shemite extraction at least.

P. J. M.—Please print a brief sketch of James W. Sherman, Republican candidate for vice-president? A.—Sherman was born in Ulster, N. Y., where he has always resided, in 1835, graduated from Hamilton College, and is a lawyer, as was his father. He early took an interest in politics and was chairman of the Republican State

conventions in 1884 and 1900. He was elected to Congress in 1887 and has served twenty years since then in that body. He is a most likeable man, known to his admirers as "Sunny Jim." He is the only Republican in his family.

F. A. B.—Were the first attempts to build locomotive engines with smooth wheels, or cogged? A.—The early inventions in this line were accomplished with rackwork rails or toothed wheels. It is said by Watt that the first application of the steam engine to locomotion on land was suggested by Robinson in 1799, but it was not till 1825 that it was discovered that adhesion between smooth rails and smooth wheels was sufficient.

W. C. H.—When is the harvesting of wheat begun in the West? A.—The time differs much. In Oklahoma it begins early in June, while as far north as the Dakotas it begins in August.

R. E. B.—How many ranks are there in the nobility of Great Britain? A.—Five—duke, marquis, earl, viscount and baron.

Harris.—What is the Tenetree, of which I read in connection with the Catholic Church? A.—A funeral service held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Holy Week, in commemoration of the three hours of darkness which are said to have overspread the land at the time of the crucifixion.

H. J.—Beets and turnips as food give iron to the blood, lettuce is good for worn-out nerves, tomatoes stimulate the liver, celery is good for rheumatic people, carrots clear the complexion, and all greens are good in their season to cleanse the blood and regulate the system.

H. A. J.—The lady precedes the man whether going up or down stairs; always in fact except they walk together or when it is necessary for the man to clear a way or afford protection.

M. N. O.—There are no votes cast for president in the City of Washington.

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Lesson Taught by a Crippled Boy With an Iron Will. Philadelphia Bulletin.

There is good medicine for the multitude of groaners who are forever complaining that they have "never had a fair chance," in the story which came from New Jersey the other day, concerning the rescue from drowning of two boys by a crippled companion.

Also the tale is one to stir the reader's admiration, and to call for the attention of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

Joseph Gilligan is a Morristown boy of eighteen years, with only stumps of legs and one arm. Like many other cripples, he has acquired great facility in the use of his disabled members, and he can swim vigorously.

He had gone swimming in the gravel pit pond at Morris Plains; but was on shore, some distance from the water's edge, when the cry arose that two twelve-year-old boys had been upset from a boat, out in the deep part of the pond.

While others looked on inactive, with frantic cries of terror, paralyzed by fear, Gilligan dragged his fragment of a body over the ground intervening between him and the water and plunged in. He caught one boy before he had finally gone down, and swam with him to shallow water. Returning, he dived for the boy who had sunk, and after a long submergence he brought him also to shore, tucked under the stump of his arm; and the lad was again revived.

The story is a tonic. Most persons need its admonition to win out in spite of handicaps. So long as the heart is brave and unhampered, no other limitations need to count greatly. The very process of overcoming shortcomings gives added power for the latter part of life. It is not always the men with the greatest native strength who bear the largest share of the world's burdens; nor those endowed with the best equipment who do most of its work. The handicapped persons are often winners in life's race; because their hearts and wills have made up for deficiencies in body, mind or circumstances.

WILL HE COME BACK? Ironie Appeal For the Return of Roosevelt. St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Paris Journal thinks Mr. Roosevelt "sure to return to the helm of State before we are much older."

There is reason to believe that some such idea possesses Mr. Roosevelt's own mind. Whether Mr. Taft or Mr. Bryan is President during the coming four years it is a sure guess that things will not go well.

We shall be sadly in need of saving, and who can save us but the mighty man of valor and renown who has been saving us so industriously for the past seven years? As Solon, when he had completed his great work for Athens, went away to the Athenians might learn to toddle by themselves, so will Theodore Roosevelt disappear in the African jungle that we may take our first lesson in saving ourselves. But just as the Athenians made a mess of it in the absence of the great man, so shall we show our feebleness when our great protector leaves us.

Mr. Roosevelt will come again. He will save us again. He has our welfare at heart, and will not leave us in the lurch. Now let us pray that the hippopotamuses and rhinoceroses, the lions and the elephants, will spare him, for we cannot get along without him.

Augustus Thomas on Bryan's Side. London Cable to The New York Herald.

If William Jennings Bryan should be elected President of the United States, his appointee to the court of St. James would be Mr. Augustus Thomas, playwright. This was the statement made to me to-day by a prominent American who gets his information from a source quite near to the possible Democratic candidate.

According to this information, Augustus Thomas, as a delegate to the Democratic national convention will place Mr. Bryan's name before that body.

France on Alice. Boston Herald.

"Charming Mrs. Longworth! Always graceful and enthusiastic, it is to her noble efforts that Mr. Taft's nomination is due," says The Paris Gaulois, in all seriousness, apparently. This is harking back to the memorable Taft-Longworth-Alice Roosevelt trip to the Philippines with the French appreciation of one of its most joyous and interesting developments.

NO BACK TRACK ON TARIFF.

American Economist Reads "Stand Fast" in Republican Platform—Declares That Revision Downward Was Far From the Thought of Its Framers.

New York Special to Washington Herald.

In discussing the tariff plank in the Republican platform, the current issue of the American Economist says:

"Advocates of the tariff revision downward will find not a word or syllable in this tariff plank that tends to furnish them the slightest crumb of comfort. There is no promise in the platform of tariff revision downward; on the contrary the scope and purpose of the tariff plank is to continue the fullest measure of protection to all industries in the United States, and that the proposed revision of the schedules shall maintain the standard of protection in every feature of the new law."

"To those who believe that the nomination of William Howard Taft, of Ohio, would be a pledge of the party to a downward revision of the tariff, the platform is a complete and unqualified answer. The nomination of Representative James S. Sherman, of New York, as the candidate for Vice President, is a still further and more substantial pledge of the sanity and soundness of the Republican party in dealing with the great issue which confronts the people in the Presidential campaign, namely, that there shall be no back-track movement on the tariff question, either in the campaign or in the legislation promised by the party following the inauguration of the new administration."

"It will be found that the universal opinion of thinking Republicans is that the Presidential ticket for 1908 is well balanced. The head of James S. Sherman is all right. If Taft has at any time gone too far in his advocacy of tariff tinkering, he has not been able to carry the Republican party with him."

"It is, perhaps, not surprising that promptly upon the announcement of the nomination of Secretary Taft, indeed, before the tariff question reports were circulated here that it is to be the plan and purpose of Mr. Taft throughout the campaign, and in his public utterances, which would, of course, include his inaugural address on March 4th next, to attempt to hold the party to a policy of tariff revision downward. It is fair to say that this report is not credited here, and certainly it does not do justice to the nominee of the party. There is every reason to believe that Mr. Taft has been nominated under circumstances which insure that he is in full accord with every principle embodied in the platform adopted at Chicago."

NO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP. Norman E. Mack Says Democratic Platform Will Not Mention It. Lincoln (Nebr.) Dispatch to New York Herald.

No reference to the government ownership of railroads will be made in the Democratic national platform. Positive confirmation of this decision was obtained to-day from Norman Mack, New York member of the Democratic national committee, after he had been in conference at Fall River, Mass., with Mr. William J. Bryan for more than three hours.

Mr. Mack, accompanied by Mrs. Mack, arrived in Lincoln at 10 o'clock this morning. They were met at the Rock Island station by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, who whirled them on to Fall River, four and one-half miles east of the town, in a smart rubber-tired trap drawn by a spanking team. After luncheon Mr. and Mrs. Bryan escorted their guests back to the station and the Mackes proceeded to Denver in order that Mr. Mack may be there Saturday at the meeting of the national committee, which is to perfect the arrangements for the convention.

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TAFT'S LABOR DECISIONS. Mark One of His Weaknesses as a Candidate. New York World.

Mr. Taft has many weaknesses as a candidate, the sum total of which might be disastrous if he were opposed by any other candidate than Mr. Bryan. The favor of Wall street will hurt him more than it helps him. The foolish, ostentatious public support of men like Harriman, Schiff, Rockefeller and Morgan will particularly injure him. His close identifications with Mr. Roosevelt personally will hurt him. The manner of his nomination will hurt him. The absence of any independent protest on his part against even the most violent and extravagant of Mr. Roosevelt's actions will hurt him. The suspicion that he will be controlled by Mr. Roosevelt—and he is certainly under very great obligations to Mr. Roosevelt—will hurt him. Brownsville will hurt him. Some of his labor decisions, however just, will hurt him in spite of the modified injunction plank of the platform. Some of his speeches on the Japanese ques-

tion will hurt him in the Pacific Coast States. But all these things will hurt him seriously only if he has a strong, unbeaten candidate against him. Mr. Bryan cannot benefit by these things.

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