

Gossip About Famous Folk.



JAMES BUTLER.

AFTER making millions in the grocery trade, having established more than a hundred retail stores in New York city, James Butler has struck another gold mine in the Empire racing track at the outskirts of that city. This track was built by the late William H. Clark, the site having been discovered by Mr. Butler in 1897. At that time Mr. Butler was president of the Driving Club of New York. Always an enthusiastic horseman, he conceived the idea of a track for driving and trotting meets.

Mr. Clark had more ready money than Mr. Butler at the time and he built the track. The plant cost about \$750,000. After Mr. Clark's death it was sold under foreclosure proceedings and was bought in by Mr. Butler and an associate for about half what it cost. The remarkable success of the August meet this year is said to have doubled the value of the property. Much of this success was due to the closing of the pool rooms in the metropolis by District Attorney Jerome. Those who wanted to bet on the races were compelled to go to the track, which swelled the attendance far beyond expectation.

Mr. Butler is said to be one of those men whose touch seems to transmute everything into gold.

Booth Tarkington of Indiana has been abroad for some time and has returned with a new play and the manuscripts of two new novels.

The play he calls "The Man From Home," and it was written in collabora-



BOOTH TARKINGTON AND A CARTOONIST'S IDEA OF HIM.



tion with Harry L. Wilson, author of "The Spenders."

The play is a comedy satire on the American abroad, and it will receive its initial performance in Indiana.

Mr. Tarkington will return to France after his play has been staged. The author gives the following hint of his latest dramatic work:

"The play deals with the adventures of an Indiana lawyer who goes to Europe in reference to the contemplated marriage of his ward to an Englishman of title. He is just the average well to do, untraveled citizen you might meet on an accommodation train between Logansport and Kokomo."

Booth Tarkington and James Whitcomb Riley are old friends, and the former tells how he used in his younger days to delight to trail about at the heels of the Hoosier poet, at all hours of the day and night, listening to his "moonings." The strolls usually ended in the small hours of the morning by a lunch of pie, watermelon, strong coffee, Welsh rabbit. This was probably where Tarkington learned to take his breakfast at noon and do his writing by an oil lamp. Mr. Tarkington is exceedingly companionable and is entirely without self-consciousness and egotism. He is a ready and entertaining talker, tells a story as well as he writes it and has a keen sense for the humorous.

Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin, who is now recognized as one of the candidates for the Republican presidential nomination in 1908, is swinging around the Chautauqua circuit, on which he is quite popular. The senator's great speech on the rail-



SENATOR LA FOLLETTE AS THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND CARTOONIST'S PICTURE HIM.



road rate bill had the distinction of being the longest speech of the congress during which it was delivered. But unfortunately for him it did not get before the country under auspicious circumstances. The speech contained 95,000 words, and about three days were consumed in its delivery. But as the San Francisco earthquake happened about that time the papers were full of this catastrophe to the ex-

clusion of almost all other news. Senator La Follette's experience was somewhat similar to that of his former colleague, Senator Spooner, on one occasion. Four years ago Senator Spooner was scheduled to make the great speech of his life defending the Philippine policy of the administration. He made the speech, and it was a great one, but there never was a line of it printed in the newspapers or anywhere else outside the Record. On the day he made the speech the telegraph wires leading out of Washington all went down because of a sleet storm, and not a word was telegraphed from the city. Spooner might just as well not have spoken, so far as the effect of his speech on the country was concerned.

Pearl Wight, whom President Roosevelt has appointed United States commissioner of internal revenue, to take office next December, is by business a ship chandler in New Orleans.

He was appointed by Chairman Cortelyou to fill the Louisiana vacancy on the Republican national committee.

Mr. Wight belongs to the ship chandlery firm of Woodward, Wight & Co. It is understood that Mr. Wight is now practically the firm. Mr. Woodward having been made postmaster of New Orleans. In his line of business, which touches the lumber trade intimately, Mr. Wight has figured in various contracts for supplying lumber materials for the Panama canal, for lighthouses and other government works.

The new appointee is said also to be the head of the Lily White organization in Louisiana, a political body which opposes the too active participation of negroes in public affairs.

D. H. Morris, ex-president of the Automobile Club of America, was describing in New York the success of a certain wily automobile cop.

"The man's cleverness is wonderful," Mr. Morris ended. "In some ways it reminds me of the cleverness of old John Jakes."

"I thought you said you were going to bring a friend home to dinner with you this evening?" snapped Mrs. Jakes as they seated themselves at the beautifully appointed table.

"He couldn't come," John answered calmly.

"And then, with no little enjoyment, the clever fellow fell to upon the first decent meal he had sat down to for some weeks."

William S. Taylor, former governor of Kentucky, who has been living in Indianapolis since his indictment for alleged complicity in the murder of Governor Goebel more than seven years ago, has been offered by Governor Beckham of Kentucky immunity from arrest if he will return to the state and testify in the forthcoming fifth trial of Caleb Powers, who is indicted on a charge practically identical with that which drove ex-Governor Taylor from his native state.

Mr. Taylor is practicing law in Indianapolis. During the past seven years the governor of Kentucky has requested of the successive governors of Indiana the requisition of Taylor, but the Indiana governors have refused to honor the request.

The fugitive declares that he is innocent and that there is a political conspiracy in Kentucky to murder him. He has been out of Indiana but once since his flight. That was when he attended the Republican national convention at Philadelphia in 1900. A plan to kidnap him and carry him to Kentucky was foiled by his friends. The wife of the ex-governor has died during the family's exile.

Mrs. Mary Logan Tucker, whose husband has instituted suit for divorce on the ground of desertion, is a daughter of the late General John A. Logan. She was educated at a convent in Georgetown, D. C. Shortly after leaving this institution she married William E. Tucker, who is now a paymaster in the United States army with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Some time ago Mrs. Tucker and her mother, Mrs. John A. Logan, filed charges against Colonel Tucker with the war department. Colonel Tucker was accused of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. It was alleged that he had not conducted himself properly in the Philippines, the name of a soldier's widow being coupled with his, Mrs. Tucker and her mother sought to have Colonel Tucker reduced or removed from the army, but after investigation the complaint was dismissed. The husband then began divorce action in Chicago.

It is understood that Secretary Taft of the war department, who is bound for the Philippines, will make some further investigation of the stories relating to the army officer. Brigadier General Garlington of the inspector general's department has already spent considerable time on the Tucker case and will soon report.



PEARL WIGHT.

PANBESA'S LETTER.

An Account of an Egyptian City Thirty Centuries Ago.

Probably the oldest letter in the world is the letter of Panbesa, written fifteen centuries before Christ to his friend, Amenemapt, a scribe.

The manuscript is of perishable papyrus, and it is amazing that it should have survived for more than thirty centuries and still be legible.

It is preserved in the collection of the British museum. It has been several times translated. It presents an interesting picture of life in Egypt in the time of Rameses II. It is more in the nature of a literary production, a poem composed in celebration of the visit of Pharaoh to the city of Panbesa, than an ordinary letter of today.

Panbesa "greeted his lord, the scribe Amenemapt, to whom he life, health and strength," and then goes on to describe the verdant fields, the thrashing floors, the vineyards, the groves of olives, the orchards of figs, the great daily markets, with their fish and waterfowl and swarms of purchasers.

The citizens had their "sweet wine of Kheni, pomegranate wine and wine from the vineyards," and to these they added "beer of Kati."

There was music in plenty furnished by the singers of the school of Memphis.

On the whole, Pa-Rameses seems to have been a pleasant place to live in. "The lesser folk are there equal with the great folk," and Panbesa writes that its maidens were "in holiday attire every day," with locks "redolent of perfumed oil."

THE CITY OF CANALS.

Venice and the Many Islands Upon Which It Is Built.

Venice is one of the most singular and famous cities in Europe and is built upon a cluster of islands in the lagoon. This lagoon is banked off from the Adriatic by a long, narrow sand bank which is divided into a number of islands, six in number. Inside of this sand bank and between it and the mainland is the lagoon, a sheet of shallow water. In parts of this marshy, sea covered plain islets have become consolidated into ground, firm enough to be cultivated.

And in the midst of a crowded cluster of such islands, amounting to between seventy and eighty in number, the city of Venice is built. The chief of these islands is called Isolda de Rialto, or Island of the Deep Stream. The islands, in many places mere shoals, afford no adequate foundation for buildings, and the city for the most part is built upon an artificial foundation of piles and stones.

The Grand canal divides Venice into two equal parts and is the main thoroughfare for traffic and pleasure. The city is subdivided by some one hundred and forty-six small canals or water streets, and the gondola is used for the carriage. Access can also be had to various parts of the city by land, there being over three hundred bridges across canals. The Rialto, the most famous bridge, spans the Grand canal. There are also narrow lanes in among the houses.

The Overruling of a Judge.

A judge once awoke in the night to find his room in the possession of two armed burglars. Covered by the pistol of one of the marauders, the judge watched the proceedings with his usual judicial calm. One of the depredaters found a watch. "Don't take that," the judge said; "it has little value and is a keepsake." "The motion is overruled," replied the burglar. "I appeal," rejoined the judge. The two burglars consulted, and the spokesman then replied: "The appeal is allowed. The case coming on before a full tribunal of the supreme court, that body is of the unanimous opinion that the decree of the lower court should be sustained, and it is accordingly so ordered." Pocketing the watch, court adjourned.

Logic and Metaphysics.

Joaquin Miller was once conversing with a learned professor who was visiting California. To the poet's query, "What do you do?" the professor answered that he held the chair of metaphysics and logic at a New England university. Whereupon the venerable Miller, with an encouraging smile, reassuringly patted the professor on the shoulder. "Logic and metaphysics, eh? Well, I suppose we must have people to look after those things, even if they don't exist."

Torture.

"The Carthaginian mercenaries," he said, "incensed their prisoners in a cement that as it hardened contracted. You can't imagine how uncomfortable this was."

"Oh, yes, I can," she answered. "I once had on a tight bathing suit when it began to shrink." — Los Angeles Times.

Plenty of Old Ones.

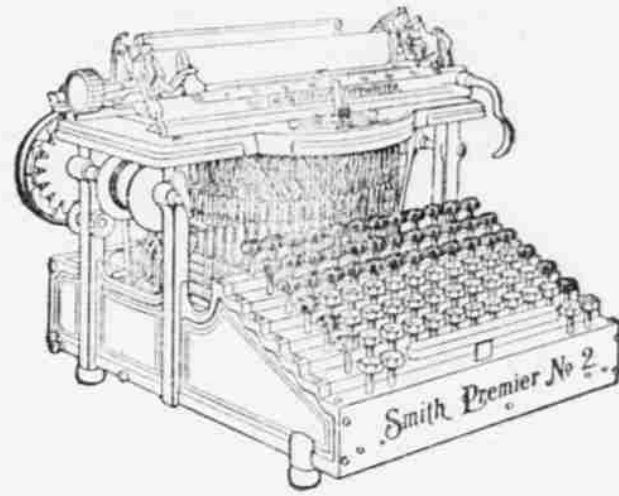
Mr. Chipps (looking up from the paper)—The doctors have discovered another new disease. Mrs. Chipps—Well, I wish they'd stop looking for new diseases long enough to find a cure for my old rheumatism. — London Telegraph.

Both Disappointed.

He—I suppose, then, we may as well break the engagement and say we have both been disappointed in love. She—There seems to be no other conclusion. You thought I had money, and I certainly thought you had.—Judge.

He Told Her.

She—I wish I knew how I could make you extremely happy, dear Karl. He—Well, write to your father and ask him to double your dowry.—Meg-gendorfer Blatter.



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LEGAL NOTICE.

To Charles F. Lehn, Mary Lehn, Charles White, Mrs. Charles White, wife of Charles White, first name unknown, Charles T. Boges, C. T. Boges, Mary E. Boges, defendants, will take notice that Jessie B. Ford, plaintiff, has filed a petition in the district court of Red Willow county, Nebraska, and that all claims adverse to plaintiff's title may be determined by decree of said court and that plaintiff's title to said land be quieted against said defendants and each of them.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 4th day of November, 1907.

Dated September 25, 1907.

8-27-4s JESSIE B. FORD.

By J. E. Kelley, her attorney.

NOTICE OF AUTHORIZATION.

Treasury Department, Office of Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, D. C., August 5th, 1907.

WHEREAS, By satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that "THE MCCOOK NATIONAL BANK" in the City of McCook, in the County of Red Willow, and State of Nebraska, is authorized to commence the business of Banking as provided in Section Fifty one hundred and sixty nine of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF witness my hand and seal of this office this Fifth day of August, 1907.

T. P. KANE, Comptroller of the Currency.

OFFICIAL SEAL Deputy and Acting Comptroller of the Currency.

First: August 9, 1907. Last: October 11, 1907.

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