

Lincoln Letter

Current Gossip from the STATE CAPITAL Legislative and Otherwise

The anti-pass bill went through the house with but one dissenting vote (that of Cone) and immediately after the senate accepted the house amendments. The bill carries the emergency clause and will become a law just as soon as signed by the governor. By reason of the senate provision making the holder of a pass equally guilty with the giver, every owner of an annual in the state, not especially excepted by the provisions of the bill, will become a criminal and subject to prosecution unless he throws his pasteboard into the fire or hands it back to the giver. Several members of the legislature who have been making frequent trips home on complimentary transportation will have to pay when they leave after the final windup. Under provisions of the bill attorneys or surgeons to receive passes must be able to show that they are "bona fide employees, the major portion of whose time is employed in the service of the company" from which they might receive the transportation. Cone's objection is that there are a hundred and one pretexts through which a railroad may construe lawyer and doctor politicians all over the state as employees.

The house recommended for passage Aldrich's maximum freight rate bill by practically a unanimous vote. The senate having passed the measure, it will be certain of passage now and equally certain of approval. The bill makes a reduction of 15 per cent in the rates for force January 1, 1907, on live stock, potatoes, grain and grain products, fruit, coal, lumber and building material in car load lots. The railway commission is given power to raise or lower rates. If the roads show that the rates are not reasonable, the commission has power to permit the roads to raise rates. The friends of the bill make the claim that it will give immediate relief from the unjust charges on the principal products raised and shipped in the state and without waiting an indefinite time on the railway commission. It was urged as a temporary and supplementary act to the bill defining the powers of the commission.

Two bills regulating the South Omaha live stock exchange and the stock yards were passed by the house. One bill by Adams of Dawes provides for a general cut amounting to 50 per cent on the profits in the charges made at the yards for feed, yardage and similar service. It provides also for annual public reports showing the business condition of the company. The Doran bill is aimed at the commission men and the live stock exchange. It provides a cut in commission charges to put them back to where they were two years ago before a general reduction was made by commission men. An anti-discrimination feature also practically knocks out the stock exchange by opening up that exchange to any character of irresponsible concern. Under its present rules a commission man must pay the shipper for all live stock sold for him whether the commission man can collect or not.

The house refused to stand for S. F. 284, which conferred upon the state labor bureau authority to investigate corporations and look into the books of these concerns, a bill which it was said Governor Sheldon heartily endorsed, and it was indefinitely postponed upon the recommendation of the judiciary committee. McMullen and Harvey made talks against the bill, and though Noyes of Cass offered amendments, they were not acted upon, and the house sustained the report of the committee. S. F. 308 received a similar fate. This is the bill by Aldrich of Butler providing common carriers shall receive permission from the railway commission before floating bonds.

The railway commission has not yet formally organized owing to the absence of Robert Cowell, the member from Omaha. He failed to come early in the week and it is not known when he will be present. His resignation has been expected for some time, as he has told friends that he would resign if the work of the commission required much of his time. He was not present to take the oath of office January 8, but took the oath later.

The "single tax" theory is dead as far as the present session of the legislature is concerned. The senate killed a bill introduced in the house by Representative Davis. Later a similar fate befell S. F. No. 109, presented by Senator McKesson. Governor Sheldon recommended in his message that all mortgage indebtedness be deducted from the assessed valuation of the property.

The senate declined to reconsider its action of the previous day indefinitely postponing H. R. 402, by Blystone, appropriating \$50,000 for a hospital building at the Lincoln hospital for the insane for the use of men. McKesson's motion to reconsider was defeated by a vote of 9 to 15. The matter was discussed and Root of Cass, chairman of the finance committee, said his committee was unanimous in its decision that the appropriation was not necessary. He was supported by other members of the finance committee.

The house was touched with sentiment and presented to Speaker Nettleton a solid silver carving set and berry bowl and a carving set to Chief Clerk Clyde Barnard. Representative Dodge made the presentation speech and paid an eloquent tribute to the speaker and clerk.

Governor Sheldon signed the terminal tax bill fifteen minutes after the bill was placed on his desk. The bill has no emergency clause and will not affect the assessment of railroad property this year.

The state-wide primary bill passed the house on the 29th, as amended by the senate. Dodge, of Douglas, moved, that all the amendments be adopted with the exception of section 30, relating to the promulgation of the party platform and the selection of a state committee, and on this question he asked for the appointment of a conference committee. His motion was defeated. The senate passed the bill by a vote of 30 to 3, every senator going on record. Though the bill was recommitted at the forenoon session for an amendment which Senator Aldrich wanted to attach, the change was not made and the bill was placed on its passage at the opening of the afternoon session. The three senators who voted against the measure were Ashton, Latta and Hanna. Ashton and Latta are fusionists while Hanna is a republican. Ashton explained his vote in a written statement, declaring the primary would cost the state \$200,000 a year. The bill goes to the governor at once.

The proposed law, to go back to the old system of precinct or township elective assessors, was defeated in the house by a vote of 40 to 42. The bill was introduced by Johnson of Saline and applied only to counties of less than 25,000. In these counties the county assessor was to be done away with and the deputy assessors, instead of being appointed by him, were to be elected in each precinct or township. There was a considerable demand for the bill by farmers who declare that assessors are appointed from the towns which give the merchants in the towns the best of the bargain at the expense of the farmers.

The house passed the Adams and Doran stock yards bills with practically the Douglas county delegation opposed. Some of the members from Douglas county did not vote for the bills. The contest came up in the afternoon when Thiesens of Jefferson moved to recommit H. R. 495 by Doran to provide an amendment that commission men should charge 50 cents a head for selling cattle, 25 cents a head for calves, 15 cents for hogs and 5 cents for sheep. This was quickly voted down when Clarke of Douglas made a motion that the bill be indefinitely postponed. It received only 8 votes.

Among the more important bills passed was an amendment to the Hirsch law by Cone. It seeks to remedy the defects in the Hirsch elevator law by providing a means through which railroads are required to furnish track elevators. The limit in capacity of elevators to which railroads are required to furnish side tracks is also reduced to 10,000 bushels. The bill provides that the elevator man must be ready to put up the cost of building the side track, but forbids discrimination between two elevators in one place and requires the railroads to treat all elevator men in one locality alike.

The senate finance committee recommended for passage H. R. 295, which provides for a heating plant at the Peru Normal school. The action of the committee in indefinitely postponing the bill appropriating \$2,000 for a substation for fish in Cherry county was reversed by the senate after a fight by Senator Hanna. After securing the reconsideration of the vote he moved the bill be placed on general file, and after a heated debate in which members of the finance committee declared the action would open up the way for a wholesale reversal of the action of the committee, the motion carried.

Wilsley of Frontier, chairman of the railroad committee of the senate, gently laid fifteen bills on the secretary's desk after a motion had been carried to indefinitely postpone all senate files not on the general file or advanced to third reading. The batch, with one or two exceptions, applied directly to railroads, but in the entire lot there is not one that is not wholly or partly covered by bills already passed by one or both of the two houses. Many of them related to the qualifications and powers of the railway commission and some related to maximum rates of commodities.

The senate expunged from the records a resolution offered by Sibley of Lincoln county early in the session censuring Assistant Secretary F. P. Corrick. The trouble came about through the publication of some letters from some of Sibley's constituents protesting against a stringent anti-pass law. Senator Sibley offered the resolution apparently while engaged at the publication of the letters. It was never pushed and has been allowed to lie dormant until, when, by unanimous vote, a motion by Randall of Madison to expunge it from the records carried.

The last county option bill was indefinitely postponed in the house by a vote of 40 to 37, made by Lahners of Thayer county. The measure was introduced by E. W. Brown of Lancaster after the original postponement.

The defeat of the Thomas bill to reduce the rates charged by sleeping car companies in this state was one of the features of a senate session. Aldrich of Butler moved to recommit the bill to the committee of the whole for specific amendment so as to permit the railroad-commission to control rates as well as the running of sleeping cars on trains. Clarke of Adams moved to table the whole matter, which would have carried with it the original bill. King of Polk spoke in opposition to the motion to table. It was defeated, thus killing the measure.

The physical connection telephone bill is among the measures left on general file by the sifting committee. Five hundred and fifty-eight bills were introduced in the house and only a small portion of this number has been considered or advanced. The senate killed the Thomas bill, cutting the fares on sleeping car rates and that the house sifting committee immediately afterward advanced the house sleeping car bill to the sifting file, together with the bill cutting express rates.

ARCHIE ROOSEVELT.



Son of the President, who has been very ill, but is now rapidly recovering from his attack of diphtheria.

DIDN'T SEND THE SEATS.

Actor Not so Gallant as the Fair Ones Had Expected.

A well-known American actor, who is old enough not to consider himself a matinee idol by any means, was somewhat surprised and pleased in a St. Louis hotel a short time ago, when a pretty girl stopped him in the corridor and presented him with a rose, without saying a word. He was more surprised and less pleased to receive a note the following day reminding him of the incident, and asking him to send the giver of the flower two seats at the theater in which he was playing "as a memento of the occasion."

"My dear young lady," the actor replied, waxing sarcastic as he realized what had been the object of the attention he had been paid, "I would be glad to send you the seats you ask for, but, on consultation with the manager of the theater, I have been informed that the seats are all fastened down, and that he is opposed to having them sent away as souvenirs in any event, so that you will have to be contented with an autograph of your souvenir of your benevolence of yesterday instead."—Montreal Herald.

Romance of the Bible House.

From this huge building, in Astor place, New York city, authority radiates to the uttermost ends of the earth. Let its directors say the word

THE EVER READY PUMP.

No Trick at All to Make Customer What He Wanted.

William Barclay Parsons, the engineer, is a foe to scamped work, and at a recent dinner he said:

"That man is most unwise who tries to get his work done cheaply. Cheap work can always be secured, but the quality of such work is on its face—"

Mr. Parsons, smiling, interrupted himself to tell a story.

"There was a man," he said, "who entered a dairy and asked how much the milk was."

"Ten cents a quart, sir," the young woman behind the counter answered.

"The man looked disappointed."

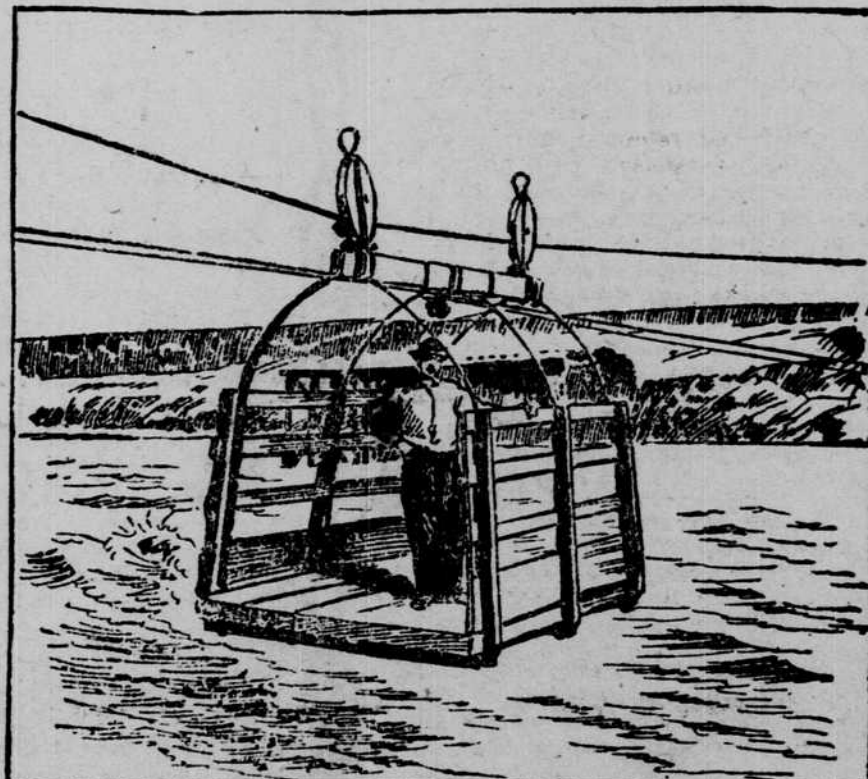
"Haven't you got any for six cents?" he asked.

"No," said the young woman; "but," she added, "we can soon make you some."

Mayor as Bell Ringer.

The following story is told in Paris of a village priest and a mayor: In a village in the department of the Ain the cure was his own church warden. For want of money the church was abandoned, and for many days the villagers heard no Angelus when working in the fields at daybreak, at noon, and in the evening. The mayor, a retired gendarme, an ardent radical, missed the cure and the chimes as much as any other villager, and when the cure had been gone a week he be-

STRANGE METHOD OF CROSSING RIVER.



Ferry over New River at Brawley, Cal. The cage is suspended by pulleys to a cable and is pulled back and forth by another cable.

and cargoes of Bibles, marvelously printed in the quaintest and most barbarous of tongues, will go on camels or elephants crashing through the jungles of Africa and Siam; on queer little llamas over the great passes of the Andes between Bolivia and Peru; on the heads of cannibal coolies round about the base of the Mountains of the Moon, near the source of old Father Nile; on camel back across the burning deserts of Nubia and Arabia the Stony, or in flat-bottomed boats towed by man with bamboo cables through the deep gorges of the Yangtze river.—The Circle.

Poll Parrot as a Game Bird.

While the parrot is a bird of beautiful plumage, as a table delicacy it is not recommended, as I know from sad experience. My first essay at eating a parrot was attended with modified success. The bird must have been comparatively young, and after several hours boiling became soft enough to masticate and finally swallow, leaving behind it an impression that he had lunched on the sole of a rubber boot.—Field and Stream.

Sadly Misunderstood.

A London journalist says that American women go abroad for husbands because they want to be bossed. And the great mass of American husbands will rise to remark feelingly to a man, "How little he knows our noble women!"—Baltimore American.

Rejected Manuscript.

The rejected manuscript is often the foundation of a writer's fame when the author perseveres in the face of discouragement until he finds an editor to accept his contribution.

HAVE LOST CUNNING

COUNTERFEITERS TURNING OUT NO GOOD WORK.

For Many Years There Have Been No Spurious Banknotes to Worry the Money World—The "Monroe Hundred."

There is one lost art among criminals, one trade which United States secret service men have seemingly wiped out to the very last man. This is the art of counterfeiting currency, says the Kansas City Star. Kansas City bank officials say that for eight years there has been no spurious banknote worthy of passing comment has been handled in the money world. They declare that the day of successful counterfeiting has come to an end.

"Not a banknote which fools the experts is on the market," said E. F. Swinney, president of the First national bank. "There is counterfeit currency, plenty of it," he said, "but it's a kind detected almost at a glance. Inspection of it quickly reveals the flaws. Usually the work is clumsy. But not since the notorious gang in Philadelphia which made the famous 'Monroe hundred' was wiped out has there been a really clever counterfeiter at work. At least, we have no record of any."

The "Monroe hundred" was a \$100 silver certificate with the face of President Monroe stamped upon it. It was of a series of 1901, check letter D, Tillman register, Morgan treasurer. It was an absolutely perfect counterfeit. Experts in the treasury department were fooled by it. The notes became so numerous and were accepted so extensively that the government called in its entire issue of \$100 bills, amounting to several million dollars. Even now a 'Monroe hundred' is occasionally picked up and is almost impossible to tell whether it is genuine or not.

The only difference between the genuine bill and the counterfeit was in the shape of the figures 3 and 4 and the length of the bill. In the figure 3 the lower loop did not extend so far toward the center of the figure as it should have extended. In the figure 4 the space between the base and the center cross line was narrower than it should have been. The false bill was one-sixteenth of an inch shorter than the genuine.

"Such irregularities would easily pass the eye of an expert," Mr. Swinney said. "Of course, if a genuine bill was laid before you, and you had the opportunity to compare the two, after some study the defects could be noted. But think of the number of money handlers who had the counterfeit bill who had no opportunity for such comparison."

"The gang which made the 'Monroe hundred' was arrested in Philadelphia in 1899. The plates which printed the bills were recovered and the counterfeiters sentenced to long terms in prison."

"With the end of that gang," Mr. Swinney said, "there seems to have been an end of successful counterfeiting. Not since 1899 has the government been forced to recall any currency issue. Crooks have learned that to make spurious currency which will pass inspection is a hard task. And they have learned that the penalty Uncle Sam makes them pay when detected is heavy."

Hadn't Been Drunk.

He evidently wasn't used to the ways of big hotels. He looked as though he might have been from some farm and was in a large city for the first time, says the Denver Post. Somehow he had heard that the next morning men who have been absorbing intoxicants drink lots of ice water.

"Say," he said to C. T. Newton behind the desk at the Shirley hotel about eight o'clock in the morning, "the other clerk last night told me to ask for things over that little telephone in my room when I wanted 'em."

"Yes," said Newton.

"Well, this morning, about a half an hour ago, I asked for a glass of ice water. Some girl answered the telephone."

"Yes," said Newton.

"Well, I don't like to be took fer a heavy drinker. I wasn't drunk last night."

"What do you mean?"

"Jes' this—I didn't get no glass of ice water. That girl sent me up a whole pitcher. It looked mighty much to me like she thought I was full of liquor last night and would need a whole pitcher. A glass would a-been enough." And as he turned and strode away he wore one of those "Guess I didn't call him down, eh?" looks.

Donation Carnegie Refused.

Apropos of Mr. Carnegie's latest gift, an editor, taking out his notebook, said the other day:

"I can tell you of a gift of \$1.50 that Mr. Carnegie once refused to give. Let me read you the letter asking for this gift."

With a laugh he read:

"Dear Mr. Carnegie—Understanding that you are blessed at present with an unusual surplus of income, and knowing well your generous spirit and desire to do good to those who will help themselves, I want to ask you to make me a contribution of \$1.50."

"When I was a young man my mother gave me a hymnbook, which I faithfully used. It is now, thanks to my efforts, worn out, and I think it should be replaced, and you are the man to do this."

"Appreciating to the full the generous deeds that have made your name illustrious in this and other countries, and believing that in making me this donation you will be carrying on the spirit of your work, I am, yours faithfully," Mark Twain.

"F. S.—Don't send the hymnbook; send the \$1.50." "M. T."

USE ELECTRIC POTATO PEELER.

Bread Made at West Point Without Touch of a Hand.

The first thing which attracts one's attention is the electric potato peeler—a tublike machine with revolving knives.

A bushel of potatoes is thrown in, at a time, a button is pressed and in the space of five minutes the tubers fall into another tub neatly peeled. As four or five barrels of potatoes are used every day the labor saving of the apparatus will be readily understood.

One hundred and fifteen loaves of bread are baked every 24 hours, and nearly 100 rolls, with occasionally 50 spice cakes. Pies are used once a week and 125 are baked.

There is an electric bread-mixing machine, with funnels through which the flour, water and yeast may flow according to the wish of the baker. The loaves are also cut and rolled by machinery, the whole baking being done without a hand touching the bread until it comes from the oven and is placed on the cooling racks.

An electric dough divider is used for cutting rolls. The dough is thrown on an iron plate, and a cutter drops, separating it into pieces of the size required for each roll. These are quickly transferred to a pan and are set to rise.

The eggs used in cooking are beaten by electricity, and the silver used in the dining-room is polished with a brush run by the same motive power.

Dishes are washed by placing them in a wire rack and touching a lever which causes the rack to sink into scalding water, where the dishes are cleaned. Another lever lifts them, and they are turned out on trays to dry.

Ice is made in the basement, and comes from the freezer in 50-pound cakes.

The sterilizing machine is an electric apparatus, and with its aid 180 gallons of milk are sterilized every morning. The milk is poured into a large can and heated to 180 degrees, which kills the bacteria, and in less than three-fourths of a minute it is cooled to 38 degrees.—Leslie's Weekly.

COURT TRIALS OF ANIMALS.

In Olden Times They Were Arraigned Before Justices.

The decision of the southwestern police court (London) magistrate that a monkey may use the pavement if he causes no obstruction, reminds us that, down to a comparatively late period on the continent, the lower animals were considered amenable to the laws. Domestic animals were tried in the common criminal courts; wild animals fell under ecclesiastical jurisdiction. French antiquaries have discovered the records of 92 processes against animals, conducted with the strictest formalities of justice, from 1120 to 1740, when the last trial and execution, that of a cow, took place. Thus, there was a lawsuit that lasted from 1445 to 1487 between the inhabitants of St. Julien and a kind of beetle, and at Lavigny, in 1457, a sow and her six young ones were tried on a charge of having murdered and partly eaten a child. The sow was found guilty and condemned to death, but the little pigs were acquitted on account of their youth, the absence of direct proof against them.

—London Chronicle.

Chevers of Tea Leaves.

"I had an odd case of tea chewing the other day," said a physician. "The man was yellow and emaciated. He had been chewing China tea for seven years."

"He said that at first tea chewing had had a wonderfully stimulating effect on him."

"I drank in those days," he admitted frankly, "and sometimes I would turn up at the shop after putting away 20 or 25 beers with only three hours of sleep to my credit. Naturally I'd feel seedy, but, sir, by chewing a few mouthfuls of tea I'd become almost as alert and fresh as ever again."

"As the habit grew on the man, though, its stimulating effect died. It finally failed to stimulate him at all, but without it he was nervous, he got headaches and he had no appetite."

"Of course I advised him to abandon tea chewing—to abandon it gradually. What interested me in his case was his claim that in teasops—he worked in a teasop—the chewing of the leaves was a fairly common thing."

Goose Is Intelligent Bird.

A farmer would scarcely believe that a goose requires only about 60 hours in order to prepare it for the footlights and a critical audience, and that a common pig, which has been bought in the market, will in 30 hours be competent to blossom forth as an actor. According to Mr. Clyde Powers, a trainer of wide experience and much patience, it takes a duck about three days to learn how to march on the stage, to follow the chorus, and to march off again at the proper time; it takes a chicken a week or more, and a turkey cannot grasp the art of acting before six months' time. Mr. Powers has tried to train a peafowl, but he finds that it is impossible. A goose is the most intelligent of all the feathered tribe, and a goose is also the only one of the domestic fowls that shows affection.—Leslie's Weekly.

Made an Impression.

The witty vicar of a country parish in the north of England was often pained at the apparent apathy displayed by members of his congregation towards matters of religion. He did his best to impress them for good, but somehow he seemed to make very unsatisfactory progress. One day, as he was out for a ride on horseback in his parish, the horse made a sudden plunge, and he found himself lying full length on his back in a ditch bottom. Fortunately, it was soft, otherwise the consequences might have been more serious. He got up, and, taking a survey of the place, exclaimed as he walked away:

"Well, there is at least one place in my parish now where I have left an impression."



"I am not conventional, myself," said the young man who had seen a great deal of life. He was speaking to the debutante.

"I think that's so nice of you," said the girl, with enthusiasm.

"I'm afraid that I shock good people sometimes," said the young man, complacently.

"I just love people who do that," said the girl.

"I speak my mind, don't you know," said the young man. "I have my own ideas on things and I'm not ashamed to tell them: If people don't like them it is a matter of perfect indifference to me. Now, I don't think I shall ever become engaged, for one thing. Not that I think there is anything wrong with engagements, only I take a broad view of that. The trouble is, generally speaking, that women are narrow in their views. You see, they always want to monopolize a man. I don't think that is right, exactly."

"It doesn't seem exactly right, does it?" said the girl.

"The young man looked pleased. "Now, I thought that I was going to shock you," he said. "I didn't think you would agree with me. You really have more intelligence than most girls—far more."

"I'm afraid you are trying to flatter me," said the debutante.

"No, indeed," replied the young man. "That's exactly the thing I wouldn't do, I never do it. If I think a thing I say it, whether it is complimentary or not. But this idea of devotion to just one girl is all wrong. I can add, sure one girl very much indeed, but I don't see that that is any reason why I shouldn't admire others, do you?"

"No, indeed," replied the debutante. "One girl has one quality and another has some other quality which the first girl doesn't have," said the young man, argumentatively. "No one can expect to have all the admirable traits. That is the way I look at it. And then, you know, a man isn't always in one kind of mood. At one time he may be feeling as if he wanted something lively and then he may be in a melancholy sort of mood. There are times when what I want is to talk to a girl who has repose and at the same time sympathy and understanding. You know how that is, don't you?"

"I think I do," murmured the debutante.

"But if a fellow is engaged to that sort of girl and some time when he wants a little fun he wants to—or—talk with a lively sort, then the other one gets mad and makes trouble. Then, too, a girl may be good-looking. Well, I'm a great admirer of beauty. I just like to look at it, but beauty won't satisfy a man. There isn't any one thing that will, so far as that goes. A man wants variety. Even in the matter of looks. I might think of a blonde and when I saw a fine-looking brunette would feel pleasure in looking at her, too. But the blonde wouldn't want to stand for that, you know. She'd get sore—or—angry, don't you know. Why should she? Nearly all the girls I know have some points about them that I like. Some of them are one thing and some another. Why shouldn't I enjoy them all? That's the reason I don't think that I would ever want to be engaged."

"Have I got my points?" asked the debutante, shyly.

"Lots of them," answered the young man, gallantly. "For one thing, you are liberal in your ideas, and considering how young you are that is a great deal. And then you are beautiful. No, I mean it, honest. Your type of beauty is the one that I prefer to any other, too. You mustn't mind if I speak frankly, you know, I have to. If anybody asks me a question I always tell him the truth. I like people to be frank, but they very seldom are."

"I know that's true," said the debutante. "To tell you the truth, I'm a good deal that way myself. I've that same liking for variety. I like some men for one thing and some for another, and just as you say, we have different moods in which certain people appeal to us more than others. Sometimes I like men to talk to me and just listen and at other times they make me tired and I want to do some talking myself. Some men talk on interesting subjects and others don't. When Mrs. Gipsen presented you to me I just felt as if you would interest me."

"Now, I'm afraid you are flattering me," said the young man, with a gratified air.

"I assure you that I'm not," replied the debutante. "I am telling you the exact truth. I always do. You mustn't mind if I speak frankly, either. I have to. Just now I feel in the mood to talk to Mr. Robinson. He's standing over by the door now, looking at you. You don't mind if I beckon to him, do you?"—Chicago Daily News.

Expect Duchess at Newport.

It is almost assured that two duchesses—her grace of Marlborough and her grace of Roxburgh—will be in Newport for the coming season. They have been expected there for several years, but always something has happened to prevent their coming. The former is expected to visit her mother, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, and the latter to spend several weeks of the summer with her mother, Mrs. Ogden Golet.

A Happy Accident.

We ask God to forgive us for our evil thoughts and evil temper, but rarely if ever ask Him to forgive us for our sadness. Joy is regarded as a happy accident of our Christian life, an ornament and a luxury, rather than a duty.—R. W. Dale.

Pointer for Grandma.

My little nephew, when he was three years old, was visiting his grandmother one day and as she was about to give him a piece of bread and butter he looked up at her and said: "Cut it good and big, grandma, for God loves the cheerful giver."