

STORIES IN PASSING.

Long engagements are the rule but once in a while quick work in that line occurs and proves a mighty good thing in the long run. Such was the case with a friend of mine. He had been a mortorman in Omaha for a year or more and then lost his place and was idle for several months. Then through an acquaintance he learned that there was a vacancy in the telephone office at Fairmont and went after that.

"Are you married or unmarried?" asked the director at the general office of the Nebraska Telephone Company in Omaha.

"Unmarried," replied the young man. "I'm sorry but you won't do," said the director, "you see Fairmont's too big a town for one man to attend to the work by himself and isn't large enough to hire two men. So we aim to get married men for such places, along with his wife, the operator can run the office very nicely."

The applicant felt rather crestfallen at this unpleasant statement. He was not only not a married man but did not have a ghost of a chance of ever getting married, that he could see. He never had had much to do with young women—in fact there was just one young lady he knew and that slightly. She was a stenographer in the city somewhere, a plain, sensible girl who boarded where he did and with whom he had had some conversation.

"Say, will you give me a chance at that place until noon? I'll be back by that time," he finally said to the director.

"Yes, I'll keep it open until noon," was the reply.

In two hours the young man returned, radiant and happy, a young woman on his left arm, a grip in his right hand.

"It's all right, you can give me the place," he explained to the director. "This is my wife; just married twenty minutes ago. The train leaves at one o'clock and we are ready to start at once."

The couple had charge of the Fairmont office three years. Then the young man was sent up to the Hastings office and has now worked into the general office at Omaha.

One family hid their Christmas presents in a very effective way this year. The father brought home a big stack of empty pasteboard boxes and piled them up in the main hall. The children searched them all and repeated the operation again in a day or two. After that the boxes stood unmolested. All the presents were put in the bottom boxes and remained untouched until the Christmas tree was prepared, while the little folks ransacked every other part of the house in their search.

"What did I get for Christmas?" said a little seven-year-old girl to a lady friend, "oh, I got a doll and a bible. Mamma gave me the bible. She wants me to be a missionary. She says that any family that talks as much as we do for missions and gives as much as we do to the missionaries, ought to have one among 'em anyway. There don't seem to be any of the rest of the children that want to go, so I guess I'll have to be it. I always did want to see those funny little Chinese eat with sticks, and then it must be nice to ride on the big ocean and have the whole church prayin' for you."

The boy of a neighbor across the way who delights to hear "big folks" talk heard a gentleman telling that old story of being "glad to shake the hand of the man who shook the hand of Sullivan." Then at dinner he quite paralyzed the family by telling his brother of a man who was "glad to shake the hand of a man who shook the hand of Solomon."

H. G. SHEDD.

Recent Sermons.

**WAR.**—The world is coming to understand more and more the absurdity of maintaining a warlike attitude and supporting in times of peace great armies. The sentiment against war is steadily gaining.—Rev. A. Z. Conrad, Congregationalist, Worcester, Mass.

**CHEERFULNESS.**—There is no use to be down in the dark, damp cellar when there are light, and warmth, and comfort in the parlor. Consistency is a great essential of a Christian life. There is too little of it in the lives of Christian people.—Rev. J. I. Paxton, Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

**WOMAN.**—I am ashamed to say that for 6,000 years man has been a petty tyrant and lordling as far as woman has been concerned. Every intelligent student of history knows this to be true.—Rev. E. F. Wright, Congregationalist, Gardner, Ill.

**CITIZENSHIP.**—Good citizenship demands first the recognition of God as supreme governor. As citizens men have no more right to ignore God than as individuals. If our bodies and souls belong to Him so does our state.—Rev. C. A. Van Anda, Chicago.

**GOVERNMENT.**—God deals with governments as with individuals. Where righteousness reigns there is blessing. Where it is ignored there cometh destruction.—Rev. J. L. Weaver, Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

**SOCIAL ETHICS.**—As Columbus discovered a neglected hemisphere, so we are just discovering a neglected hemisphere of church work—the hemisphere of social ethics.—Rev. W. F. Craft, Presbyterian, Washington.

**PATRIOTISM.**—True American patriotism lies in fulfillment of American ideas rather than in calculating upon American interests. It is the sound, patriotic American spirit to hold duty higher than interest, to hold the citizen's obligations at least as sacred as his rights.—Rev. J. F. Brodie, Congregationalist, Salem, Mass.

**THE STATE.**—The state is a moral organism. One man is not altogether man. Human nature cannot manifest itself wholly in the individual. It does not develop in isolation. Hence emerge of very necessity out of the soul of humanity itself family life, social life, religious life, political life.—Rev. N. Luccock, Methodist, Pittsburg.

**POLITICS AND RELIGION.**—Just so long as good men walk one way in their religion and another in their politics and join in the foolish cry that politics has nothing to do with religion, so long will bad men with selfish schemes and unscrupulous methods control affairs. Religion must be mixed with politics, business, industrial, and social life.—Rev. F. B. Cherington, Congregationalist, Spokane, Wash.

**CHRISTIAN PATRIOTISM.**—The gospel of Christ applies to the great questions of tariff and finance and immigration, to the recognition of Cuban belligerency, or the settlement of the Venezuelan boundary, or the defense of American citizens in Crete or Armenia, just as it does to the questions of the immortality of the soul or the destiny of the impotent.—Rev. G. A. Cleveland, Baptist, Riverside, Cal.

A Squirrel's Capacious Mouth.

A Dummerston (Vt.) man wished to ascertain how many kernels of corn a chipmunk could carry in its mouth. Thirty kernels were placed on a board. A squirrel carried them all away at one time. Forty-five kernels were then placed in position, and chipmy got away with all of them at that trial. Seventy kernels were put on the board for a third trial. The little striped animal was beaten this time, but succeeded in carrying fifty-eight of the kernels in his mouth.—Boston Herald.

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