

Thanksgiving Day Here and in Foreign Climes

By Mrs. Edward Dunroy-Reed

Surely Coming.
The prediction that the railroads will ultimately come to the electric method of propulsion as a matter of economy, safety, convenience and necessity is no longer regarded with the skepticism once prevalent. The extraordinary extent to which many big corporations are using electrical motive power, especially at terminals, shows that great advancement has been made. At a meeting of the Western Society of Electricians in Chicago F. A. Sager, a prominent member and agent for an important company, made this statement: "The railroads will have to spend approximately \$5,000,000,000 within a few years to keep up with the increase of traffic. By electrification at a cost of \$4,000,000,000 they would increase their capacity to such an extent that no new trackage would be needed." This conclusion was reached after a careful review by Mr. Sager of what has been done or is in the way of accomplishment by the New York Central, the Baltimore & Ohio, the Erie and other railroad companies east and west, and the figures adduced in the way of analysis seemed to leave no doubt as to the economic and other advantages derived from the change from steam to electricity.

Beauty, a Woman's Birthright.
A vast majority of women are falling in love in the good old fashion, writes Anna McClure Sholl in Appleton's, marrying and rearing families, and some of them will be able to prepare their boys for college when the time comes, on the strength of their own academic degrees. But whether college bred, or bred in that sweetest of all schools for a girl, her own home, this majority is keeping alive the old traditions of chivalry which are founded not on an ancient feudal system, nor on the ideals of an aristocratic society, adoring the great dame and scorning the peasant woman as a clod of the field, but on the instinct of strength to protect weakness, to worship beauty, to yield to the sway of mystery; and beauty and mystery are represented in this world chiefly by women. Beauty is their birthright, and mystery is a part of their very constitution, being, as they are, nearer than men to the spiritual side of life—the hidden procreative force which peoples both heaven and earth.

Public sentiment will emphatically sustain the declaration of the president of Bryn Mawr college that hazing is a survival of savagery which ought to be stamped out of men's colleges, but in women students is a social crime without even the excuse of stupid traditions for its being, declares the Baltimore American. The inherent brutality of hazing, its suggestions of force and roughness and its ungenerous nature are all directly opposed to the cultivation of the essentially feminine qualities and that gentleness which, a grace and charm in all women, is essentially so in young ones. Anything prejudicial to its development is out of place in the higher education of women.

It is the universal testimony of American street-car men that a large portion of the women passengers get off the car facing backward, and many accidents are due to the practice. No amount of warning or remonstrance having cured the habit, a car-barn superintendent in Chicago has equipped 40 cars with a new form of door handle, so placed that it is difficult for anyone to alight in the wrong way who uses the handle as a support; and all other supports are removed. Some of the women who have used the new cars are said to regard them as very inconvenient, and to be indignant at the loss of a time-honored privilege.

It is difficult for western people to understand Islam or unravel the mysteries of its politics. But we can appreciate the romantic side of an event celebrated this month on the birthday of the Turkish sultan; namely, the opening of the railroad from Damascus to Medina. The road will ultimately connect the holy city of Mecca with Constantinople.

After spending money, sorrow and humiliation for it, Lady Yarmouth has discarded her title as worthless. But some value will still be extracted from her sorry purchase if it only serves as a warning example to other American women who see glamor in a title and stake a life's happiness to win its empty glitter.

Thanks to Sven Hedin, Central Asia is now in the same class that Central Africa was after Mr. Stanley had penetrated it. What will future explorers do when they sigh for new dark continents to open on the map? It looks very much as if they might have to look afar to the planets.

It cannot be denied that President Diaz has done enough hard work for his republic to entitle him to lay off and take a lion-hunting trip if he feels so disposed.



The Authoress

We elevate our chins, expand our chests and don our "come over on the Mayflower" expression when some one mentions the origin of Thanksgiving. Unhesitatingly we lay claim to the honor of having the "only original" Thanksgiving day on the globe. Then along comes a long-haired historian with his array of facts and our pride receives a shock.

There is hardly a country in the world which does not give thanks for one reason or another. Some have better reasons than others, but they all claim to have sufficient excuse for being grateful to set aside one day each year. Thanksgiving day was held long before the timber for the Mayflower or the Anne was planted. It had its origin in antiquity when the Romans and Greeks held a fast day in October which they dedicated to the goddess of agriculture and followed the day of fasting by one of feasting and royal frolicking, a day on which the chase and all sorts of rustic sports held sway.

Going even further back into the remote ages of—not our country, alas—but of the world, we find the early Egyptians setting aside a day for general thanksgiving and burning of incense and offering sacrifices to their divinity of the crops, the Goddess Isis.

For seven or eight days the Jewish "Feast of Tabernacles" was, centuries ago, held during the seventh month, which is November, and after the completion of Solomon's temple the people that year held a 14-day festival which was a time of thanksgiving, and during which time they gave thanks for the abundance of their land. Living in booths they decorated their entire homes with branches of the palm and of citron trees and then showed that it was for the yield of the season as well as for the completion of the temple that they were giving thanks.

Coming forward a century or two we find Thanksgiving day being held in England under the name of "Harvest Home." This day was usually early in November and it opened by a church service, which was followed by a day of gayety and feasting. Thanks were given in the churches for the benefits of the season and then the "masses" flocked to the grounds of the "clauses," to which they were all invited. Here squire and gentry entertained the peasantry with free and easy dances in the barns, wrestling matches and feats of archery, for which prizes were given.

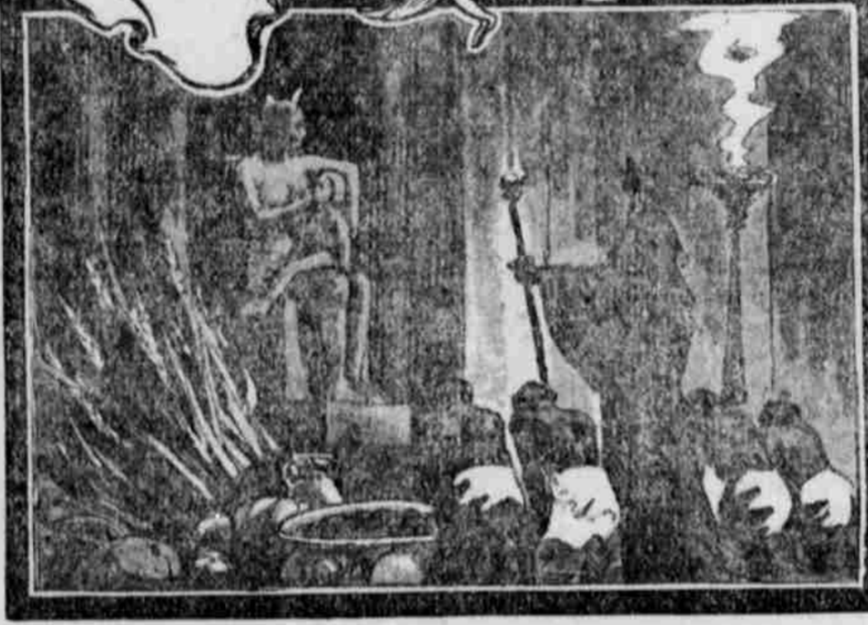
In the evening harvest songs were sung by the light of the moon, over the beer and ale, which flowed freely. A dinner, such as only the early English knew how to prepare, was served to these great crowds of thanksgivers, and the Harvest Home day ended in repletion both of appetite and merrymaking.

Before the Reformation a special day was set apart in England for giving thanks, and after the reformation the custom was continued with added fervor, but after all, it is not from our English ancestors, as we might suppose, that we received the inspiration for our first Thanksgiving day.

Neither did the idea originate with the Pilgrims themselves. They merely continued a custom with which they had become familiar and of which their natures approved, when they were living with their Dutch cousins.

To digress just a little: It has been claimed by some investigators who stopped just a little short of the beginning in tracing backward that the first real Thanksgiving day of true American meaning was held by the Popham colonists of Monhegan, but as they were Episcopalians and gave thanks every week in their regular church ritual this must be blackballed and cast out of our calculation.

And now to return to the Pilgrims and the customs they absorbed while protected in Holland. The pious Dutch, before the Pilgrims flocked to their peaceful land, had set apart October 3 on which to give thanks for their harvest, but more especially for their deliverance from Spanish authority. The



Day opened in this water-locked land with a great ringing of bells and over every shining doorkill there stepped into the crisp morning air the household's full number.

Each Haas or Gretchen, clasping a silverbound prayer book, walked sedately to the various places of worship and there, sitting up their sweet Holland voices, harsh, perhaps, in speech, but full and round in song, sent up musical praise for the freedom of their land and the good things of the earth.

Church over, the entire population for the nonce broke through their usual stolidness and there was a general scampering of young feet in game or dance and a clattering of older tongues in friendly gossip as neighbor visited neighbor or a father welcomed his large flock of grandchildren.

The great event of this Dutch Thanksgiving day was dinner, at which was served as central dish a queer stew of meat and vegetables which they called Spanish hodge-podge. For once in their practical lives the Hollanders became facetious, and over this hodge-podge they made merry and cracked jokes at their old-time enemy—Spain. The general "hash-like" appearance of the hodge-podge was supposed to represent the condition of the Spanish army when the Dutch had vanquished it. Even the children entered into the fun and kept their history fresh by gleefully slashing into a potato or a turnip and chuckling as they swallowed the morsels. "This is General So-and-So—ah! Me eat him—so!"

Well, the Puritans heartily approved of the early religious services of the morning and their healthy appetites could not fail to appreciate the Spanish hodge-podge, however much they may have disapproved of the sentiment which flavored it, so they entered most heartily into the Dutch Thanksgiving of October 3. In 1623 these Pilgrims held October 3 as a day of Thanksgiving in the New World, and here we have our first true American Thanksgiving day.

This day has passed through many vicissitudes since that date. There is not a festival on the almanac, fixed or movable, which has had the struggle for existence that our November holiday has endured.

From 1623 until 1630 Thanksgiving day was held in America in various months, some of the Pilgrims keeping to October 3 and other colonists holding a different day by order of the governor.

In 1630 the people of Massachusetts were suffering for food and clothing and Gov. Winthrop hired the good ship Lyon to return to England for supplies. For many days the vessel lay stranded off the Isle of Shoals, but finally put out. Winter came on apace, and nothing was heard of the ship. The colonists were nearly disheartened when, on February 22, 1631, the Lyon was sighted, and the governor ordered that the day be given over to feasting and thanksgiving. This is the first written record of a Thanksgiving day in Boston; it can still be found in the Colonial Records of Massachusetts. It is an interesting fact that this first Boston Thanksgiving was held on what is now one of our most patriotic holidays, Washington's birthday.

The first record of a joint celebration of Thanksgiving day is given in the Colonial Records of 1632, when Gov. Winthrop of Massachusetts bay, asked the governor of Plymouth colony to join him in is-



From 1632 until 1677 the New England records show that 22 different dates were set apart by the various governors as days for public thanksgiving, and that with the exception of the two colonies mentioned no two held the day on the same date.

The celebrations, however, were held in October or November. In 1677, as other denominations had crept into Plymouth colony, over which the Puritan church had no ruling, the governor decided that it would be well to have the power of fixing public holidays, "whether for feasting, praying or funmaking," vested in civic authority. Accordingly in that year the first printed Thanksgiving day proclamation was printed. Thanksgiving day proclamation was printed, setting November 25 as the festival.

The law reads: "That it be in the power of the governor and assistants to command solemn dates of humiliation by fasting, etc., and also, thanksgiving as occasion shall be offered."

This shows that the law called for only "occasional" Thanksgiving days and so the holiday was buffeted about hither and yon, from October to November, according to the pleasure of the rulers of the colonies and there never was any feeling of certainty as to the holiday. That it was held annually without break in Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colony from its inception until 1689, with the exception of the year when King Philip's war interrupted, there are records to show. In this colony the church and government alternated in arranging the date of celebration.

GEORGIE ON THANKSGIVING

Thanksgivin' day comes once a year because the Pilgrim band Was thankful that they had the sense to leave their native land And come across the sea to find a stern and rock-bound shore Where they would never haft to bow to bosses enny more, Where thieves would not break in and steal and trusts would never try To gobble everything and let the little dealer die.

We celebrate Thanksgivin' day because the Pilgrims came In search of freedom where they knew that they would find the same, Where men would be as brothers, where the strong would aid the weak, Where libburty would raise her flag on every crag and peak, Where billionaires would never dare to cheat for profits' sake Or break the laws that other men were not allowed to break.

We celebrate because the hopes hoped by that Pilgrim band Have all come true, because there's not an evil in our land, Because we have no wealthy rogues to plan and plot and scheme To make the libburty we claim a vain and empty dream, Because our magnates go to church and teach in Sunday schools, And everywhere from sea to sea the Christian spirit rules.

We keep Thanksgivin' day because the man who does his best To be an honest citizen is honored by the rest; He may not have a share of stock or own a foot of land, But all our wealthy senators are glad to shake his hand And hear his plea and guard his rights with all the jellus care They ever give the interests of any millionaire.

We keep the good old day because no idle rich ignore The pressing needs of those where Want is scratching at the door, Because we have such freedom as the Pilgrims wished to claim, Because we never are oppressed and never splotted with shame, Because we've frightened Greed away and raised our standard high And kept the faith for which our sires were not afraid to die.

Shorening of the Day.
It has long been known, theoretically, that the tides act as a brake on the rotating earth, and tend to lengthen the day. The effect, however, is so slight that it cannot be measured in any length of time at man's disposal. It may be estimated with the aid of certain assumptions; and using the data available, Mr. W. D. MacMillan has recently made the necessary computation by the formula used by engineers. He finds for the increase of the length of the day one second in 460,000 years.

Paint Indicates Danger.
A paint is soon to be placed on the market to indicate excessive heat in machine parts. Red when cool, it becomes black when heated. Mercuric iodide and cupric oxide are two of the ingredients.

Women to Vote in Siam.
Siam has recently passed a law giving women the right to vote in certain cases. While this may seem an extraordinary step for an oriental people the Siamese women themselves explain that it is in teaching of Buddhism. They point out that Buddhism preaches the equality of the sexes and gives equal education to boys and girls.

The Last Resource.
"She is perfectly beautiful!" exclaimed the bud, enthusiastically. "You must never say that about another girl, my dear," replied the experienced matron. "When a woman has no feature which you can criticize you must always fall back on the statement that she would be charming if she only had a little more style."

And Not a Thing to Do.
A German scientist thinks he has discovered in an Alpine cave evidence that men were living 100,000 years ago. It is a terrible thought. There were no flying machines, baseball scores, ready letter-writers nor essayists on New York society. What could the poor things do?—New York World.

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Woman Wins Scholastic Honors.
Mrs. Agnes Knox Black, wife of Prof. C. Charlton Black of Boston university, has been appointed to the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts of the university as Shaw professor of elocution. Mrs. Black succeeds Prof. Malvina M. Bennett, who recently resigned. Mrs. Black is a Canadian and well known as an elocutionist. She was graduated from the University of Toronto, afterward taking a course in Philadelphia. She was at one time head of the school of elocution of the New England Conservatory of Music and later connected with the Emerson College of Oratory.

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