

CURRENT TOPICS

THIS INTERESTING story was sent to the Chicago Tribune from Beverly, New Jersey: "The sudden and strange disappearance of her two year old baby girl Anna gave Mrs. William Mitchell of Cooper street a terrible scare. After a vain search the mother was filled with a vague fear, and she hurried out to the homes of neighbors, but none of them had seen the little girl. News of the disappearance spread, and the fear that the child had been kidnapped almost overcame the frenzied mother. About noon a neighbor told Mrs. Mitchell that she knew where the child was, but she could not get her, as she was in the kennel of her bulldog, with the dog on guard. Efforts were made to get the dog away, but he showed his teeth and growled savagely, and even a tempting beefsteak would not get him away. Evidently hungry, the dog was finally coaxed away, and while at a safe distance the mother induced her baby to leave the kennel. Such a friendship had grown between the child and dog that she could take a bone from his mouth and the animal would offer no resistance, although he is inclined to be savage. It appears that while the dog was away from his kennel the child called, and when the dog returned he decided that she had come to stay."

IN WASHINGTON and throughout the country general regret is expressed because of the publicity of the differences between the president and Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy Storer. The Washington correspondent for the New York Evening Post says: "There is much in this private correspondence to make the thoughtless smile, but more to make the judicious grieve. While there is as yet nothing to warrant Mr. Storer's assertion that his pamphlet was given publicity at the White House, it is pointed out as bearing on this phase of the affair that the president's reply, which was given to correspondents last evening at six o'clock, bears date of December 2, showing that it had been prepared for publication six days in advance of the printing of Mr. Storer's pamphlet in a Chicago newspaper. Imputations of bad faith and charges of ungentlemanly conduct, of lying and of acts of 'peculiar perfidy,' exchanged between the president of the United States and a man who has been minister and ambassador to European countries, do not make pleasant public reading."

THE NORWEGIAN parliament has conferred the Nobel peace prize upon President Roosevelt. This prize is awarded to the president because of the part he took in the settlement of the Russian-Japanese war. The president sent to the Norwegian parliament this telegram: "I am profoundly moved and touched by the signal honor shown me through your body in conferring on me the Nobel peace prize. There is no gift I could appreciate more and I wish it were in my power to fully express my gratitude. I thank you for it, and I thank you in behalf of the United States, for what I did I was able to accomplish only as the representative of the nation of which for the time being I am president. After much thought I have concluded that the best and most fitting way to apply the amount of the prize is by using it as a foundation to establish at Washington a permanent industrial peace committee. The object will be to strive for better and more equitable relations among my countrymen who are engaged, whether as capitalists or wage-workers, in industrial and agricultural pursuits. This will carry out the purpose of the founder of the prize for in modern life it is as important to work for the cause of just and righteous peace in the industrial world as in the world of nations. I again express to you the assurance of my deep and lasting gratitude and appreciation."

THE NOBEL PEACE prize was provided by the will of Dr. Alfred B. Nobel, a Swedish scientist, who died in 1896. In his will Dr. Nobel set apart a portion of his fortune to be used in the establishment of five prizes to be awarded annually; and to be maintained by the interest on something like nine million dollars which Nobel set apart for this purpose. These prizes are to be distributed every year to the persons who,

during the preceding year, had done the best in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, idealistic literature, and the advancement of universal peace. The first award of these prizes was made December 10, 1901. Then the peace prize was equally divided between Henry Dunant, a Swiss physician, and Frederick Passy, the French founder of the universal peace union. At the time of the awarding of this prize, Dr. Dunant was said to be ill and destitute. Last year the peace prize went to Baron von Uttner of Vienna. Dr. Nobel first won wealth and fame by the manufacture of an explosive composed of nitro-glycerine and blasting powder. In 1867 he invented dynamite and in later years he put out other death dealing propositions. In the terms of Dr. Nobel's will, the peace prize is awarded by the Norwegian parliament. The other four prizes are awarded by different institutions in Stockholm, Sweden.

THE FAMOUS "Mr. Dooley" writing for the Philadelphia Public Ledger quotes "Mr. Hennessey," as asking: "What's the prisdint doin' these days?" "Not much," said Mr. Dooley. "He's not doin' much. Ye seldom hear iv him. Whether 'tis old age creepin' on—he must be all iv twinty-four—or th' responsibilities iv th' office I don't know, but he's kind iv quited down. Now, ye take last week. With th' exception iv bouncin' a few indispensable cabinet officers, invintin' a battleship, writin' an article on th' spoorts iv th' ancient Greeks, lecturin' th' Presbyteerian church on infant damnation, refereein' a poker bet between wan iv his old companions in arms an' th' estate iv another, describin' th' delights iv ocean travel to th' navy, passin' out a bunch iv lagal tips to th' Supreme Coort, divisin' a tackles back play fl'r football, an' sinderin' a recipe fr' preparin' pie plant fr' th' table to th' Ladies' Cookin' Club iv Omaha, ye might say he hardly done annything last week."

THE NEW YORK World is making a vigorous fight against the confirmation of George B. Cortelyou as secretary of the treasury. The World says: "Even though Mr. Cortelyou had the genius of another Alexander Hamilton the appointment would be indefensible. No chairman of a national political committee should ever be secretary of the treasury. No man who has collected a campaign fund from banks and great financial interests should be charged with the duty of controlling and regulating the subscribers to that fund. If Mr. Roosevelt feels that he must have Mr. Cortelyou in his cabinet, let the chairman of the national committee remain at the head of the postoffice department. This is unseemly enough, but it is infinitely preferable to making him secretary of the treasury. The Cortelyou appointment is a most unfortunate blunder which must inevitably embarrass the administration if it is persisted in. Mr. Roosevelt's enemies may properly rejoice over the mistake he has made, but his friends and the sympathizers with his reform policies can only lament an act which is certain to weaken public confidence."

THE SENATORIAL fight in Texas is growing spirited. Attorney General Davidson submitted to Senator Bailey certain questions touching the payment of money to the senator by H. C. Pierce of the Waters-Pierce Oil company. In reply Senator Bailey admitted having borrowed money of Mr. Pierce on several occasions, the total amounting to thousands of dollars. He claimed, however, the loans had all been repaid. He then asked the attorney general to furnish him with all the records that showed that he (Bailey) had received money from Pierce or the Waters-Pierce company. The attorney general declined, but said he would do so if Senator Bailey would say he had not received any money from Pierce. Senator Bailey said this was an impossible condition as he had publicly stated that he had served Mr. Pierce as an attorney in many transactions for which service he had been remunerated. Attorney General Davidson then submitted to the public a statement accompanied by the documentary proofs in his possession. One voucher is on the Waters-Pierce Oil company to H. Clay

Pierce, debtor, for demand loan of \$3,000 to Joseph W. Bailey and is endorsed "account Texas cases." Another voucher was for \$200, amount paid by Pierce to Senator Bailey, "account Texas cases." Among other documents is a note for \$8,000 signed by Senator Bailey and payable to H. C. Pierce, and a letter signed by Joseph W. Bailey to H. C. Pierce requesting the latter to send the former \$1,750. Accompanying this letter is one from Pierce to Secretary Gruet of the oil company instructing him to send draft for \$1,750 to Senator Bailey and charge against legal expenses account of Texas cases. Mr. Pierce says in an accompanying letter that he had already advanced the amount to Senator Bailey, who had returned it, and should therefore be reimbursed. It is conceded now that Mr. Bailey has a fight on his hands for re-election.

THERE IS A HUMAN interest story from Sheepshead Bay, sent to the Chicago Tribune from its New York correspondent: "Billy' Newton, aged nine, is in bed at his home out in Voorhees avenue, Sheepshead Bay, with his right hand, right arm, and right side all burned up. He's been that way since Thanksgiving day, and it looks as if he'd stay in bed, all swathed up, right through until Christmas. But there are two things that console Billy a whole lot. The first is he didn't snitch. One of the other boys set him on fire. He alone knew who it was, but just the same he didn't tell, even if the police did ask questions. But the best thing of it all is that tonight the guilty one just went to 'Billy's' mother and confessed, and the two pals spent the evening there together talking it all over, saying how glad they were Billy wasn't going to die. Sandy McMann is the boy who set Billy's costume afire and they had been chums for a long time. Sandy spent four miserable days. The whippers of the boys grew more and more sinister. 'Billy' was in a delirium. He was dying. He screamed all the time. And at this a new fear sprang up in Sandy's heart. What if 'Billy' should die, and he never saw him again until he was dead. This thought was too much. Tonight a little figure crept up the high stoop of the big Newton house. It rang the bell, then stood shivering with a sob. The doctor opened and there, of all people, stood 'Billy's' mother. Want to see Billy,' stammered the boy. 'Well, of all boys—Sandy McMann,' cried Mrs. Newton. 'What do you want to see Billy for?' 'I—I—I'm the boy—the boy that set him on fire and now he's dying.' And Mrs. Newton, before she knew it, found herself with the ragged little boy in her arms telling him 'Billy' wasn't dying after all and that she knew Sandy wasn't to blame. She said: 'The doctor says he mustn't be disturbed, but he's been asking for you so much that you may go right up.' And so this evening was the happiest evening Sandy and 'Billy' have spent for weeks."

EVERYBODY'S MAGAZINE is just now printing a serial story written by Jack London. The story is entitled "Before Adam." The New York World of November 23 alleges that the story, incidents, characters and practically all were taken from Stanley Waterloo's "Story of Ab." Waterloo's story was published nine years ago. Later J. P. Griffin of New York wrote to the World that in September last he had discovered the similarity between the stories and had written to the editor of Everybody's this letter: "As an interested reader of your magazine in general and of Jack London's contribution to the current issue in particular, I am led to take issue with a point you make in your editorial note prefacing 'Before Adam.' You write: 'No fictionist ever dreamed of daring * * * to plunge into the gray mist that shrouds the beginnings of our race.' And again: 'There has been no precedent for it.' I feel sure you do not know 'The Story of Ab,' by Stanley Waterloo. In that story Mr. Waterloo pictures a babe of prehistoric man which is rescued by his mother, not from wild boars, as in Mr. London's story, but from a hyena. This babe's mother deftly caught him between her legs, and with her arms swung him and herself to safety in the boughs above. She then proceeded to inform Ab's father of the affair in her limited vocabulary of odd grunts and whistles. That low-