

Widowed at Wife's Funeral.

Wyoming, W. Va., Special to Baltimore Sun. The wife of William Markell died some three weeks ago, leaving three small children, the youngest of whom was a babe of 11 days, all three of them being girls.

As is the custom of the country folk here in the mountains, the burial took place shortly after death and the date of the funeral was set at a late time. Yesterday the friends of the late Mrs. Markell assembled in the little chapel to pay their last sad respects to the departed wife, and the minister highly extolled her virtues.

As the audience was dismissed with the benediction, Mr. Markell, the chief mourner, stepped up to the pulpit and handed the minister a document. All was silence, and a breathless curiosity pervaded the little sanctuary, which was sooted when Miss Haidée Richards, a comely girl of 22, in her pet and diamond-encrusted gown, stepped to the altar, with her hand on the shoulder of the minister, who had voice by praying the strain under which he was laboring, requested that the audience again be seated, whereupon he announced to them that the document he held in his hand was a license permitting any ordained minister of the Gospel to unite in wedlock Mr. William Markell and Miss Haidée Richards, that he had been asked to perform the marriage rite at this time. Thereupon the ceremony took place, and the audience, which had just been called upon to condole, were given an opportunity to congratulate the same man who had been suddenly transformed from a sorrowing widower to a happy bridegroom.

Explanations were then demanded, and it was shown that the strange proceedings were in deference to the dying request and expressed wish of the deceased, that her schoolmate and closest friend, Miss Haidée, should on the day of her funeral become the bride of her late husband, and thus be permitted a mother's rights to care for and rear her motherless little ones.

Silence You Can See. There is no such thing as silence in this world. It is an impossibility. That is partly the reason why science has enabled us to see it.

The explanation of the paradox is this: Silence, as we understand it, simply means that there are sounds too delicate or too loud for the ear to register. In other words, when we can't hear anything we call that condition "silence." But wherever you are there are sounds around you. Even in the deepest mine the air vibrates and makes a sound. An instrument has been invented that will catch these sounds and permit of the vibrations being represented pictorially on a screen, and in that way you may see silence and properly understand what it means.

By comparing the pictures of noises with those of that condition of things known as silence we gain an idea of the difference between an idea night, for instance, and one when "absolutely silence reigns," as the novelist puts it. It is rather surprising to find so much disturbance at the time when everything appears to be perfectly quiet.—Pearson's Weekly.

Lord's Message. The late Lord Savile used to say, according to The Candid Friend, "that high diplomats had always to be on their guard against intriguing women, mainly Russian agents, who would use any wire to extract information. During the Russo-Turkish war, when Europe was always on the verge of a crisis and Russian statesmen were most anxious to know what England would do under given circumstances, a lady came up to him suddenly at a ball and said:

"I hear that the Russians have made a forced march and entered Constantinople," hoping no doubt that he would be surprised into some indiscreet expression.

He merely replied: "Indeed! And I suppose the sultan has conferred on them the order of the Turkish Bath?"

The lady continued gravely: "And they say in Paris that if England does not interfere the eastern question is settled in favor of Russia."

"And that," replied his excellency, "I suppose, the new judgment of Paris."

A Suicide at Asheville. James Ransom, a clerk in the freight depot here, committed suicide on the 5th, by taking half an ounce of chloral and half an ounce of bromide potassium. Ransom was a native of Newbern and a nephew of ex-Senator Matt W. Ransom. He was 38 years of age and leaves a wife, who was Miss Creech, of Raleigh, with five small children. Mr. Ransom has been at various times an inmate of the Morganston asylum, and his wife has been trying recently to have him again committed as violent and dangerous at times.

Drowned in Water 10 Inches Deep. Newbern, April 8.—Yesterday an old lady, Susan Sigman, living three or four miles west of this place, was found in a small creek, her head in water about 10 inches deep. Some one working near heard strange noises and on investigation found the old lady almost drowned. On being taken from the water, or soon after, she spoke a few words—said something about so much trouble and asked for her son—but died shortly afterward. It is supposed to be a case of suicide.

The Man. "Oh," remarked Amy, with a sigh, "the men are not what they used to be."

"Indeed!" said Douglas. "And why not?"

"Well, they used to be boys, you know."

And then he left.

Bishop Fowler, of the New York Conference, M. E. Church, in addressing applicants for admission to the ministry, among other things, cautioned his hearers to discriminate between sanctification and crank-tification. The former he defined as consecration unto God, the latter as Godliness turned sour.

Goldboro is soon to have another paper. It is to be a weekly paper, known as The Wayne County Advertiser, and will be edited by Mr. A. Whiteley, who has had considerable newspaper experience.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON III, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, APRIL 20.

Text of the Lesson, Acts x, 34-48. Memory Verses, 42-44—Golden Text, Acts x, 34—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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34. Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons. As in Gen. i and II and Rev. xxi and xlii so throughout this whole Bible the story is that of God working out His eternal purpose (Eph. iii, 11) notwithstanding the opposition of the devil and of sinful men controlled by the devil. The special story of the Acts is that of the beginning of the gathering out from the gentiles a people for His name (x, 14), and this work began in the home of Cornelius under Peter, as recorded in our lesson. Although the Lord had commanded by preface His ascension that the gospel be preached to every creature and under the utmost part of the earth (Mark x, 15; Acts i, 8), the preaching had up to this time been to the Jews only (xi, 19), and Peter had to receive a special vision to teach him that God was no respecter of persons.

35-38. Preaching peace by Jesus Christ. These glad tidings were for Israel first (Luke xxiv, 47; Acts i, 8), but in order that Israel might reach out to the gentiles, which they were slow to do. God made the sinless one to be sin for us that we might in Him be made righteous before God (II Cor. v, 21), and apart from Him there is no righteousness, no salvation, however devout or prayerful a man may be. Even Nicodemus had to be born from above in order to enter the kingdom of God, and Peter had to bring to Cornelius the message by which he and there is no salvation apart from the reception of Christ and faith in His atoning blood (Acts iv, 12; Lev. xvii, 11).

39. We are witnesses. A witness does not need to get up his little speech or make up anything. He simply tells truthfully what he knows, and the redeemed of the Lord are continually on the witness stand proclaiming something concerning Jesus Christ. If all the redeemed were true witnesses, what a glorious testimony would be ever going forth concerning Him who is altogether lovely!

40-42. He commanded us to preach unto all people and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. In all their preaching these witnesses fail not to declare that although the Jews killed Jesus God raised Him from the dead and showed Him openly to chosen witnesses, and now Peter declares, as Paul afterward does (xvii, 31), that He is the God appointed Judge of all mankind.

43. To Him give all the prophets witness. On the way to Emmaus as He talked with those two that resurrection day He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself and taught that all things concerning Him in the law, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled (Luke xxiv, 27, 44). The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets, and the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (I Pet. i, 10, 11; Rev. xix, 10), and the uniform testimony of all in whom the Spirit speaks is that the first great essential is the forgiveness of sins, and this can be had only in Christ by His precious blood.

44. While Peter yet spake these words the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. The message was not Peter's message, but the Lord's own message through Peter, and Cornelius so recognized it, for he had said to Peter, "We are all here present before God to hear all things that are commanded thee of God" (verse 33). As the word was spoken the Spirit wrought, their open hearts received Him of whom Peter in the power of the Spirit spake, and the Spirit Himself came in power upon them at the same time.

45. They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. It was as at Pentecost (chapter ii, 4), except that there was no waiting, for the Spirit having come as our Lord promised there is no longer any need to wait, but where the heart is open and the Lord truly received there may be also the filling of the Spirit. While there is no need to wait any definite time to be filled with the Spirit, there may be a need to wait because of the unreadiness of the believer to receive. There came with Peter six Jewish brethren from Joppa (Acts ix, 12), who, although believers, were astonished when they saw the Holy Spirit given to these gentiles. It is to this day difficult for some believers to think that any people can be blessed outside of their so-called churches, but they need to learn that God is no more a respecter of denominations than of persons.

47. He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Here is something helpful for those who make baptism with water essential to the new birth, for behold in this company in Cornelius' house who have been baptized and who have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. On the other hand, we have in Acts ix, 1-6, some disciples who, having been baptized, had not heard anything about the Holy Spirit, so they were baptized again and at the hands of Paul received the gift of the Holy Ghost and spake with tongues and prophesied. I mention this to show that we must make essential to salvation only that which God makes essential—viz, receiving Christ (John i, 12; I John v, 11, 12).

Just What He Needed. A man went with his wife to visit her physician. The doctor placed a thermometer in the woman's mouth.

After two or three minutes, just as the physician was about to remove the instrument, the man, who was not used to such a prolonged spell of brilliant silence on the part of his life partner, said:

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The President's Charleston Speech.

President Roosevelt made a good speech at Charleston yesterday. Without attempting an analysis of it, there are several points in it of particular interest. One is the Chief Executive's evident desire to deal fairly with Cuba. He will say: We have rightfully insisted upon Cuba adopting toward us an attitude differing politically from that she adopts toward any other power; and in return, as a matter of right, we must give Cuba a different—that is, a better—position economically in her relations with us than we give to other powers. This is the course dictated by sound policy, by a wise and far-sighted view of our own interest, and by the position we have taken during the past four years. We are a wealthy and powerful country, dealing with a much weaker one; and the contrast in wealth and strength makes it all the more our duty to deal with Cuba, as we have already dealt with her, in a spirit of large generosity.

It is due to the President that the 20 per cent. tariff reduction is to be granted on Cuban sugar. There is little doubt but that for this firm insistence upon this concession, the Republican party in Congress would have yielded to the selfish dictation of the trusts and Cuba would not have fared even so well as she does in the "ending bill."

The President, while fully recognizing the great problems that this government has to deal with, takes a characteristically hopeful view of their ultimately satisfactory solution. He very tersely and truly remarks that wealth has its rights, it being simply "the form of embodied thrift" and that we cannot accomplish anything for the welfare of the country by raving against it or "penalizing the qualities which tell for success." And then he has this to say about trusts:

This is an era of great combinations both of labor and capital. In many ways these combinations have worked for good, but they must work under the law, and the laws concerning them must be just as wise, or they would inevitably do the most for the most powerful labor union. Our laws must be wise, sane, healthy, conceived in the spirit of those who scorn the mere agitator, the mere inciter of class or sectional hatred; who wish justice for all men; who recognize the need of adhering so far as possible to the old American doctrine of giving the widest possible scope for the free exercise of individual initiative, and yet who recognize also that after combinations have reached a certain stage it is indispensable to the general welfare that the nation should exercise oversight, but firmly the power of supervision and regulation.

In view of the pending litigation in the Supreme Court of the United States to prevent the merging into one management of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads by the Northern Securities Company, this utterance of the President appears to be significant.

Wood Too Hard to Burn. There are certain kinds of wood that are too hard to burn, or refuse to ignite for some other reason, such as iron-wood and the good brier root, but it is a curiosity to come across a piece of common deal—the soft, light wood of which so many boxes are made—that cannot be set fire to.

The piece of wood in question was common white deal from Sweden, but was remarkable for its comparative weight. It had formed part of a boat belonging to a whaler and had been dragged below the surface of the water to the depth of more than half a mile by a harpooned whale. The length of line and the short distance from the point of descent after being struck at which the whale rose to the surface was a proof of the depth to which it had dragged the boat.

Only part of the boat came up again at the end of the line, and it was taken on board when the whale had been killed. That piece of wood was so hard that it would not burn in a gas jet. The weight of water had compressed it.—London Standard.

Birds' Songs. A French writer, Henri Coupon, says that, notwithstanding the fact of the simplicity, the songs of birds cannot be caused of the impossibility of reproducing their peculiar timbre. The notes of birds, while corresponding with our musical scale, also include vibrations occupying the intervals between our notes. The duration of birds' songs is usually very short, two or three seconds for thrushes and chaffinches, four or five seconds for blackbirds, but from two to five minutes for the lark.

A Salmon's Leap. One of the directors of the Norwegian fishery was endeavoring to discover the height a salmon will leap when clearing a waterfall which obstructs its passage up stream. Masts were placed below the fall to insure accurate measurements. It is stated that a fish can leap to the height of twenty feet. When a fish failed to clear the fall at one bound, it remained in the falling water and then, with a rapid twist of the body, gave a spring and was successful.

Marriamony and Eyes. An old man was rallied by his friends on his marrying a young wife, on the inequality of their ages. He replied, "She will be near me to close my eyes."

"Well," replied a friend, "I've had two of them, and they opened my eyes."—Exchange.

Smart Girl. Her Mother—Edith, don't you think you are getting too old to play with little boys?

Edith—No, mamma; the older I get the better I like them.—Tit-Bits.

The Constitution. "My wife always consults me about every article of attire she buys—frocks, hats, shoes, gloves, everything."

"My wife does, too—that is, she asks me for the money."

—Mr. Geo. C. Smith, one of Stanley county's oldest citizens and farmers, died last Sunday night. He was buried Monday with Masonic honors.

10,000 Employees Locked Out. AUGUSTA, Ga., April 9.—The lockout of the mill operatives for the strike Monday of the employees of the King Mills went into effect this forenoon. Every mill in Augusta and the House Creek district is closed. They include the plants at Aiken, Vainance, Graniteville, Warrenville, Bath, Langley and Clear Water, which employ in the aggregate 10,000.

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Mooreville had a fire Saturday night that proved disastrous to Mr. W. P. Carpenter. About midnight Mr. Carpenter was waked by a light in his room. Upon looking out he saw that his barn was on fire and the flames had gotten such a head way that it was impossible to save anything. Two excellent horses and one cow perished in the flames. The cow was the property of Mr. Connelly. A new two-horse wagon was burned also. The loss to Mr. Carpenter is about \$500. There was no insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown. It was either incendiary or caused by some one sleeping in the barn.

A young white woman of the highest standing in Wilmington was eloped by a negro girl the other day on the street. No reason for the offense is known, and the offender escaped in the crowd, although the police, aided by the recipient of the blow, made diligent search for her. A reminder of this, of the dark days in Wilmington, that thanks to the white supremacy rule that overthrew Populism and the travesty of municipal government which it foisted upon Wilmington for a time, such occurrences are very rare to-day.—Charlotte Observer.

Shame in This Office, Brethren.

Our esteemed Monroe contemporary, The Equivocal, announces the following as its platform in this campaign: "Candidates wanting announcements must pay for same in advance. Every puff and whoop for the aspirants for office must be paid for in advance at the same rate. We will make no exceptions to this rule. Helping a candidate secure a lucrative position is the same as helping a merchant to sell goods." That's our, too, Bro. Ashcraft. We have found no pleasure or profit in giving free space to candidates, but have had a number who got less puffing than others got mad with us. Our correspondents must send 5 cents a line for all puffs of candidates, or they go not in. We reserve our editorial space for the expression of our sentiments as to the desirability of a candidate, but will adhere to our former policy of treating all candidates on the same footing. It is a matter of business and we shall endeavor to know no favorites.

Pay Your Poll Tax. Stateville Landmark. White men who are liable for poll tax are again reminded that this tax must be paid by May 1st on pain of disfranchisement so far as elections this year are concerned. It is well to remember also that failure to pay by May 1st and consequent disfranchisement does not relieve one of the duty of paying the tax. The sheriff or poll collector can and will collect the tax in any event, and if not paid by May 1st you will have to pay after you are disfranchised. It is the failure to pay by May 1st that operates against the exercise of the electoral franchise. Every able bodied male citizen under 50 is liable for and ought to pay poll tax and one who has any self-respect out not, through negligence, to permit himself to be disfranchised by failure to pay. In so doing he reflects upon himself by attempting to avoid his duty to the State and at the same time by allowing himself to be deprived of the right to vote.

There are no Bad Things as Jaggs Some Worse. Raleigh Post. Getting on "jags" of the conventional or unconventional sort, occasionally, semi-occasionally or periodically, is reprehensible, but there are worse sins against public and private virtue than this carried around as a strictly sober envelope but full of moral obliquities and untruthful, corrupting poses and practices within. Mr. Mulden deserved the severe reprimand that his "unconventional jag" which permitted by his reappointment overjoyed him to indulge in at Washington has brought him; but that he is to be crucified, eternally cast out and denied any chance of reformation cannot be the demand of the right-minded.

The Rural Free Delivery System. Raleigh Christian Advocate. The Free Rural Delivery System, so lately inaugurated, is spreading with amazing rapidity all over the State. Some States have been using the system for some time and the high value of the same is considered a matter of course. Yet in North Carolina there are some communities where the system is meeting opposition by some people who consider it an innovation involving the expenditure of money without bringing money in. Such people care little for reading and measure every thing by the money standard. The Free Rural Delivery System means a wonderful spread of intelligence among the people.

A Fatal Argument. Atlanta Constitution. A story with political features, and which points a moral, is set in, as follows, by a Billville correspondent: "Old man Pullins was up in an oak tree, sawing off one of the limbs, when one of the candidates for sheriff came along, and the man up the tree and the man on the ground got into a political argument, which grew so heated that old Pullins lost track of what he was doing and sawed off the limb he was on, coming suddenly down on the head of the candidate, who somewhat broke his fall, although the old man succeeded in breaking a couple of ribs and the candidate's head—or most of it, all of which is a warning to political arguers with a man up a tree."

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50,000 Employees Locked Out. AUGUSTA, Ga., April 9.—The lockout of the mill operatives for the strike Monday of the employees of the King Mills went into effect this forenoon. Every mill in Augusta and the House Creek district is closed. They include the plants at Aiken, Vainance, Graniteville, Warrenville, Bath, Langley and Clear Water, which employ in the aggregate 10,000.

FALL RIVER, April 7.—The executive committee of the textile workers met today, but took no action on the strike in the mills at Augusta, Ga.

Negro Shot Out in Virginia.

The Democratic Constitutional Convention adopted on the 4th a plan which has been in process of formation for nearly ten months and which, it is believed, will practically eliminate the negro from politics, while allowing the illiterate white man to vote. The leading men of the convention think that they have succeeded in doing an unconstitutional thing constitutionally. The plan provides that all who become registered voters between the time of the adoption of the new Constitution and January 1, 1904, shall be able to read, or give a "reasonable" explanation of any section of the New Constitution when read to them.

It is estimated that by 1904 all the white Democrats of the State will become registered voters, and, once registered, they are safe for life, unless disfranchised by reason of crime. Few negroes will be able to qualify for the registers, who will be arbiters, will not regard their explanation of the Constitution as "reasonable."

After January 1, 1904, the understanding clause will not be in effect, but in its place will be a poll tax of \$1.50 and each applicant for registration will be required to write his name and address clearly in the presence of the registrar. These provisions, it is believed, will keep the majority of the negroes out.

The convention adjourned on the 4th until May 22. The wind-up was celebrated by a scene of great hilarity. Members climbed on their desks and made the room ring with the Rebel yell.

A War souvenir. The Concord correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says: "One of the friends of Rev. Cochran Preston, who is now at the Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va., received from him today a small package containing a button which he picked up about two weeks ago on the battlefield of Seven Pines. It is very much tarnished but the coat of arms and the motto of Virginia are plainly seen and the words stand out clear and prominent. The button must have been lost from the coat of some Virginia Confederate and has lain on that battlefield nearly 40 years. The battle of Seven Pines was fought June 1, 1862. General Joe Johnston was the Confederate general and McClellan the Federal. Mr. Preston, knowing how much value would be placed on such a souvenir by one of Concord's young ladies, who is nothing if not a Southerner, and who cherishes every memento of the Confederacy, took the button to a jeweler and had him to attach it to a hat-pin. So the pin arrived in this morning's mail and the owner is overwhelmed with gratitude for such a unique gift and wears it with the greatest pride."

Modern Ideas in China. The State Department has made public copies of two Chinese edicts, which were sent by United States Minister Conger at Peking under date of February 6.

The edicts, says Mr. Conger, indicate the loosening of the bonds old custom and the present trend toward a new order of things. The first edict removes the prohibition of intermarriage between Manchus and Chinese and is of political significance, says Mr. Conger, as indicating a desire to emphasize less strongly the distinction between rulers and ruled. It also bids Chinese officials and gentry to persuade Chinese women to do away with the old custom of foot-binding and let their extremities grow as nature intended. The practice, says the edict is "an injury to the good order of creation."

The other edict is in line with the policy declared in a number of recent edicts and contemplates the sending abroad of competent Chinamen to study western methods in order to extend the international relations of the Empire.

An Unanswered Question. Stateville Landmark. The storm of Sunday seemed to have especial fury for church houses and worshippers therein.

On one occasion when a bolt of lightning jumped through the belfry of the church and ran down the post against which an old strict-construction brother was accustomed to sit and listen to what he considered altogether loose interpretation of Scripture, the good old brother exclaimed: "Direct evidence of the Lord's displeasure of such unscriptural doctrine. By the way, why does lightning and storms strike churches anyhow?"—Monroe Journal.

This is an unanswered question. The storm of Friday, as the Journal says, was noticeably destructive to churches. A few years ago when a cyclone passed over Stateville two churches were damaged and houses around them untouched. If a storm destroys a stillhouse or a saloon the righteous are