THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss.:
George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning, Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the month of November, 1904, was as follows:

1	31,310	16	29,350
2	29,400	17	29,390
3	29,150	18	29,340
4	39,450	19	29,300
5	40,550	20	30,270
6	37,400	21	29,550
7	40,100	22	29,600
8	29,550	23	29,450
9	48,190	24	29,250
10	34,100	25	29,700
11	30,890	26	32,260
12	31,030	27	30,600
13	30,050	28	29,700
14	29,300	29	29,320
15	29,280	30	29,200

Total.....956,030
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Net total sales.....945,514
Daily average..... 31,517

GEO. B. TZSCHUCK.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30th day of November, 1904.
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE,
Notary Public.

Logrolling does not seem to be as popular in the Austrian Reichsrath as bottle-throwing.

That Iowa boy who sees everything upside down has great possibilities as the founder of a new political party.

That Cincinnati girl who horsewhipped the man who jilted her must only have confirmed his high opinion of his own good judgment.

The season is fast approaching when the report of fires open by describing how someone attempted to play the role of Santa Claus.

While the orthodox Christian may wait until Lent to use his sackcloth, it is to be hoped he will have his ashes ready for the first slippery day.

General Stoessel is evidently afflicted with the same trouble which handicaps the czar—a number of subordinates who desire to do as they please.

Tom Lawson may be unintentionally paving the way for a more sensational series of articles on the same subject from the pen of Mrs. Chadwick.

It seems that the different national associations of postoffice employes do not all know a good thing when they have it, and they have also yet to learn to let all enough alone.

Market reporters must have overlooked one large movement of gold to Paris, but the courts may find out how much of the yellow metal Dr. Chadwick took with him.

Only nine fusionists will hold seats in the coming Nebraska legislature, but that will be enough to introduce all the bills promised by the fusion candidates during the campaign.

When those Frenchmen finish their duels over the Maid of Orleans they may be able to get up a fight over the question of responsibility for the fall of man. Eve has long needed defenders.

Our modern business college will be compelled to introduce a course of study teaching familiarity with the signatures of great capitalists if cases like the Chadwick matter become common.

As leader of the democratic minority in the next house of representatives John Sharp Williams will have an easier time than any of his predecessors, as he will have fewer statesmen to guide.

After contemplating the 11,000 divorce cases pending in the Buckeye state a bunch of Ohio women have passed resolutions declaring against the female stenographer. The men are yet to be heard from.

Land Commissioner Follmer, in his report to the legislature is asking for fireproof vault fixtures to protect the valuable records stored in the state house. When the new vault equipment is installed it will be in order to erect a new capitol building around it.

Philadelphia newspapers are still discussing the last national election and one declares that Judge Parker made the best race possible under the circumstances. By the time of the next campaign perhaps Philadelphians will have succeeded in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion as to the cause of the landslide.

The special attorney of the Interstate Commerce Commission asserts that shippers of live stock to Chicago will save at least $750,000 annually by reason of the recent investigations of conditions attending the traffic. The shippers, however, will prefer to wait till they balance their books at the end of the year before crediting themselves with having saved so much money.

ORGANIZATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The overpowering republican majority that will dominate the coming legislature will constitute a very serious menace to the future supremacy of the republican party of Nebraska. With a senate unanimously republican, a house 92 per cent republican and every executive office filled by a republican, the opposition will, to all intents and purposes, be voiceless in the statehouse, and the measure of responsibility for wholesome legislation will be greater than ever before.

For the wellbeing of the republican party, as well as for the welfare of the state, it is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the legislature be organized in the interest of the commonwealth rather than in the interest of the giant corporations; in the interest of the producers rather than in the interest of the public carriers.

It is an open secret that the forces that have for years controlled our legislatures for selfish purposes, to the detriment of the great masses of taxpayers, will again endeavor to manipulate and control the coming legislature by taking charge of its organization at the outset so that its political agents may practically block all legislation they deem unfavorable to their own interest and detrimental to the common people, through packed committees.

The machinery by which this is usually accomplished is the political caucus, that enables a minority of the whole body to dictate the officers and distribute the patronage at the disposal of the legislature. The question that every republican member of the legislature, who desires to make a reputation for himself, is, whether that object would be subserved best by the selection of officers and employes in the caucus or in the open? The prime object of all political caucuses is to prevent the opposition from controlling the political action of a legislative body by combining with a fragment of the membership of the majority party. In a legislature made up almost unanimously of one party there is no rational reason or excuse for a caucus. Take for example the state senate: A caucus of that body would be made up of every member of the senate, consequently it would take the same number of votes to nominate a candidate for any office or employment in the caucus as it would on the open floor. Almost the same conditions would obtain in a caucus held by the members of the house.

The only difference between electing officers in the open and electing them in the caucus would be in the manner of their election. Under the constitution, every member in both houses is required to register his vote for every candidate in the open. In the caucus, however, nominations may be made by ballot, whereby members are enabled to cover up their votes and violate individual pledges to various candidates by claiming to have voted for each of them. This is the most objectionable feature of the legislative caucus. Dishonest men and tricksters can cover up their votes and place the stigma that would attach to their own conduct upon honest men who hold themselves ready at all times to answer for their acts to their constituency.

In the interest of the republican party and good government, it is, therefore, to be hoped that the coming legislature will organize itself without resorting to the caucus.

A QUESTION OF POLITICAL ECONOMY.

In his message to congress President Roosevelt declares that "the period of prosperity through which the country is passing justifies expenditures for permanent improvements far greater than would be wise in hard times; battleships and forts, public buildings and improved waterways are investments which should be made when we have the money." Paradoxically as it may seem, in this declaration the president puts himself at variance with nearly all the recognized political economists from Adam Smith down to the present day. It is an almost undisputed part of the doctrine of economics that the rule which applies to private individuals with reference to curtailing expenditure with curtailed revenue, under the stress of hard times, is reversed with governmental agencies which are expected in times of depression to expand rather than to contract activity in the direction of permanent public improvements.

The line of reasoning on which this conclusion has been based is that when industrial stagnation and financial depression sweeps over the country, depriving its working people of employment and forcing them by the menace of starvation to seek to labor at any price rather than apply for charity, it becomes the part of wisdom, if not the duty, of the government to provide all additional employment that it can. It is an accepted axiom that it is better for the government to give work rather than relief, and our own government has proceeded on this theory at various stages of its history by expediting the construction of canals, harbor improvements, etc., at periods immediately following industrial crises, even though the straitened condition of the national finances were produced by the same causes that depleted the individual's accumulations. On the other hand, when times are good and employment on private account plenty, the necessity for furnishing employment on public works becomes less urgent because the working people are able to take care of themselves without government assistance. All this, too, leaves out of account the fact that the government can make its money go farther and have more to show for its expenditure in slack times, that bring prices down, than when business is brisk with prices at their highest.

The whole proposition, of course, is academic rather than practical, insofar as permanent improvements are in present contemplation by our government. The building of the Panama canal is, doubtless, the largest single piece of public work ever undertaken and its urgency calls for prompt execution. It is a business undertaking and not a charitable venture, so that good times or hard times will cut no figure with it. While the president's political economy would require the government to abandon the work, if our prosperity should wane, there is no likelihood of interruption, much less abandonment, under any conditions except for unforeseen physical obstacles. In fact, should we have a recurrent period of hard times, the outlet for unemployed labor afforded by the Panama canal would surely serve the country in good stead.

GOVERNMENT AND RAILROADS.

Inevitably there is opposition to the proposal that the government shall adopt a policy, as suggested by the president, for restraining the railroads in the matter of rates. The recommendation made in the annual message in regard to giving the Interstate Commerce commission increased powers in the matter of regulating rates that were found to be unreasonable was certain to be met with opposition by the railroads and by all interests that are allied with the corporations and receive benefits from them. These influences are today arrayed, as they have been uniformly in the past, against every movement to correct the abuses of the railroads against the general public. What they are now doing today in this respect is largely a matter of conjecture and yet there is no doubt that throughout the country there is at the present time as well-defined a policy of railroad discrimination which is in absolute violation of the law as there has ever been at any time in the past. The objections to the president's position in this matter are largely due to the fact that his policy of correcting abuses would interfere with the well established habits of the corporations and this is just what the general public wants. Those who criticize the view of the president are the people who demand that the very conditions which now prevail and which are unquestionably antagonistic to the public interest shall be maintained.

In opposition to this is a very general popular sentiment and in this the president of the United States concurs. He believes that it is the duty of congress to protect the public against the improper exactions of corporate monopoly and he points out how this may be done.

We believe that the general popular sentiment is with the president, and we have no doubt that it will be found that a majority in congress will be agreeable to the proposition that the government should assume a larger supervision than it has already assumed over the corporations, particularly the railroad corporations that are engaged in interstate commerce. It seems to be an established fact that in the future there is to be a greater surveillance over corporations of all kinds by the federal government than there has ever been in the past and the expediency of this is being more and more recognized.

THE SOUTHERN REPUBLICS.

There is no matter concerning the people of the United States of greater interest than their relations to the southern republics of this hemisphere. We are as a people identified with the independent countries of this hemisphere more closely than with any other portion of the globe and our political interests especially are more bound up with them than with any other part of the world. This was very definitely proclaimed when the Monroe doctrine was declared more than eighty years ago and the relation is still recognized. It is proclaimed in the last message of the president of the United States and in terms that ought to be absolutely reassuring to every one of the South American republics.

The statement of the president that ought to be reassuring is that this country has no land-hunger, that there is no desire on the part of the United States to absorb any territory of the country south of it. That represents the universal American sentiment. We want no part of the countries south of us. We seek no lands of the independent republics that belong to this hemisphere. On the contrary the purpose of the United States is to see that the independence of those republics is preserved and that they shall be given every opportunity and advantage to build themselves up and advance in the scale of civilization. Yet at the same time it is essential that the United States in its essential part as a protector of all the independent countries of this hemisphere should insist that those countries shall do their duty as nations and perform their proper obligations with respect to the other countries of the world. It is a perfectly legitimate demand on the part of the United States, when assuming as it does a protectorate over the southern republics against European aggression, that they should conform to all the principles of international law and obey the principles that are recognized as binding upon civilized nations. That is all that President Roosevelt suggests in his reference to this matter and it is absolutely fair and proper. The idea that there is any "big stick" in his proposition is utterly absurd and unwarranted. It does not in the least imply any hostility to the southern republics. On the contrary it should be regarded by them as a renewed assurance on the part of the United States of friendship and support so long as they give proper recognition to their international obligations. That is all that the United States can ask of them and its position in this respect is absolutely legitimate. President Roosevelt has not gone in this respect a single step beyond what a majority of the intelligent judgment of the country believes to be right.

We are anxiously awaiting reports from the Philippines chronicling and describing the home-coming of the natives who have been brushing up against American civilization at the St. Louis World's fair. It is not difficult to imagine that their tales will be received by those they left behind very much as were those of the first American Indians who were taken to Europe by the Spanish discoverers and brought back to this country after having been exhibited in the various courts abroad. If anything the dazzling splendor of what the Filipinos saw at the exposition must have appeared more miraculous and will carry less credibility than the display of royalty sprung upon the sixteenth century red men. To trace the effect of this excursion in after years will surely be most interesting.

Governor LaFollette has been criticizing Iowa's educational system that gives it so many small colleges and no great one. "Iowa would be better off," he declares, "if the State university and the State Agricultural college were consolidated into one." The same criticism, while not applicable to Nebraska's State university, applies nevertheless to the normal school situation in this state. If anything, the last legislature made a mistake in providing a second normal school, and thus dividing strength that should be centered. It is probably too late to retrace the step, but every proposition for more normal schools—and there will probably be plenty of them—should be turned down at the coming legislature without ceremony.

The supreme court has declared unconstitutional the section of the new revenue law which provides for the assessment of insurance companies on the gross premiums of the preceding year. This leaves the insurance companies so that they pay no adequate taxes whatever. When the legislature comes to patch up the revenue law it should not forget to fill out this hole and to do it in a way that will stick when tested in the courts.

Whatever the merits of the controversy precipitated by the election of a new president of Bellevue college, the people of Omaha will hope that it will not impair the usefulness of that institution. Bellevue college can in time be built up into a strong secondary college and its adjuncts developed into parts of a true university with proper administration and reasonable support. That is the task before the president and trustees.

Lord Curzon's promise of a "friendly understanding from L'Hassa to Kaboul" may be a warning to certain Asiatic people to prepare friendly greetings for British commissioners or strengthen their defenses, and before making their choice they should contemplate the journey of the late Llama who is now traveling in foreign lands.

If President Roosevelt orders the law officers to proceed against the rebate-giving railroads, the railroad managers will be more convinced than ever that he is not a safe man to occupy the White House.

Time for Improvement.
Chicago Tribune.

When railway accidents become so numerous and deadly as to form the subject of comment in a president's message it is time to apply a course of corrective treatment.

Room for Expansion.
Chicago Tribune.

There is a general feeling that the president, while on the subject of railways, might have penned a few strenuous thoughts concerning the passenger who insists on occupying four seats.

Rising to Its Opportunities.
New York Tribune.

Panama has reduced its postage and tariff, and in many other ways is preparing to do business on a friendly plan with the United States. The new republic is small, but it seems to be able to rise to the occasion.

Master and Servant.
Stock Market Bulletin.

The following figures are very interesting, by way of comparison only: The net public debt of the United States is less than $1,000,000,000, which is $500,000,000 less than the total capitalization of the United States Steel corporation figured at par. Think it over!

Now Watch the Fur Fly.
Baltimore American.

The Women's Army and Navy leagues are to join in the petition to congress for the restoration of the canteen. The Woman's Temperance union, which was mainly instrumental in abolishing the same, will fight the petition. And the contest between the two feminine organizations will be one of spirit in more ways than one.

Great Place for Fencers.
New York Sun.

Hawaii is the place for the man who wants to be on the winning side. Six hours before the polls closed on election day the voters in these Pacific islands knew that the republicans had triumphed on the mainland. The Hawaiians could't vote for a president, but they elected a republican delegate to congress and returned a solid republican legislature for the territory. The men who hate to lose should move to Hawaii.

THE GENIUS OF CONTENT.

Facilities for Happiness Greater Than Ever Before.
St. Louis Republic.

There are natures which resist gratification, which crave agitation and sourness, which cannot enter into sympathy with the ennobling conditions of life and which are incapable of responding to the higher sentiments of mankind. If there were not such natures, in these times content and hope would be felt unanimously and there would be no manifestation whatever of doggish affliction.

Facilities for happiness never were greater than they are now and in this country. The average man has more luxuries than a prince had only a comparatively short while ago. Society as a whole is well off, and is so organized as to provide the individual with unrestricted liberty and with ample encouragement for effort. The highest positions are open to character. The opportunities for spiritual and mental advancement and for material prosperity are not only unlimited, but are accessible to the very humblest person.

The man who complains about his circumstances in this country, who cannot appreciate the freedom and blessings which he enjoys, who cannot reconcile his heart to the existing order of affairs, and who in his soreness longs for a state which never could be, can only be looked upon as the victim of some disease of temperament. It is not the country which is wrong, nor the people who are wrong; the malady is of his own nature.

WHAT WAS SAID AT THE CONFERENCE.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 11, 1904.

To T. J. Mahoney, President Civic Federation:

Last Tuesday's conference between yourself, Mr. W. T. Graham and Governor Mickey, in which I participated by invitation of the governor, was held within closed doors, and was, therefore, regarded and treated by me as semi-confidential. For that reason I refrained from giving publicity to the acrimonious discussion touching your relation to Joseph Bartley, the state treasury embezzler, but you have seen fit to give out to Omaha newspapers your own garbled version in which I am made to appear as completely cowed and silenced by your denunciations and threats, thus compelling me to make public what actually did transpire.

You opened the conference by the declaration that the Civic Federation had within the last year succeeded in closing the largest gambling house in Omaha through a mandate of the supreme court, caused the suppression of wine rooms in the lower part of the town and was making a strenuous effort to bring about a strict enforcement of the Slocumb law. After giving your views of the powers and duties of the police commission, with which I substantially concurred, and without the slightest provocation you launched out into a personal tirade in which you sought to class me with habitual law breakers.

To this I retorted that it did not become you to indulge in such crimination, at any rate not until you had turned over the money collected by you for Bartley, which by rights should be turned into the state treasury. You flew into a rage and pronounced it a damnable lie and malicious libel without an iota of fact to back it. You declared you had never had any financial deal with Bartley and never handled an I. O. U. belonging to Bartley.

You were admonished by me to cool down. I said: "What I published may be false, but it was not a malicious invention. My information came from Judge E. M. Bartlett directly and from Joe Bartley through another person, whose name I will not disclose. I never knowingly published anything about any man that I did not believe to be true. I may be deceived sometimes, but I always have information that would warrant me in making the charge. If Judge Bartlett misstated the facts you must settle it with him. My information was that you were one of Bartley's attorneys when he was on trial in the criminal court and that you had afterward realized on one or more notes handed you by Bartley for collection and that you pocketed the whole amount, between $4,000 and $5,000, claiming it as your fee."

"This is absolutely false," you retorted, "I was retained by Bartley for his defense and charged him $500, which was not too much." (Judge Bartlett declares since our interview that it was only $400.) Continuing, you said: "I also collected some rent for Bartley from property that he owned in Omaha before he was sent to the pen, and I handled a note for an eastern party against a concern in Holt county with which Bartley was connected, but I have retained only a small fee and paid over the balance to the parties. I don't owe Bartley a cent, and I warn you never to connect my name with Bartley again unless you want to invite a libel suit."

I was not very much flustered by this implied threat and simply advised you to settle this matter with Judge Bartlett and Bartley, who were the sources of my information, directly and indirectly. Then you turned in and asked me why I was hostile to the Civic Federation. "I am not hostile to the Civic Federation," was my response, "but I do not like the methods by which it is trying to do some of its work. I cannot comprehend why Walter Moise and his man Friday, I. J. Dunn, are being projected as reformers. It is a matter of notoriety that Moise was the clearing house of grafters and crooks during the exposition, and in the prosecution of saloon men Dunn was only doing his bidding as was evidenced by the fact that he protested over 190 saloons last year and then withdrew his protests as soon as the Board of Police Commissioners had granted Moise licenses for his saloons."

"Moise and Dunn do not in any shape or manner represent the Civic Federation," exclaimed Mr. Graham. "We have nothing in common with them and can't comprehend why you should associate their names with our work."

"Because they have cut a big figure in your crusade," said I. "Didn't Mr. Mahoney at the very outset of this conference tell the governor that the Civic Federation had closed the biggest gambling house in Omaha? If I remember rightly that gambling house, which was a pool room in which gambling is carried on very much the same as it is in bucket shops and stock exchanges, was closed at the instance of Dunn, acting for Moise. If you repudiate these reformers now, I cannot quite reconcile your claim, but that is neither here nor there."

There was more cross-fire and controversy, but time and space forbid reproduction. Sufficeth to say, that I most emphatically disclaim any opposition to any rational effort to purge Omaha of vice and crime, but I want all movements in this direction divested of politics, imposture and shams.

E. ROSEWATER.

Supervision of Insurance Companies.
Kansas City Times.

The matter of insurance is one that reaches almost every home in the country. It is fitting, therefore, that the president should urge upon congress the duty of considering whether or not the powers of the government, through the Interstate Commerce commission, may not be extended to cover the insurance business. Where such large capital, representing so great a proportion of the people and all classes, is employed for investment, sometimes in speculation, it is of the greatest importance that there should be governmental supervision of some kind—at least sufficient in scope to inform the country fully as to the private operations of the big companies.

SERMONS BOILED DOWN.

Character is the true culture.

Borrowed trouble always comes to abide.

When a man has fame he does not know it.

The cynic gets his opinions before the mirror.

A little cant can spoil a whole lot of consecration.

No soul was ever saved by a scheme of salvation.

The crudest truth is better than the most cultured lie.

Trickery in the pulpit does not make truth in the pews.

He who will not pray for others cannot pray for himself.

No man gains anything until he is willing to lose everything.

It will take more than gold-loving hearts to make the golden age.

What the church needs is not fortifying so much as filling with life.

It is not hard to believe in the total depravity of the rest of the race.

You cannot cover sin by offering 3 per cent of the spoils to the church.

If you are looking for a chance to love you are always finding love itself.

A man's ascent amongst the living counts for more than his descent from the dead.

The first step toward curing a crook world will be to straighten your own glasses.

Religion has nothing at all to do with life when it has not something to do with all life.—Chicago Tribune.

SECULAR SHOTS AT THE PULPIT.

Washington Post: Rev. Dr. Minot Savage of New York, is not satisfied with the Book of Job. The good doctor is talking like a man who had a stock of Job's comforters.

Kansas City Journal: A Boston clergyman says that if John D. Rockefeller will give away all his money he will make him senior deacon of his church. Tempting as this offer is, Mr. Rockefeller had not closed in with it at last accounts.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: It seems quite pertinent to reproduce what the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix has to say concerning the annual crusade against Santa Claus. "I was brought up under Santa Claus," he says, "and my children were, too. Why should I oppose him now? When the children grow up and learn there is no Santa Claus they can be told to remain children and keep on hanging up the stockings at Christmas—lots of grown people do that."

Boston Globe: Imagine the young men of young Mr. Rockefeller's Sunday school class standing around Mr. Rockefeller Sr. Sunday, with wide eyes and open mouths, while the Standard oil magnate said: "I was taught to get the full value of my money, and also to give the full value, and I have lived up to that principle. I was taught to appreciate the value of money, and taught to save money, and I always saved something, no matter how little I earned. The trouble with the young men of today is that they are apt to regard the accumulation of wealth as the one great success in life. Money is only a trust in man's hands, and to use it improperly is a great sin."

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Mr. Lawson of Boston is giving his dear friends on Wall street practical illustrations of his literary ability.

George Ade, the playwright, is not seriously ill, as reported. He is taking the water cure for past transgressions. That's no joke.

The opinion prevails at O'Neill that it takes an uncommonly wise man to tell by outside appearances what a bank vault contains.

There is a note of potential farce in Mrs. Chadwick's tangled affairs. Her troubles began when she turned down a dressmaker's bill.

When a Chadwicked banker admits that he is "a dupe or a fool," onlookers can accept both as authoritative and let the characterization go at that.

A bunch of New Jersey people think the world is about to come to an end and are preparing for it. New Jersey is well provided with jumping off places.

The party of Parker, Bryan and Cleveland has fallen into such bad repute in Pennsylvania that an afflicted wife asks for a divorce on the ground that her husband is a democrat.

If further evidence is needed to show how readily the Japs adapt themselves to civilized conditions, Prince Fushini supplies it. While in New York recently the prince was initiated into the mysteries of the American cocktail and found it so appetizing that he ordered the confection added to the regular menu.

The idea of planting fruit trees along city streets is both novel and meritorious. How appropriate, for instance, would be peach trees in the residence streets, plum tres around the court house, city hall and postoffice, and prune trees to lend their charms to hotels and boarding houses.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

Mrs. Ferguson—What did Dr. Fourthly preach about this morning?

Mr. Ferguson—Well, he preached about half the congregation to sleep.—Chicago Tribune.

First Bachelor—Suppose you saw some beautiful scenery coming over the Rockies. What was it like?

Second Ditto—It had gray eyes and brown hair and a blue gown; it sat just across the aisle from me.—Detroit Free Press.

"Isn't it ridiculous to say 'imitation is the sincerest flattery?'"

"Oh, I don't know."

"Well, I know that it doesn't flatter a girl to receive an imitation diamond engagement ring."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"It has just leaked out that Miss Newell was married over a year ago."

"Who gave it away?"

"The stork."—Town Topics.

Towne—My wife surprised me today by telling me she wanted a little money to buy Christmas presents.

Browne—Why should that surprise you?

Towne—Because usually she tells me she wants a great deal.—Philadelphia Press.

"How can I make sure that he loves me?" asked the sentimental girl.

"Pick out a necktie for him that corresponds to your idea of the beautiful," said Miss Cayenne, "and see if he wears it."—Washington Star.

Mrs. Binks—Henry, were you ever disappointed in love?

Mr. Binks—Never but once, my dear. I was never in love but once.—Cleveland Leader.

AN OLD SWEETHEART OF MINE.

James Whitcomb Riley.

As one who cons at evening o'er an album
all alone,
And muses on the faces of the friends that
he has known,
So I turn the leaves of fancy till, in
shadowy design,
I find the smiling features of an old sweet-
heart of mine.

The lamplight seems to glimmer with a
flicker of surprise
As I turn it low to rest me of the dazzle
in my eyes;
And I light my pipe in silence, save a sigh
that seems to yoke
Its fate with my tobacco and to vanish
into smoke.

'Tis a fragrant retrospection—for the lov-
ing thoughts that start
Into being are like perfumes from the
blossoms of the heart;
And to dream the old dreams over is a
luxury divine—
When my truant fancies wander with that
old sweetheart of mine.

Though I hear, beneath my study, like a
fluttering of wings,
The voices of my children and the mother
as she sings,
I feel no twinge of conscience to deny me
any theme
When Care has cast her anchor in the
harbor of a dream.

In fact, to speak in earnest, I believe it
adds a charm
To spice the good a trifle with a little
dust of harm,
For I find an extra flavor in memory's
mellow wine
That makes me drink the deeper to that
old sweetheart of mine.

A face of lily beauty and a form of airy
grace
Floats out of my tobacco as the genii from
the vase;
And I thrill beneath the glances of a pair
of azure eyes
As glowing as the summer and as tender
as the skies.

And again I feel the pressure of the slen-
der little hand
As we used to talk together of the future
we had planned—
When I should be a poet, and with nothing
else to do
But write the tender verses that she set
the music to.

When we should live together in a cozy
little cot,
Hid in a nest of roses with a fairy garden
spot.
Where the vines were ever fruited and
weather ever fine,
And the birds were ever singing for that
old sweetheart of mine.

When I should be her lover forever and
a day,
And she my faithful sweetheart till the
golden hair was gray;
And we should be so happy that when
either's lips were dumb
They would not smile in heaven till the
other's kiss had come.

But—ah! my dream is broken by a step
upon the stair,
And the door is softly opened and my wife
is standing there!
Yet with eagerness and rapture all my
visions I resign
To greet the living presence of that old
sweetheart of mine.