

THE MAN AT THE LEVER.

What a Locomotive Engineer has to Remember.

Leon Edgar Reed, in Harper's Weekly.

Officials who operate the fast trains recently put on between New York city and the West are just now facing a problem in philosophy, which on paper, looks something like this:

"How many ironclad rules can the human mind keep within instant recall, if death is the penalty for forgetting?"

The answer is supposed to lie somewhere in the code of rules and signals which the officials have devised for the operation of these fast trains. The rules, of which there are about 700 for each 125 miles between New York city and Chicago, were made for the safety of the public, but the public may look askance when it learns that one man must remember 700 of them and that a slip on any one rule may mean a shocking loss of human life.

These 700 rules are the average for each division of the chief railroad lines running west from New York. Each set covers the work of one engineer, who drives his train until another engineer, with a fresh set of rules and, presumably, a fresh memory, relieves him. In other words, eight men, the average number of locomotive engineers who drive a fast train between New York and Chicago, must keep constantly in mind nearly 6,000 different rules, in order that patrols of these trains may travel without risking their lives. What this means to the public in 24 hours' ride on one of these trains can be judged from the following list of what an engineer on a certain 100-mile run has to watch, while his locomotive is going at sixty miles an hour.

Five hundred "cross-over" switchlights, to learn whether they are red or white. Fifteen "interlocking" switchlights, to learn whether they are red, white or green. Seven "non-interlocking" switchlights, to know whether they are red or green. Semaphore arms at twenty-five way stations, for possible red lights. Four hundred highway crossings, to know whether they are "clear." Locomotives of a dozen trains approaching on parallel tracks, for red or green lights. Telegraph operators at twenty-five way stations, who may be waiting near the track with orders. For a red flag at any conceivable point in the 100 miles, displayed as a danger signal. Whether one or two torpedoes are exploded at any point in the 100 miles, signifying "caution" or "stop." Whether his clearance card is good for each of twenty-five way stations. Whether there is enough water in the engine boiler. Whether there is enough coal in the engine tender. Whether the steam pressure is being kept up. Whether the fireman is obeying another long set of rules. Whether the engine bell rings, at 400 highway crossings.

By day the switch and signal-lights are replaced by signal boards and "blocks," the color or direction of which must be read as literally as the lamps. The engineer who notes 899 of these signs, from his cab window and misses the 700th has taken, in race track language, a "700 to 1 shot" with a trainload of human lives.

The public has good reason to ask whether the safety limit has not been reached with both speed and rules. There must be a point where the locomotive is so large and its speed so great, that one human mind cannot safely control it, no matter how few the levers are. A 90-ton passenger locomotive going at seventy miles an hour, and operated by one man "inside." It is as much a psychological freak as a 250-pound human athlete would be if turned loose with the brain of a 3-year-old boy.

Mr. B. L. Duke has entered suit for divorce from his wife, Mrs. M. W. Duke, in the courts at Durham. The suit has created a sensation.

Mrs. L. Q. C. Lamar, widow of the former Mississippi Senator and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, died Tuesday night at her home at Mcon, Ga.

George W. Vanderbilt's Pisgah preserve, containing about 150,000 acres of land, has, according to the Charlotte Observer's Asheville correspondent, been leased to Mr. E. B. Moore, proprietor of the Kenilworth Inn, the transaction involving a consideration of \$200,000.

DOWIE'S OPPOSITION TO THE PRESS.

He and Other Frauds and Fakes are Afraid of the Exposure of the Newspapers.

Baltimore Sun.

Governor Penypacker, of Pennsylvania, may possibly be pleased to learn that John Alexander Dowie, the "reincarnation of the Prophet Elijah," also entertains very strong views regarding the right of the press to criticize public officials. According to a New York dispatch, the modern Elijah made an address in which he "demanded the establishment of a censorship to protect clergymen, politicians, judges and business men from newspaper attacks." Of course Elijah II is not such an altruist as to exempt prophets from the benefits of the censorship. Probably he feels the need of protection from the insidious assaults of a press which does not take him too seriously, and refuses to recognize, without convincing proofs, his claims to wear the mantle of the devout seer of Scriptural fame. Prophets for revenue, however, should not expect a larger measure of consideration than politicians or public servants, who have a keen eye for the main chance. If they will make spectacles of themselves they cannot hope to keep out of newspapers. The press holds the mirror up to the world, and if a reincarnated celebrity happens to be reflected in it, the mirror is not at fault. If the "second Elijah" had borne himself as unpretentiously as the original seer, he would have had no cause to complain of the publicity given to him by the press. Since his exhibition of prophetic greatness has been on a far more ostentatious scale than that which the ancient chroniclers noted in the first Elijah, it was impossible for the press to ignore the spectacular phases of his mission to wicked and unregenerate Gotham. But why should a prophet with a message to mankind object to the widest publicity? Why should he wish to gag the newspapers and thus deprive the world of revelations of the highest importance to humanity? It is probable that the original Elijah would have welcomed the assistance of any agency which would have borne his words to every corner of the globe. Why should his self-styled successor hesitate to avail himself of the help of the press in the regeneration of mankind? Elijah II must have grave doubts about his genuineness as a prophet if he is afraid of the honest, truth telling press. The newspapers present him to the world's gaze in the same form in which he presents himself. Is the modern Elijah afraid of what the mirror reveals to him? Isn't he willing to see himself as others see him?

The Menace of Indifference. Thomas Dixon, Jr. The great dangers that threaten us to-day are not from the ignorant and vicious classes. These are a minority. They are but a fraction of the governing body. Our great danger lies in the indifference of intelligent citizens. They have grown tired of the bitter fights of the practical political arena. They have grown disgusted with the corruption and stench of the political mob. To keep out of a dog fight, they have deserted and given the State over to the dogs. Many of these people too are lazy. They are too lazy to vote, too lazy to think. Besides, they hope to escape jury duty by not registering. Men are not excused in the army because they become disgusted with the filth of camp and hospital life. They must stand by their post. Neither are soldiers excused for laziness. The man who deserts is shot. There is no excuse allowed. The man who deserts the ballot has no excuse. He should be punished as a criminal. Not to the ignorance and vice of electors must we charge the extravagances, disgraces and corruptions of our State, National and municipal governments. We must charge it primarily to the negligence, indifference and laziness of electors qualified to govern rightly. The thief steals if we leave the safe open before his eyes. It is his nature, his business to steal. We charge first the responsibility upon the man who left the doors open.

The Davidson College foot ball team was defeated by the foot ball team of the University of Virginia at Charlotte Saturday afternoon by a score of 22 to 0.

GREAT WOMAN ORATOR.

Developed Rare Executive Ability at an Early Age.

Washington Star.

Mrs. Emma Moss Booth-Tucker was the second daughter of Gen. William Booth, of the Salvation Army, and was born at Gateshead, England, January 8, 1860.

In 1880, when but 20 years of age, she was placed in charge of the hundreds of young women who were being trained for officers of the Army at the International Home, in London, from which place they were sent to all parts of the world. April 10, 1888, Miss Booth became the bride of Frederick St. G. de Lantour Tucker, and together they assumed the name of Booth-Tucker. She went with her husband to India, where they lived for several years, and she made her work widely felt.

Shortly after she returned to London with her husband they were appointed to command the Army in America, in March, 1896, succeeding Eva Booth, who had supplanted her brother, Ballington Booth, who had been removed by the General.

Mrs. Booth-Tucker was one of the ablest of the children of William Booth and Catherine Mulford, and showed remarkable talent and executive ability when still in her teens. She was a woman of rare personal attraction. A versatile and fluent speaker, a simple yet dramatic manner, modest and unpretentious, were her characteristics. It is related that many times in India she went barefoot, and travelled with her foot blistered in order to help some needy person.

A friend declared she had enthusiasm tempered with cool judgment and executive ability. It was these qualities which incited her father to send her to the United States in 1896 to try to bring about harmony in the American branch of the Army. The following characterization was made of her at that time:

"She has the rare quality of perfect sympathy. She is a well-educated woman in the sense that she can think and write clear, good English. She has no class prejudices, and is just as much at home in the parlors of a house in the 5th avenue as in the one and only room of a squalid family. But it is in the public meeting that her real power shows itself. As an orator she ranks above all except half a dozen Americans."

MR. BRYAN'S LEGACY.

Mr. Bennett Left Him \$50,000, the Widow Objects and Mr. Bryan Contest for the Money.

Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Philo S. Bennett, a rich old man of Connecticut, became enamored of Mr. Wm. J. Bryan. He visited Mr. Bryan's home at Lincoln, Neb., and during this visit made a will bequeathing Mr. Bryan \$50,000. Mr. Bryan drew the will. In the course of time Mr. Bennett died. His widow objected to paying Mr. Bryan the \$50,000, hence the court proceedings in which Mr. Bryan was called to Connecticut to testify, the postponement of his European tour and his failure to take part in the Kentucky campaign. Fifty thousand dollars is a big stake and no one can blame Mr. Bryan for abandoning other affairs of business and pleasure to look after the main chance.

Where Bryan comes in for criticism is his manifest indiscretion in himself drawing the will of his friend Bennett, bequeathing the chief beneficiary. Certainly it would have looked more "regular" if the instrument had been drawn up by another lawyer.

It appears that there was a sealed letter which was to be opened by the widow and which directed her to pay over \$50,000 to Mr. Bryan himself. On this point the New York Sun says:

"There are all sorts of time-honored objections to lawyers drawing up wills for their friends or clients by which wills they are themselves to become the beneficiaries. Mr. Bryan as a lawyer, was aware of this, and his way to get around it was to have the testator sign a separate instrument or letter of instruction referring duly to the same in his will. Thereby he proposed to vindicate his delicacy as a lawyer versed in the ethics of his profession as well as show himself, in case of inquiry or comment, to be a man of nice conscientiousness."

The widow, however, did not take kindly to the instructions given her in the sealed letter and refused to be bound by it. Consequently, "the whole affair was precipitated into the courts; a most distressing publicity en-

sued, and Mr. Bryan allowed himself to be betrayed into writing an outburst of personal frankness to the widow which she did not choose to regard as confidential and which her lawyer, with undignified brutality, promptly spread upon the judicial records." This in brief is the story of Mr. Bennett's will and Mr. Bryan's connection with it. Old man Bennett's sincerity in devising the money to Mr. Bryan will scarcely be doubted, and the Peerless should and will probably get it, but he made a mistake in himself drafting the will.

Claims of Being Drunk Very Often a Subterfuge.

Monroe Inquirer.

We put very little faith in this claim of "was drunk and did not know anything about what I was doing." Just try giving some drunken fool, who claims that he does not know what he is doing, a licking and see if he does not remember it the next time he sees you.

Dr. Bassett Criticized.

Charlotte Observer.

Durham Nov. 2.—The utterances of Dr. John S. Bassett, of Trinity College, on the negro question, first published in the South Atlantic Monthly, of which he is editor, has stirred Durham from centre to circumference. The expressed opinion of the people on the streets today indicate that they are not any more in sympathy with Dr. Bassett in his position, than they were with President Roosevelt when he dined with the negro, that the learned Durham educator says is the greatest man born in the South in 100 years with the single exception of General R. E. Lee.

All over the city yesterday and today citizens—preachers as well as laymen—have denounced Dr. Bassett in no uncertain terms. Learned and conservative men seen by your correspondent today say that the position taken by Dr. Bassett will do nothing but add fuel to the racial troubles that have been stirred up by several attempts toward social equality in the recent past.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with pleasure we announce to the people of Gastonia and vicinity, that on Thursday, Nov. 12th, we shall open a new Clothing and Men's Furnishing store in the building formerly occupied by The Gazette, corner South and Main Streets.

We extend a cordial invitation to all to visit us and see for yourselves the high grade goods which are to be offered at prices that will be a revelation to every one.

Purchasing our stock for our two stores, the one in Durham and the one in Gastonia, enables us to buy at the best advantage and at prices that permit us to offer better goods for the least money.

We carry a full line of the hand-tailored clothing made by Schloss Bros. & Co., "The Best Clothes Makers", the high quality of whose apparel is known the country over where quality goods find purchasers.

The illustrations in this advertisement show some of the latest and most popular styles which we shall offer during the opening week at exceedingly moderate prices, ranging from \$5 to \$25.

It is not our object in this announcement to enter into details covering the manifold merits of our clothing, preferring to have you call in person and make your own careful inspection. A welcome and a revelation await you.

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