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THE TYRANNY OF CUSTOM. (Presbyterian Standard)

We have all read and have been thrilled by the story of the young Swiss who threw himself upon the bristling spears in order to break the serried ranks of the enemy.

It is in order now for some modern Arnold von Winkelried to sacrifice his social standing by disregarding a social custom that is fast spreading.

Once the presents at Christmas were confined to the immediate family, and were real expressions of love. In recent years the circle has steadily grown till it is fast including one's acquaintances, without regard to age or intimacy, and in consequence the Christmas season is one dreaded as the maker of burdens too heavy to be borne.

Some of your friends have been married 25, or it may be 50 years. There is nothing peculiarly wonderful about that, such as would reflect any credit upon the parties concerned. It only shows how good God has been to spare them to each other for so many years, and if there is to be any giving, it would seem more in keeping with the fitness of things to give something to His cause.

Such, however, is not the custom; but cards are sent out announcing a certain anniversary, which is a delicate way of asking for a present, and forthwith all who receive such cards, buy something of the least cost that will save their face.

The children have their birthday parties, and then, instead of old-time games such as our level-headed ancestors played, each one invited must bring a present, which means heart-burning on the part of some who could not afford a finer one, and social ostracism for those who brought nothing.

Again the circle is widening. The rite of infant baptism has been caught in the maelstrom, and now instead of being a religious ceremony in which parents dedicate their child to God and enter into covenant relations with Him, it has also become an occasion for the same conferring of presents.

No one likes these customs, and all would like a return to the old ways, yet no one has the courage to defy them.

So far the funeral has escaped, but the time may come, when each one invited will bring something to be put in the grave, after the manner of our savage ancestors.

A FEW RULES FOR HOG RAISERS. (By Lester Homes, R. R. 25, Sheridan, Indiana)

For young pigs we always furnish a dry bed where they can get lots of sunshine.

We keep fresh water where they can get it always.

We never permit a hog to become lousy, using crude carbolic acid and coal oil as a preventive.

We keep plenty of charcoal or soft coal before them.

If possible we never have a pen or hog lot next the highway and we try to prevent pigeons and crows and buzzards from alighting in the pens.

We quarantine new hogs until sure that they are free from disease.

We do not allow stock-food men or patent medicine men within the lot, for we can't tell how recently they may have visited a sick herd.

We never keep a sow more than a year if she does not produce an average of six pigs per litter.

GOLD HILL SENATORS ESCAPE ALL BLAME

Washington, July 17.—No body is to blame for having boomed the Gold Hill mine on senate stationery.

That in substance is the finding of senate committee which has investigated the remarkable chain of circumstances that led to the circulation of the Wall Street curb of a Gold Hill report struck off on senate committee letterheads in the offices of two senators who are stockholders in the mine.

The committee's report, which was laid before the full committee on privileges and elections, contains not a word of condemnation for anybody or anything. There is nothing in it that would discourage the most timid from emulating this effort to exploit the North Carolina Golconda on senate stationery.

Even Walter George Newman, the promoter who used the President's room at the Capitol to sing the praises of Gold Hill and who enjoyed the extraordinary privilege of going on the floor of the senate, might find encouragement in the report to try his luck again.

LOUD "AMENS" COVERED PRISONERS' DEPARTURE.

Kinston, July 15.—Alonzo Marshburn, a negro, was today carried to the Duplin county jail at Kenansville, from where he with seven others escaped about two weeks ago. He was arrested by a Lenoir county planter and brought to jail here until a Duplin county officer could come for him. Marshburn confessed that he was wanted in Duplin to stand trial on a charge of larceny, and described the means that he and the others employed to escape. While the little county seat town was sleeping the conspirators in the jail held a religious service to drown the noise made by those digging the hole for their escape. Song and prayer services are frequent occurrences in the county jail in Kenansville, and citizens disturbed from their slumbers returned immediately to sleep. An especially capable black led the service, while the physical huskies used the tools. Marshburn was a chorister, and prayed a bit too, he said. The time for the exit was accompanied by an extra loud "amen" and the eight slipped through the hole and skulked away over the country side. Only Marshburn has been captured.

MORE FRAUD WHEAT.

I bought one bushel of seed wheat from E. P. Link, the seed peddler, one half bushel each of two varieties both smooth head wheat. I sowed separate. One of the lots was about half bearded and had several different kinds of wheat in it; the other lot was about one fourth bearded and mixed with other kinds of wheat. I sowed it on the best land. I had prepared it well and used 200 pounds of fertilizer per acre. It did not make near as good wheat as my own seed did right by the side of it. I lost something like \$10.00 by buying the one bushel of seed, \$4.75 I paid for the wheat and it liked five or six bushels of making as much as my own seed would have made.

JOHN TURNER,
Yadkin Valley, N. C.

Before marriage he thinks she is the dearest girl in the world. After marriage, when the bills come in, he knows she is.

NEWS ITEMS OF STATE AND NATIONAL INTEREST

Interesting News of All Kinds Derived from Various Sources, Revised and Condensed for Brief Reading.

The Bank of Morganton has lately moved into its handsome new quarters on West Union street.

President Wilson is being urged by Gov. Craig and many other prominent North Carolinians to appoint Chief Justice Walter Clark of the State Supreme Court to the U. S. Supreme Court to succeed the late Judge H. H. Lurton.

Washington, July 16.—Representative Webb, North Carolina, was chosen by the house Democratic caucus today to succeed Representative Clayton, Alabama, recently named federal judge, as chairman of the judiciary committee.

New York, July 15.—In one borough of Greater New York—Manhattan—540 absolute divorces were granted during the six months ended June 30, as against 372 during the same period last year. These figures were made public today by the county clerk.

Durham, July 15.—William Erwin, the 16-year-old son of W. A. Erwin, of West Durham, was placed under arrest this afternoon in connection with the injury of Thomas Coghill, who was run down by an automobile being driven by young Erwin this afternoon.

The people around Louisburg don't seem to want booze very badly as there was a trunk containing 50 pints of whiskey taken from the train carrying militia companies to Morehead City some ten days ago and has not been claimed as yet. It is supposed it belonged to some of the boys who wanted to do a little "blind tigering" and they are afraid to claim it.

Fayetteville, July 16.—Wednesday night Sheriff McGeachy arrested at Watkins mill, a few miles north of Fayetteville, a negro identified as Aaron Dupree, murderer of Mack Brown on his farm at Dundarrach last December. The prisoner denied being the right party but he is now safely locked in jail.

Newton, July 16.—Carl Stewart was arrested here a few days ago charged with deserting the navy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Stewart, and was only about 16 years old when he enlisted and did so without the knowledge and consent of his parents. He was taken to Charlotte and from there to Norfolk for trial.

Asheville, July 16.—The trial of Berry Dockery, charged with the murder of Perry Bradburn in the Leicester section last March, began in Superior court here this morning, Judge E. B. Cline presiding. The state introduced only four witnesses and then rested its case, which is considered a damaging one for the defendant.

J. L. Boger, former chief of police of Concord, has been appointed United States deputy marshal to succeed R. R. Ross, who resigned to become postmaster at Asheboro. Boger's appointment was fought by T. D. Maness, city attorney of Concord, who charged—and the charge was not publicly denied—that Boger was short in his accounts while chief of police of Concord.

Percy Fields, 18 years old, of Abbott's Creek township, Davidson county, is in jail charged with criminally assaulting Virgie Vaden, a 13-year-old orphan. The boy denies the crime.

San Jose, Cal., July 15.—Eva J. Rinehart, a nurse was arrested here today charged with having killed her companion and partner, Mrs. Kathleen Blunett, to collect her life insurance.

Leipzig, July 14.—A new world record for an aeroplane was established here today by Heinsich Oelerich, a German aviator, who rose in his biplane 7,500 metres or approximately 24,606 feet nearly four and three quarter miles.

Miss Dorothy Bauer, a 14-year-old girl of Tarrytown, N. Y., swam the Hudson River at its widest point last Friday, the distance covered by Miss Bauer was about six miles and the water was very rough. The feat is said to be unparalleled in the history of swimmers.

In the police court at Winston-Salem this week J. E. Sainting, a Winston-Salem druggist, was convicted of retailing and Dr. Dimmette, a physician of Wallburg, Davidson county, was convicted of issuing illegal prescriptions for whiskey. Both were fined and both appealed.

President Duncan of the Norfolk Southern Railway system has announced that Raleigh will have the principal railway shops of the system. They will be among the largest in the south and do the work for four divisions of the road.

Six persons were killed and twenty wounded in Norfolk Friday when a trolley car pulling a trailer crashed into a freight train, the cars were running at such a great rate of speed that two of the heavy steel cars of the train were carried several yards from the track.

Paris, Ark., July 15.—Maintaining his innocence, Arthur Tillman, 22 years old, was hanged here today for the murder of his sweetheart, Amanda Stephens, 19 years old, whose body was found in an abandoned well at Delaware, Ark., last March. Both the Stephens and Tillman families were prominent.

Washington, July 16.—Secretary Bryan, in a formal statement issued tonight, came out for woman suffrage. He declared that he would ask no political rights for himself that he was not willing to grant his wife, and announced his intention of supporting the proposed state constitutional amendment extending the franchise to women to be voted upon in Nebraska next November.

Asheville, July 16.—An organization was perfected and a juvenile court established for Asheville at the meeting held yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the Y. M. C. A. building, which was attended by a large number of people interested in the movement in this city. The meeting was due to the visit here of the Juvenile Protective association with southern headquarters in Atlanta, who came to Asheville several days ago and made several addresses in the city in regard to the establishment of the court.

KINDEL QUILTS THE PARTY.

A Washington dispatch says: Representative George J. Kindel, of Colorado, elected as a Democrat, it was learned today, has left the Democratic party, and will henceforth be known as an independent. Mr. Kindel has told his friends that he regards the administration as incompetent and that he is no longer able to affiliate with the party. Not only that, but Mr. Kindel will assist Senator Joseph W. Bristow, of Kansas, Republican candidate for re-election to the Senate, and will aid other Republican candidates in so far as they espouse his views on the transportation problem and the Mexican question. Mr. Kindel has purchased a stereopticon outfit, and will invade the congressional district of Representative David J. Lewis, Democrat of Maryland, who has been an adviser to Mr. Burleson, the Postmaster General, in parcel post matters.

Claiming that he was thrown from his bicycle by reason of a defective place in a paved street, John Arnold has brought suit against the city of Asheville for damages in the sum of \$2,000.

The education commission appointed by the general conference of the Methodist church to choose a location for the proposed Methodist University has selected Atlanta, Ga. Hendersonville, N. C., and Birmingham Ala., made strong bids for it. Asa Candler, brother of Bishop Candler, has donated \$1,000,000 to the institution.

Winston-Salem, July 16.—The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company has awarded the contract for the new concrete sweat house to Harwood and Moss, of Newport News, Va. The new building will be of steel and reinforced concrete and will contain no wood. It will be 66 feet wide, 294 feet long and 104 feet high. It is to have 11 stories and will have a capacity of 3,400,000 pounds of leaf tobacco.

A rather unusual fake was tried on Mr. J. B. Stanley of Durham last week when his nephew who was in Norfolk, Va., sent several telegrams to him informing him that his nephew Jim Stanley had been killed and wanted money to bury the body. Mr. Stanley wired to have the body prepared for burial and sent to Durham and he would settle all bills on arrival. After the body did not arrive and further investigation was made it was found that the young man had sent the telegrams himself in order to get the money.

Fort Smith, Ark., July 17.—After a pitched battle, between several hundred striking coal miners and their sympathizers and 100 guards stationed at the Prairie Creek mines, of the Mammoth Vein Coal company near Fort Smith today, which ended in the rout of the guards, tipples of three mines were destroyed by fire and dynamite. The property damage is estimated at \$200,000. So far as can be ascertained, no one was killed or seriously wounded in the fighting, which began shortly after daybreak and continued until late in the day when the mine guards retreated after their ammunition was exhausted. Rioters held possession of the mines for several hours, wrecking the plants with torch and explosives. Tonight the properties are deserted.

A BIG GUN.

The 16-inch gun, said to be the biggest piece of ordnance in the world, now being made ready for service on the fortifications at Panama, will be sent to Panama next spring.

Some idea of the tremendous power of this gun, destined to protect the Pacific entrance to the Panama canal, may be formed from the fact that it is fifty feet long, weighs 142 tons and fires a projectile about six feet long. The projectile itself weighs a ton and is discharged by 665 pounds of powder. It requires eight men to carry the powder charge. This gun has a maximum range of from 22 to 23 miles. The elevation permitted by its carriage will enable the gun to fire a projectile about 11 miles across the Pacific ocean. It has sufficient power, theoretically, to pierce two feet of the best armor at the muzzle. At 11 miles the gun is calculated to pierce a 12-inch armor plate, or any side armor afloat.

When a shell leaves the gun it is revolving around its axis at about 4,000 revolutions per minute and develops a pressure of 38,000 pounds to the square inch. The pressure to the rear on the gun and forward on the projectile amounts to 7,600,000 pounds. The projectile's velocity of 2,250 feet per second gives a muzzle energy of somewhat more than 84,000 foot tons—that is an energy capable of raising 42 tons one foot every second.

Army ordnance officers believe the gun will be a tremendous instrument of peace when it finally is in position on the canal.

ON LOYALTY

(Jerome P. Fleishman)

Take it from me, unless you're in sympathy with the Old Man—unless you can work "with" him as well as for him—unless you want to grow as the business grows—unless you sometimes think about your job as the man who makes it possible in a kindly, helpful, uplifting way—you'd better resign.

You'd better do it quick. You aren't worth much to the firm. What's more, you aren't worth much to yourself. I know. I worked for a mean boss once. Loyalty was an unknown thing in his organization. The only time the men and women in his employ cared a rap for him was on pay day. Then they showed their interest in the firm by stepping up to the cashier's window. And that was about the only time they looked halfway interested.

Get a good boss. Take an interest in your work. Try to improve daily on that work. Get some fun out of tackling everything that comes your way with the one idea of doing it "the best you know how". That is loyalty—loyalty to the boss and loyalty to your own best interests. Pretty soon you'll be doing your work so well that the boss will be compelled to sit up and take notice. Then, maybe, he'll raise your salary. He will if he's the right kind of an executive. And when he does that, you will raise your standards and your ideals still higher and try to beat out the good work that brought about the increase in recognition.

Oh, yes—loyalty pays: It pays best the man who is loyal.

If the styles get any worse a whole lot of the fashion publications will be barred from the mails.