

Some Passing Comment

On Making Errors in the Papers; Bear Raid Remains Unchecked; Old Slave's Letter to Tom Watson; Honest Calvin Coolidge; Other Matters

The Journal often makes mistakes. A newspaper editor is but human, and all of the papers from the Saturday Evening Post down to the humblest little sheet err once in a while, both as to facts and grammar. Not everybody notices them, but The Journal has one reader, Mr. W. C. Wolfe, once a newspaper man himself, who never fails to find and error in the paper if the editor is so unfortunate as to make a slip. And he never hesitates to tell us about them.

No one regrets an error more than the newspaperman. He loses sleep over them, he feels bitter pangs of remorse over them, and he is often driven to despair when he makes a grievous mistake.

Some of the larger papers make a practice of watching the small papers for grammatical errors, and when their search is rewarded, gleefully print their find on their editorial pages. A collection of them has fallen into the hands of Mr. W. Z. Faulkner, and he passes them on to The Journal readers. They follow:

"Bill Jones was sent up from Squire Erskine's court for burning the barn and contents of his mother-in-law."

"Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson wish to thank their friends and neighbors who so kindly assisted at the burning of their residence last night."

"We regret to find that our announcement of the death of Mr. William Jackson in our last issue was an error."

"The many friends of our popular townsman, Mr. J. C. King, will be grieved to learn that he was brutally assaulted but not killed last night."

"Some malicious person started a report on the streets that there was something the matter with Mayor Snipe's head. We are glad to announce that it is as sound as it ever was and that there is nothing in it."

"A handsome woman undertook to interrupt the speaker but sat down upon her being asked."

"He kissed her passionately upon her reappearance."

"Several mad dogs have been shot in the west end."

"She seated herself upon his return."

"The crowned heads of Europe are now trampling in their shoes."

Since we are on the subject of newspaper errors, we might as well correct one that our Goose Creek correspondent made last week in reporting the happenings of his community. He stated that Rev. E. C. Snyder had collected one hundred dollars for the purpose of sending a crippled negro boy to the hospital to have his foot straightened. Rev. Mr. Snyder says that he has collected only a few dollars, but will be glad to receive contributions for this worthy cause, which he characterizes as "practical christianity." Mr. Snyder is standing responsible for the hospital bill incurred by the negro boy, and it is only justice to him that the statement of our correspondent be corrected.

It may be of passing interest to our readers to know that the political views of those Union county women printed in recent issues of The Journal have inspired other papers over the state to procure similar expressions from leading women. For a time politicians over the state were puzzled over the woman factor, but since reading of their enthusiastic advocacy of the League of Nations pact, their alarm has subsided.

The bear raid on cotton remains unchecked, and declines of from one-half to one cent in the price of the staple are almost daily occurrences.

Good cotton is quoted at about twenty-eight cents on the Monroe market. The buyers are up in the air, and are seemingly unable to tell which way the wind is going to turn. One buyer, said he was very much like little Eve. The minister was asking her what she knew was in the Bible, and she said she knew everything that was in it. The minister smiled and said, "Well, tell me something that is in the Bible." She said: "I can tell you everything that is in the Bible." The minister, grinning good naturedly, requested the girl to proceed. She began as follows: "Sister's beau's photograph is in it, Ma's recipe for vanishing cream is in it, a lock of my hair, cut off when I was a baby is in it, and a ticket for Pa's watch is in it!" This uncertainty in regard to the future course of the market also reminds this buyer of the following story: A man was riding a bicycle with no lamp on it. He came to a cross road, and not knowing which way to turn, he felt in his pocket for a match. Climbing to the top of the sign pole, which stood at the crossing, he lit the match carefully and in the ensuing glimmer read: "Wet Paint."

No matter what one's personal view of Tom Watson may be, one cannot help but experience a feeling akin to respect for his old slave, Jim Scott, who wrote him such a touching congratulatory letter on the occasion of his election to the United States senate. Watson tells, as follows, about the "Old Negro Who Was

Good to Me When I Was a Boy": "Our father was in the Confederate army; our mother and we children were left alone on the farm, protected by negro slaves. "There were two of these—West Scott and Jim Scott—who took turns at night as defenders of the house. "At bedtime the one or the other would spread his quilt on the piazza in front of the door of the room where our mother and we children slept. "The only weapon the slave-sentry had was his ax, and he hugged it in his arms, his hand on the heave. "These were the old days when the katydids were on the trees, and there was never a sorrow that did not lose itself in sleep. "West Scott moved to Atlanta, where he died some years ago. "Jim Scott lives at Warrenton; and among those who wrote or telegraphed such beautiful words of congratulation was old Jim Scott. "Warrenton, Ga., Sept. 3, 1920. "My Dear Boss:—I am certainly happy over your great victory you won in yesterday's election. "Every night since you got in the race for the senate, when I got down on my knees, I asked the Good Lord to see that the people give you a fair deal in this election, and on the night before the primary I arose, feeling that it would surely be done, and I am sure glad that my prayers have been answered, and that the dear little boy that I loved so much, nursed and helped to raise, has at last come into his own. May the Good Lord continue to bless and keep you, is the prayer of your old servant and nurse. "JIM SCOTT."

"This simple, pathetic, soulful letter will make you shed tears—even as it made me cry like a child."

On President Wilson's return from France, Gov. Calvin Coolidge, of Massachusetts, republican nominee for vice-president, referred to him in these words:

"We welcome him with a reception more marked than even that which was accorded to General George Washington, more united than could have been given Abraham Lincoln. We welcome him as the representative of a great people, as a great statesman, as one to whom we have intrusted our destiny and one whom we assure we will support in the future in the working out of that destiny as Massachusetts has supported him in the past."

Gov. Coolidge, having sprung from rugged, conscientious New England stock, seemingly fails to get the consent of his mind to repudiate the lofty sentiments contained in the above paragraph, so he devotes his speeches to discussions of the high cost of living, and the more trivial issues of the campaign, while Senator Harding, who voted for the league pact with reservation on one occasion, revokes his original stand on this momentous question, and waddles like a duck. One day he favors a league on the Hague plan; again he would isolate America from the rest of the world, and now he frankly admits he doesn't know what to do about it.

If the republicans are to win this election, it is a pity that Governor Coolidge isn't heading the ticket, instead of playing the role of a conspicuous second fiddle.

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