

# CONFIDENCE

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### BELL HAD EARLY STRUGGLES

Inventor of Telephone Experiences Common Fate of Pioneers in His Early Manhood.

Next to the reaping machine, which drove famine from the world, America's greatest gift to modern civilization has been the telephone. The name of its inventor, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, will live down the ages after all but two or three present-day Americans have been forgotten.

Unlike most famous inventors, Doctor Bell did not spring from obscurity and poverty. His father was a scholar and scientist of note, and young Bell received a ripe education. But he did not escape the common fate of inventors and pioneers. His struggles with poverty came in early manhood instead of in boyhood. And they were struggles as trying and as protracted as fall to the lot of few men. At one time, while fighting to establish his ridiculed "toy" as an article of genuine use, he was reduced to the extremity of borrowing occasional half-dollars for a meal, sharing this lot with his dynamic colleague, Theodore N. Vall.

The world first learned of the telephone at the Centennial exposition at Philadelphia in 1876. On January 20 of that year a young college professor of Salem, Mass., Alexander Graham Bell, had executed specifications and a claim for an invention embodying an improvement in telegraphy, which in reality was a telephone, and on February 14 his application for the American patent was filed at Washington.

The first telephone message of which there is record was this: "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you." It was sent on March 10, 1876, by the inventor from the top floor of a Boston boarding house to a colleague, Thomas A. Watson, in a room below. Watson heard every word and rushed to apprise Bell of the fact. Almost 40 years later, on January 15, 1915, Doctor Bell sent this same message to Mr. Watson, only this time Bell was in New York and Watson in San Francisco.

### Light in Sugar Crystals.

A soft bluish light has occasionally been seen when a scoop was scraped across solidly caked sugar in the bin. Loose sugar does not show this glow nor does granulated. A scientist says that the cause of the peculiar light is in the fracturing of the sugar crystals. Luminescence of this type accompanies the breaking of crystals of a number of different substances, but in none is it more pronounced than in rock candy. To get the best effect place lumps of rock candy between the jaws of nut crackers or forceps and suddenly crush the crystal to fragments. If the room has previously been darkened the flash of light may be seen at a distance of 20 yards or more.

### Jays of the Poor.

The happiest people in the world are the poor. Without attempting to stifle the ambition for self-advancement, religion has always taught men to be content with their lot, and shows the folly of relying upon possessions as the key to happiness. Our materialistic day has worshiped financial success, and by hearing this doctrine constantly preached, those who are poor have been made to feel themselves unfortunate and condemned to miss the great joys of life.—Leslie's.

### Wifely Whimsies.

"Married life," says a woman's page writer, "would be infinitely happier if married men would obey the whims of their wives with half the alacrity they displayed when their wives were their sweethearts." Why not make allowance for the fact that a bachelor isn't eternally worn out humoring his sweetheart's whimsical idea that there's a burglar in the house and hunting for him with a flashlight?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Where Wisdom Lies.

I say wisdom is gathered on foot, along country roads. Collect your ideas where you can: from alley, boulevard, office, lecture hall, theater, dinner table, library, wharf, picture gallery, street car, opera house, curbstone, or courtroom; but test them on the road. Confronted with the realities of soil and salt water and the character shaped by these, they will look vastly less momentous or vastly more so.—Seymour Deming in the Atlantic.

### Mysophobia.

The famous dictionary compiler, Dr. Samuel Johnson, was impelled to touch and count all the platings in fences he passed, and if he thought he had missed one he would start back and repeat the nonsensical enumeration. Mysophobia is an annoying obsession of this sort and more frequent than supposed, as the patients try to keep their peculiar behavior from notice. It is a fear of uncleanness or of contamination.

### Most Powerful Talisman.

In Rev. James Ridley's "Tales of the Genii" one of the characters is Abudah, a rich merchant of Bagdad, who is haunted every night by a horrible hag. Seeking in a dream the talisman of Oromanes, which insures earthly happiness, he finds it in love of God and submission to the divine will. With this talisman he is enabled to keep the hag locked up and so free himself from his nightly torment.

### Truly Remarkable Bird.

A schoolboy, writing a description of hens, said: "Hens is curious animals; they don't have no nose, nor no teeth, nor no ears. They swallows their wittles whole, and chews it up with their crops in their chests. The outside of hens is generally put into pillows or made into feather dusters."

### Is Grammar Essential?

Sometimes it is urged that formal grammar teaches children to write and speak correctly; but as all Americans have studied formal grammar, including newspaper reporters and sales women, there would appear to be no guaranty that formal grammar study leads to correct habits of speech. On the other hand, I once knew a school where for 14 years not a minute was spent on formal grammar and, like the worm who does not miss a slice or two, no one ever knew the difference.—Abraham Flexner, in the Atlantic.

### Treating Insomnia.

The latest cure for insomnia, notes the Toledo Bee, is counting your inhalations and exhalations, but the Blade is skeptical, and comments: "We do not like mutton, but expect to continue counting sheep." In case of insomnia "first aid" should be to turn on the light, take up a book and read. While this may not cure insomnia, it defies it and is gratifying to a belligerent mind.

### Maternal Instincts.

As a rule it is the mother of a few children who develops the maternal instinct most fully and most admirably, for she has time to realize and to follow out its manifold bearings. The sorely-pressed mother of a swarm is forced to be content if she can fill their clamorous stomachs, keep decent clothes on their backs and send them out with tolerably clean faces.

### Everybody's Sentimental.

The truth is that we are all sentimental at heart, whatever our culture. Even though we appreciate Brahms, shall we not find some pleasure in the repertoire of the hand organ, and though we admire Botticelli, shall we utterly condemn Darby and Joan? There are moods in which Jean Ingelow and Mrs. Hemans are not mawkish. The thousands still weep over the death of Little Nell, though the critics sneer.—Robert M. Gay, in the Atlantic.

### First Hand.

Little Bobbie's interest in his origin was equalled only by his impatience to be grown up. One day he dashed into the house with his eyes shining. "Oh, mother," he said, "I saw God up in the sky an' he has blue eyes. I said, 'Thank you, Mr. God, for making me,' an' he said, 'That's all right, Bobbie, that's all right! You wait an' some day I'll make you into a big, big man!'"

### No Foundation.

A bold, unsubdued citizen went to a new boarding house, and as he had always met his obligations promptly, he had become notably outspoken. On his second day the hostess asked: "Why don't you say a blessing, Mr. Golden?" He looked over the table and said gloomily: "I'd like to know what for?"

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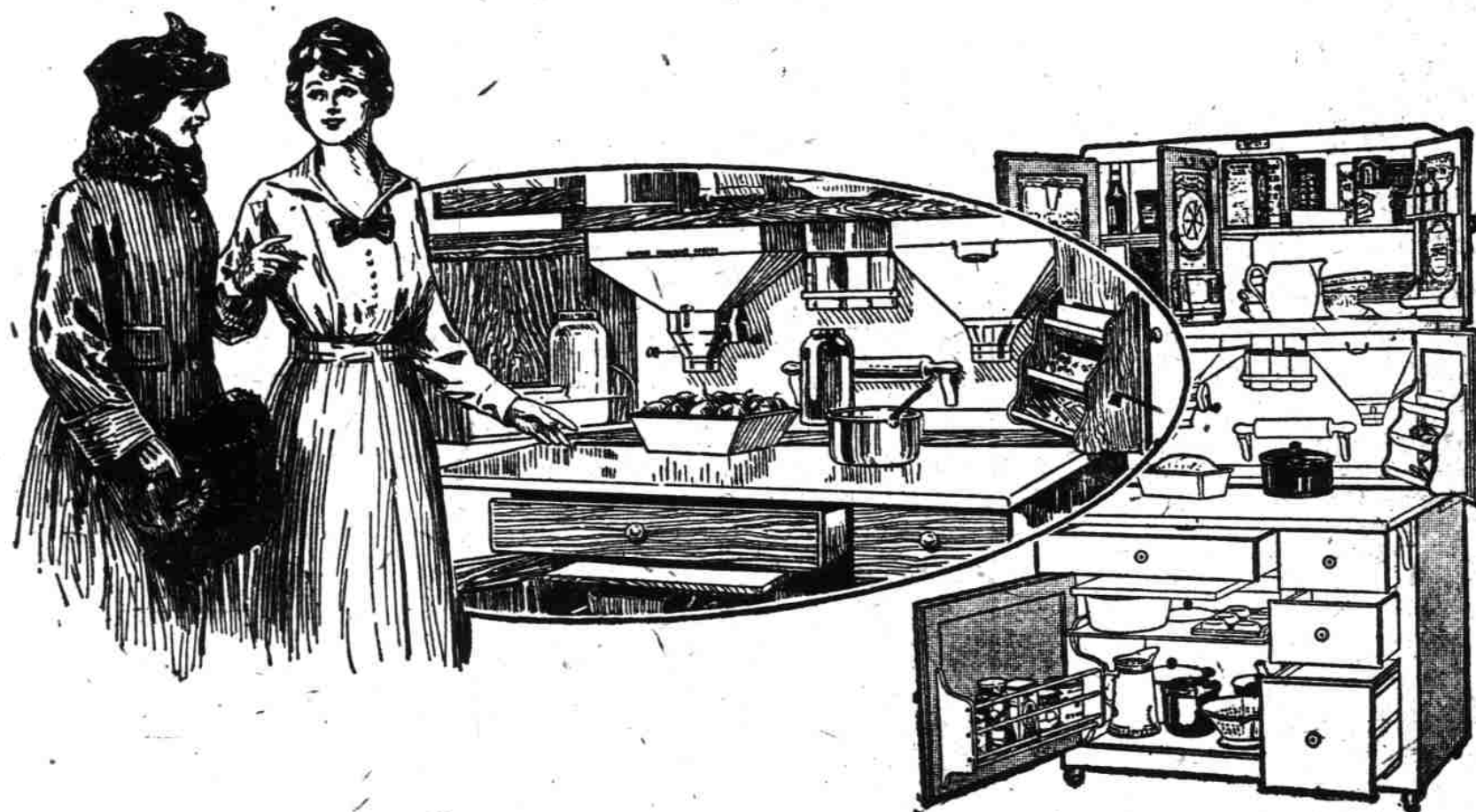
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### The Hard Task.

Many a man who prides himself on his physical strength cannot open his lips.

### Daily Thought.

Hope is brightest when it dawns from tears.—Scott.