

HERE AND THERE

BBY TROJAN.

While all this country is afflicted with the baseball mania it will not be out of the tube to print the following poem. The Helena, Mont. Independent contains one of Will Aiken's poems, "Play Ball."

PLAY BALL! Get you ready, everybody, for the season now begins; Just forget your little troubles, practice up on winners' grins; Get your baseball dictionary, try to limber up your fins— O, we're going to lam the leather down in Zion!

Now the fans all come a-crawling from their hibernating holes; Yes, they've got a chance to holler and to bet their little rolls; Years have gone since last they hollered "Will be so nice to the south— O, we're going to lam the leather down in Zion!"

First we're going 'gainst the Mormons— got to get 'em on the run; There's a single—and a double—and a homer!—O, what fun! Things our way are surely coming; rise and yell, each mother's son! O, we start to win the pennant down in Zion! —WILL AIKEN.

If anything were needed to remind the fans that the baseball season in the Inter-Mountain League opens to-day, Will Aiken's cheering effusion at the top of this story would fill the bill. In 1902 when Helena was trading in exceptionally fast company, Will Aiken's daily "poem" which always topped the baseball stop in The Independent was an important feature of the sport page. After a hurried glance at the first few lines it required no further reading to know what had happened the day before. If Helena won you could see "Dixie" sticking out all over Aiken's verse, but if we were the under dog it was sure a case of "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground."

The Independent is not able at this writing to assure the fans an Aiken poem every morning before breakfast. We wish we could. But the one-time author is so busy nowadays as director general in the executive office at the State Capitol that an occasional epic from the profligat of the best baseball poet west of the Susquehanna river is all we can promise.

I noticed recently an editorial in The Observer hitting the sarcasm of Youth's Company in its Declaration of Independence. As an offset to the Companion's idea as to the "myth," I copy from Comfort, a family paper published in Augusta, Me., and having more than a million subscribers in the United States, in writing of the month of May it says: "Historically, May has no very brilliant record of accomplishments. Still there are a few big events to its credit. Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila, May 21, 1898; the first English settlement was made at Jamestown, Va., May 13, 1607; the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was promulgated May 20, 1775, more than a year before the Philadelphia Declaration which we celebrate on the Fourth of July; the good Queen Victoria, of England, was born May 24, and the present Czar of Russia was born May 18, 1868. May has contributed no President of the United States, nor has June for that matter, and September has not the presidential list on the 4th of March last, with President Taft. But if May has contributed no Presidents it has taken none away, for no President has died in May. August is the only other month in which no President has died."

So Comfort classes our Mecklenburg Declaration as one of the few "big events taking place in the month of May since history began its work." When President Taft gets through with the 20th it will safely promulgated in all the world and its authenticity to be doubted no more.

A wealthy contractor of Baltimore, John P. Brady, has set up a monument on his farm, near the city, to Adam, the first man. He wanted no toriiety bad. If any man ever didn't need a monument it is Adam. He has been dead a long time but is not forgotten by any means. When you read of a funeral there's Adam's work. "As in Adam all die." He lived a long time and his expulion from the garden. "And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died." From the first he was a very important person. He was authorized to name every living creature. He also gave the name of Eve to his wife. He was driven out from the beautiful paradise in which God placed him for his sake the ground was cursed. But there is much of it that is very productive, when properly worked. However, it takes labor to get it out. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread; till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." That is one of the things that even the skeptic does not question. Adam is well enough known and Mr. Brady could have used his money to a much better purpose than the monument to his memory. "This is the first shaft in America dedicated to Adam, the first man. He passes the glory of the world." Mr. Brady was a long time finding it out.

We are always asking little children who was the first man and woman? That is about the first Bible taught them. Several years ago my father and I were visiting relatives in Randolph and spent the night where there was a four or five-year-old youngster. He was asked the question and could not answer; so the information was imparted and pretty soon we called him up to see if he remembered his lesson. "Who was the first man?" we asked. "Adam," replied the boy. "Who was the first woman?" "Who was the first woman?" "Aunt Eve," he answered. We had an old aunt living in that county about 90 years old and it was natural for the boy to think she was the Eve we were talking to him about. But Aunt Eve has long since gone the way of all the earth and we are passing on to the portals, and it all appears to be due to the conduct of Adam. He needs no other monument. But "As in Adam all die, even so, in Christ shall all be made alive." There is the compensation for you. It is not probable any one of us would have done any better than Adam. The woman got him into the traps and they have kept up the habit. But that does not excuse the man. From the first man has been standing on dangerous ground. Eternal vigilance is the price of safety.

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THE WEATHER.

Washington, May 15.—Forecast: Virginia, partly cloudy, thundershowers and cooler in north and west portion Sunday; Monday partly cloudy; light to moderate south shifting to west winds. North Carolina, fair in east, thundershowers in west portion Sunday; Monday partly cloudy; light to moderate south to southwest winds. South Carolina, partly cloudy Sunday and Monday; light south to southwest winds. Georgia, fair in south, thundershowers in north portion Sunday; Monday partly cloudy, probably showers; light variable winds. Eastern Florida and western Florida, fair Sunday and Monday; light variable winds. Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, thundershowers Sunday; Monday partly cloudy; light variable winds. Eastern Texas, fair Sunday and Monday light to moderate southerly winds. Western Texas, fair Sunday and Monday.

LOCAL OFFICE, U. S. WEATHER BUREAU. Charlotte, May 15.—Sunrise 5:9 a. m.; sunset 7:19 p. m. TEMPERATURE (In degrees). 5 a. m. 64; noon 77; 4 p. m. 83; 8 p. m. 78. Highest temperature 83. Lowest temperature 64. Mean temperature 71. Excess for the day 13. Moisture this date last year 75. PRECIPITATION (In inches). Total for 24 hours ending 5 p. m. 0. Total for the month to date 0.58. Deficiency for month 0.73. Deficiency for year 3.31. Prevailing wind direction S. W. W. J. BENNETT, Observer.

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