

TRADITIONS OF WEST POINT

Customs as Forceful as Law Handed Down From Class to Class.

VIOLATION A SOURCE OF TROUBLE

Anecdotes Illustrating Phases of Life at the Great Military Academy—Officers Outwitted by the Cadets.

There is probably no place in the United States where traditions and precedents have so much weight as they have at West Point. These traditions are carefully preserved and handed down from class to another.

Such a tradition is that a "plebe" as members of the fourth class are called, is never regarded on an equal footing with an upper class man until he has completed his first year at the academy.

If a plebe is asked by an upper class man what his name is, he must reply "Mr. Brown, sir," or whatever his name may be, and if he fails to do so he is certain to be told to "put a 'sir' on that, mister."

The Haw Recruit. An amusing anecdote is told of a raw country lad who reported at West Point a few years ago concerning this use of the word "sir."

"John Smith," answered the lad. "Suppose you put a 'sir' on that!" cried the cadet officer, forgetting for the moment in his assumed wrath the equally heinous omission of the "Mr."

It has been the custom in the corps from time immemorial to "devil" plebes during their first year. A great many of the practices indulged in are perfectly innocent, and so long as the upper class men confine themselves to them there is little or no opposition from the authorities.

An incident illustrative of this is told by an officer who was in command of the company D's tents one afternoon in one of the recent encampments of the cadets at West Point.

Another amusing incident of this kind occurred one quiet Sunday afternoon, when most of the cadets were asleep in their tents and the visitors' seats in front of the camp parade were nearly deserted.

Trials of a Plebe Sentinel. A plebe's first night on guard is generally an unpleasant experience for him; for, besides the official visits of the various officers and non-commissioned officers, he is charged with his instruction, to see that he understands all the fine points of his duties as a sentinel.

AWAY THEY HAVE. What This Omaha Citizen Says Only Corroborates the Story of Thousands. The particulars related by this representative citizen of Omaha are similar to hundreds of others in this city.

than one to advance at a time at night, so he promptly shouted: "Advance, one commandment, to be recognized."

A favorite pastime among cadets for generations past has been to capture a land tortoise and after taps at night to start him across the parade with a lighted candle on his back.

An amusing anecdote related of General Sherman, who as commanding general of the army, visited West Point one June for the graduation exercises.

One of the most interesting of West Point's traditions is that relating to the billiard table. Shortly after the civil war the cadets, always on the alert for some new scheme for amusement, decided that they would like to have a billiard table.

The authorities soon became aware that there was a billiard table somewhere in the barracks, for they could hear the balls clinking together, but they could not find it.

The officers paused for a moment and held a whispered consultation. Finally, deciding that they would let the other officers do the searching, they all went to their rooms.

The next night the officers met as arranged and crept stealthily down the stairs and into the sixth division. Hearing no sound of clinking balls, some became sceptical and concluded the whole thing was a hoax.

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Young Baldwin attended public school in Illinois and finally graduated from Northwestern college, Naperville, Ill., where he had as classmates J. A. and M. T. Snyder, the men instrumental in arranging for a trip to the Arctic.

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ANOTHER PULL FOR THE POLE

An American Expedition Financed by a New York Merchant.

RIVAL RACERS WILL HEAD FOR AXIS

Patriotic Motives Prompt the Move—Experienced Man to Lead It—Definite Plans Laid to Start Next Summer.

William Ziegler of New York, who will equip an Arctic expedition to be headed by Evelyn B. Baldwin and sail from that port next summer, told a reporter for the Brooklyn Eagle why he had decided to aid in a search for the north pole.

"I have been wondering if that hole was still there. I made it when I was a cadet and lived in this room."

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to furnish funds for an expedition under my leadership and incidentally referred to the matter to Mr. Ziegler's presence. Mr. Ziegler then stated that he had taken a deep interest in Arctic matters since Dr. Kane's time and had always been desirous of sending the Stars and Stripes to the far north.

William Ziegler's record as a successful business man is well known.

CLUB AND OTHER WOMEN. Deeds by Which Some of Them Sealed the Heights of Fame. The clubwomen of Pennsylvania, who gathered at Williamsport in annual convention last week, represent a large and growing proportion of American woman-kind, says the Philadelphia Record.

The clubwomen are regarded as being advanced in intellect and culture, they are by no means all ambitious for a public career for themselves or for others of their sex. Most of them, in fact, retain the traditional feminine qualities of character and are model wives and mothers.

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WILLIAM ZIEGLER—FINANCIAL BACKER OF THE EXPEDITION.

was an employe of a panorama of the Kane expedition. My interest in the regions of the far north has steadily increased until now I am willing and ready to place sufficient means at Mr. Baldwin's disposal to aid him in every possible way to get to the pole.

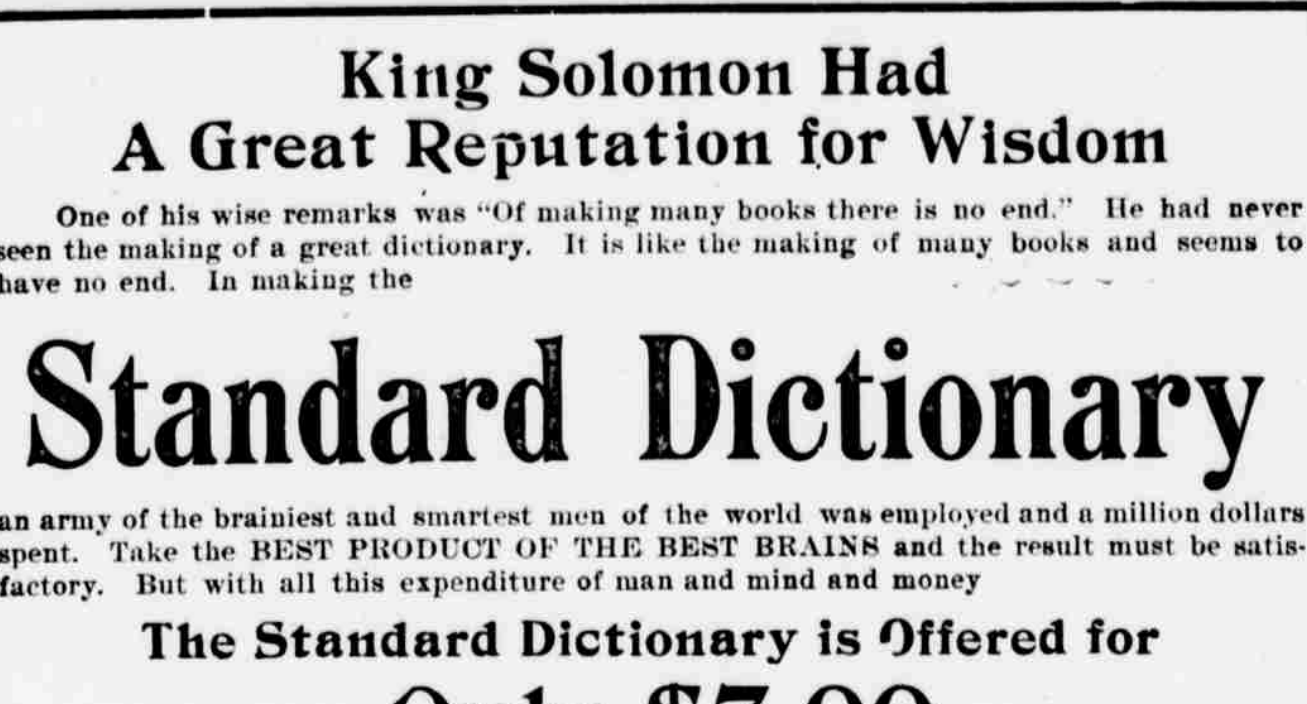
Leader of the Expedition. Evelyn B. Baldwin, whom Mr. Ziegler has chosen to head the expedition, is a man of medium height. He is well built, has brown hair and bright blue eyes.

He has always taken a deep interest in meteorology. He was a member of the Peary Arctic expedition in 1893-1894. In 1897 he went to Spitzbergen, having volunteered to accompany Andrew on his aerial flight, but that project was abandoned.

Instances of other forms of courage and enterprise were reported during the period last summer by Mrs. Mary McCormack. New York seized her gun in her arms when his clothing was aflame and, although she was terribly burned, held him until the fire was extinguished.

Large Possibilities of Trouble in Event of the Ameer's Death. In one respect Great Britain has reason to be thankful to the Boxers, says the Chicago Record. The destruction of large portions of the Manchurian railway and the general preoccupation of Russia with affairs in northern Asia delayed Slavonic diplomacy for a time from pursuing its offensive policy on the Afghan frontier.

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EVELYN B. BALDWIN—LEADER OF EXPEDITION.

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