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## THUMB NAIL SKETCHES FROM HISTORY

*A Compilation of Incidents In  
Medieval and Modern History  
Which Might Have A Cur-  
rent Significance.*

By GEORGE C. DEDMONDT

### SECRET WEAPONS

April 22, thirty years ago, while the armies of the Central powers and the Allies were playing a game of checkmate, and just after the battle of Neuve Chappelle; the Germans started an offensive. On the Ypres front they attacked with a secret weapon. On the day of the attack, the Allied sector defending was manned by French African and Canadian troops. They saw wafted toward them first a white and then a greenish yellow cloud, driven by a north wind. When it reached the trenches, men began to cough, strangle and often die in spasmodic agony. Behind this cloud followed grotesque figures, the Boche in gas masks and protective covering. This stampeded the French Colonial troops, and they fled in disorder. The Canadians immediately diverted some of their own men to protect their deserted flank, and fought one of the greatest defensive actions in history. They would lose positions after position only to retake them with the bayonet, and while entire detachments would be annihilated they held the line and stopped the German push. They very probably saved the channel ports. Again a secret weapon had been tried and failed, and a determined and stout hearted infantry had proved that they had what it takes.

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Mrs. David S. Baker is the guest of Mrs. M. B. Flynn.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at the Erskine Memorial Church at 8 o'clock, Thursday, the very night on which our Lord was betrayed. Everyone invited. "This is in remembrance of me."—Adv't.

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