Gleanings of Gotham

Interesting Bits of News from the Great Metropolis.

Dealt in Millions, Owes Grocery Bill

NEW YORK.—Against Ella Rawls Reader, greatest woman financier, diplomat and a Warwick of South American republics, who a few short months ago was dealing in millions and planning to finance the revolution-torn and bankrupt Santo Domingo, judgment has been filed for a grocery bill of $629.88. The ungallant grocer is James Butler, and he sued upon Mrs. Reader's note of hand, the judgment also including costs.

Mrs. Reader, who has an office at 45 Broadway, is said to have spurned matrimonial proposals from ex-Senator William A. Clark, Sir Thomas Lipton, Sir John Dewar, a German prince, an Indian ditto and several other promising admirers. She has been much in the public eye since she stormed the state department at Washington with letters of full authority to treat for international agreements between Santo Domingo and any other old nation on earth. She sued J. B. Haggin, capitalist, for $3,150,000 damages for alleged slander, and she accused the government at Washington of conspiring to defeat her plans for the re-establishment of the Dominican republic.

She is a well-known figure on 'change in this country and in London, and is young, handsome and well educated. Some years ago she was a soda fountain attendant in the west, and first came to New York as a stenographer.

When her account at the corner grocery became so large as to worry the dealer, the woman financier gave Butler her note for the amount, but neglected to pay it when due. She is still buying her groceries from the same store, but she's paying cash for them now.

Large Restaurants Tendency of Times

THE announcement that there is to be in New York a new restaurant seating 5,000 diners at once will not be a surprise to those who have noticed the present tendency in such matters. The small intimate restaurant of the first class is almost a thing of the past in this city.

If small restaurants do exist they are rarely of the same grade as the large ones. They are small because the proprietor has not yet been successful enough to go in on a large scale. As soon as he does make money and attracts a sufficient number of customers he is certain to make his place just as large as his resources warrant.

There is no such thing here as a restaurant kept small for its own sake. In the European cities there are restaurants which have existed prosperously for years and never increased their capacity for guests by a single square foot. It is more customary in Paris for a proprietor who finds success in one place to open another in some other part of the town.

There are, for instance, restaurants in the Champs Elysees which are conducted by proprietors with places elsewhere in the city. Thus it is possible to keep some intimacy of atmosphere in them. But the demands on the resources of these places are so small that they are not to be compared in any way with the New York restaurants. If any restaurants have the same problems to meet that face the New York managers they are those of the large hotels in London.

One reason why New York restaurants have become so large is the recent union of the hotel and the restaurant. Formerly hotel restaurants were comparatively little patronized by any save the hotel guests. The old Brunswick a quarter of a century ago tried to rival Delmonico's, which used to stand opposite, and made some sort of stab at it in the beginning, but later it was only the restaurant that survived.

I was with the opening of the Waldorf-Astoria that New Yorkers got into the habit of going to a hotel only to use the restaurant. The recent erection of so many new and handsome hotels with the effort always to attract outside customers has made dining in hotels quite as usual as eating in a restaurant. So the possibility of a quiet and unmusical meal seems more remote than ever.

Much Sympathy for Son of Senator Brice

ONE hears expressions of sorrow and sympathy on all hands for Stewart M. Brice, son of the late Senator Calvin M. Brice of Ohio, whose mind has become so affected that a court has appointed a guardian of his person and estate. The Brice home has been in New York since the senator's death, and when Stewart Brice came here fresh from his college athletic honors and pitched into practical politics with a fervor which exceeded anything even his father ever showed, a brilliant career was predicted for him.

He had wealth, high social position, moral courage and a capacity for making friends which has seldom been equaled. He soon became a member of nearly every club in town, and when, although a member of Tammany and a Democratic alderman, he delivered a terrific lecture to Richard Croker one night in the Democratic club, he could at that time, if he had pushed his advantage, have become so powerful that Croker to the contrary, Tammany hall could not have refused him the nomination for congress which his friends wanted him to take. But just then the Spanish war came and he sought instead service in the field.

President McKinley made him a captain and the stories of correspondents told of him when, airily dressed in a pair of khaki trousers and a sleeveless undershirt, he picked up a broken wagon spoke and attacked a mob of Spanish who were stealing the food intended for refugee women and children, reads like a description of one of Ouida's heroes. One of the correspondents wrote that Brice, who is a giant in strength, literally laid out a dozen of the thieving bullies and chased a score of them half a mile. His illness dates from his return from Central America, where he went to look after some valuable timber and mining concessions controlled by the Brice family. It is hoped that his mental malady may be overcome by seclusion, rest and quiet.

Famous Church Observes 60th Birthday

IMPRESSIVE services the other day marked the sixtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Church of the Transfiguration, popularly known as "The Little Church Around the Corner." Eminent Episcopal clergymen offered their congratulations. The sermon was preached by Very Rev. Dr. Wilfred L. Robbins, dean of the general theological seminary, with the faculty of which Rev. Dr. George H. Houghton, the founder, was long connected.

This is the house of worship which Bishop Greer described as "the homebody's church, the stranger's church, and everybody's church." It includes in its membership the wealthiest and the poorest, and all walks of life.

In the seventies Joseph Jefferson went to the pastor of a church at Madison avenue and Twenty-eighth street to see if he could make arrangements for the funeral of George Holland, a distinguished actor. The minister declined to read the service, but remarked that there was a little church "around the corner" that did that kind of thing.

"God bless the little church around the corner," said Mr. Jefferson.

That phrase gave the Transfiguration church its world-famous name. Theatrical people have regarded it ever since as their home. In the old days, Booth, the elder Wallack, Mr. Jefferson and other distinguished members of the theatrical profession attended services there.

French Tax on Bicycles.

Last year certain changes were made in the French bicycle tax which have reduced the amount of its contributions to the revenue, but none the less the tax brought in the not contemptible sum of 6,500,000 francs ($1,300,000). Formerly the bicycle was taxed every time it changed hands, but now the tax is not personal, but levied on the bicycle itself, and the official plate, which is the proof that the tax has been paid, is valid for the whole year. The tax on ordinary bicycles, etc., was reduced from six to three francs, while that on motor-bicycles and the like is maintained at 12 francs. It appears that there were in 1907 something over 2,000,000 ordinary bicycles in France.

KEEPER OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Photo by Waldon Fawcett.

William McNeir, chief of the bureau of Rolls and Library of the state department, who is the official custodian of the Declaration of Independence.

HIDE SURPLUS MONEY.

RUSSIAN COLONY IN KANSAS HAS NO USE FOR BANKS.

Buy and Sell for Ready Money Only—Honest, Industrious and Religious, They Are Celebrated as Debt Payers.

Hayes City, Kan.—"A large portion of the population of Ellis county is made up of Russians who have no working knowledge of our banking system or disposition to learn anything about it," said a Hayes City banker.

"They do their own banking. Their strong box consists of a tin can or an old boot and their safety deposit vault is a hole under the barn or in the cellar. When they sell something they demand the cash and hide it.

"It is a conservative estimate to say that more than half of the actual cash of this county is hidden," he continued. "Our deposits come chiefly from the Americans. Comparatively few of the Russians do any banking business. We have conducted a campaign among them for years, and some of the younger element are beginning to patronize us. But the old-timers are still holding off and probably will continue to do so for the rest of their lives."

Perhaps 70 per cent. of the people of Ellis county are Russians. More strictly speaking, they are German-Russians. Originally they went from Germany to Russia, and later came here. They are a sturdy, honest people, industrious, very religious and great money-savers. As debt payers they are celebrated. They never hide behind the statute of limitation. If a Russian buys a horse or a farm he is just as sure to pay for it as he lives. Mortgages are only used as a protection in case of death.

Ninety per cent. of the Russians own their own farms, and they work them to the very limit. Wheat is the principal crop of this section and the Russians are the great wheat raisers of the bread belt. No sooner do they reap one crop than they go to plowing for the next. It is a common thing right now to see one branch of a family running a header and another the plows in the same field.

Everybody works, including father. Even the women and children take to the fields during the busy season. The only rest a Russian gets is on Sunday and religious holidays. No contingency ever arises to prevent a Russian from remembering the Sabbath day and keeping it holy. The same is true of religious holidays, and the Russians have many of them during the busy summer months.

It was 32 years ago that the first Russian colony settled in Ellis county. Since then they have multiplied like guinea pigs.

NURSERY IS PART OF CHURCH.

Syracuse Pastor Provides Toys, Cribs and a Maid.

Syracuse, N. Y.—The only church nursery in the United States was opened here for babies the other Sunday when the Centenary Methodist Episcopal church, reconstructed during the summer, held its first service. There was a maid in charge, blocks, books of rhyme and a variety of toys provided. Rev. E. L. Waldorf, the pastor, said:

"Crying babies will raise voices without the usual effect at a service. The walls of the room will be sound proof. Lullabies will be sung and no one will be disturbed. Mothers may leave the children in a cosy crib or cuddled up on a couch with deep corners and occupying rocking chairs, just outside the double doors at the rear of the balcony. So long as the babies are quiet they may stay with their mothers."

When plans for the reconstruction of the church were being considered a suggestion for a nursery was made. Its adoption came unanimously. Mothers and fathers liked the andea and it figured in the architect's instructions. Parents with babies were fearful that their youngsters might annoy people, and they did not bring them to church and stayed home themselves, said Mr. Waldorf. He hopes by the new idea to have a larger congregation.

STATUE NEGLECTED 7 YEARS.

Kentucky Legislature Orders Repairs for Henry Clay Monument.

Lexington, Ky.—By a stroke of lightning seven years ago the Henry Clay monument in the Lexington cemetery was beheaded. A short time ago a committee was appointed by Gov. Willson to take charge of the work of repairing the damage. The $10,000 appropriated by the last legislature will be used for the purpose.

For all this time the once handsome statue has stood headless, and thousands of people have said with a sigh, "What a shame!"

The monument was erected by subscriptions from throughout the country, the eastern people giving the largest contributions, the total cost being $50,263.84. It was completed in January, 1869. The pedestal is 69 feet high, and the statue surmounting it is 12½ feet high, making the total height from the ground 132 feet.

It was on the night of July 23, 1901, when lightning cut the head clean from the shoulders and allowed it to fall to the ground, where it was buried some three feet in the earth. The weight of the statue itself was 13,000 pounds. The nose and one ear were broken off.

Numerous attempts were made to have the state legislature make an appropriation for the repair of the monument, but each time the bill was considered of little importance and side-tracked, there being some feeling that since the monument was built by public subscription it should be repaired in the same way.

Several attempts were made to raise funds in the latter way, but all failed for want of interest.

The committee appointed by Gov. Willson will go to work and replace the statue as it was originally.

PENSION INCREASE IS $18,664,821.

Loss of 15,684 Persons from Roll, but Amount Is Largest Ever.

Washington.—The report of the commissioner of pensions for the fiscal year ending June 30 last, shows that during the year there were 34,333 deaths among civil war veterans who were on the pension roll. This falling off was equal to about five per cent. of the total, and left 628,084 survivors on the roll. The number of deaths was 3,132 greater than during the previous year.

The total number of pensioners at the end of the year was 951,687. During the year 54,356 pensioners of all classes were dropped, and 38,682 added, making a net loss of 15,684. The statement also shows that 188,445 widows of soldiers already have taken advantage of the law of the last session of congress increasing to $12 a month the pensions to widows.

The actual expenditure for the year on account of pensions was $153,093,086, but on account of the law increasing the rate to individual pensioners the annual value of the roll at the close of the year was $159,495,701, an increase of $18,644,821 over the previous year. The expenditure was the largest in the history of the bureau.

BISON RANGE IS SELECTED.

Flathead Indian Land Comprises 12,500 Acres and Will Be Fenced.

Washington.—The bison range in the Flathead Indian reservation in Montana, to establish which congress at its last session appropriated $40,000, has been selected. The location of the range is the one recommended by Prof. Morton J. Elrod of the University of Montana.

It lies directly north of the Jocko river, near the towns of Ravalli and Jocko. Approximately 12,800 acres are in the tract.

Of the $40,000 appropriated only $10,000 will be available for fencing the range and constructing the sheds and other buildings necessary for the proper maintenance and care of the bison. The remaining $30,000 will be paid to the owners of the land, many of whom are Indians. Funds for the purchase of bison are being raised under the auspices of the American Bison society, which was largely instrumental in securing the appropriation.

The first person to spend actual money in the effort to preserve the American bison from total extinction was the late Austin Corbin, who, many years ago, fenced 6,000 acres at Blue Mountain Park, New Hampshire, and got a herd.

The Corbin herd became, in course of time, the inspiration of the national movement which is now furthered by the American Bison society. This society, of which President Roosevelt is honorary president and William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological park, is president, was founded in 1904, and the Montana bison range is directly the result of its efforts.

PLAN SCHOOL FOR MINERS.

Coal Company Will Start Instruction in Mining by Experts.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—The anthracite coal mining companies have embarked upon an educational scheme which, the officials think, will do more to lessen the number of accidents than any other which could be devised. Its purpose is to give to the rank and file of mine workers the opportunity to learn mining from experts. They will learn, at the same time, how to protect themselves and their fellows and how to overcome the difficult engineering problems encountered in the anthracite fields.

At Lost Creek the Lehigh Valley Coal Company opened the first school October 1. A room has been fitted up with desks, blackboard and other necessary paraphernalia. A reference library and periodicals devoted to mining subjects are also provided. Everybody in the mine, from veteran miner down to breaker boy, is invited to attend.

Three nights every week a teacher from one of the day schools in the vicinity will be on hand to help the "pupils" with their studies. Engineers and superintendents connected with the company, as well as outsiders, will attend the school from time to time and give assistance to the mine workers.

WINS GIRL IN BALLOON.

Then Marries Her Immediately on Reaching Terra Firma.

Dayton, O.—Away up in the clouds, while making a balloon ascension together at the Darke county fair, Dan Cupid accomplished an aerial romance, which, however, made the earth tremble when the girl's father heard of the coup. The principals were James G. Wright, aeronaut, of 123 Hunter avenue, and Hazel F. Townsend, the 17-year-old daughter of Joshua Townsend, a prosperous Darke county farmer.

The latter came to Dayton accompanied by his daughter to consult County Prosecutor Nevin respecting the legality of the wedding which followed. The young couple had known each other but a short time before they took the trip to the clouds together, and, while far above the wondering gaze of thousands of people, Wright popped the question and the girl accepted, simply for the novelty of the thing.

When the parents learned that the marriage was valid they gracefully accepted the situation, but put a ban on any more aerial trips. They have little hope that Hazel will take heed, however, as she made a balloon voyage in Eaton recently and is preparing to take many more.

WEDDING CAKE LOST IN MAILS.

Hundreds of Pounds of Pastry Go Astray in England.

London.—Hundredweights of wedding cake have been lost in the post during the wedding season this year, and many complaints have been received at the post office in consequence. A correspondent in a letter to a morning newspaper stated that he recently dispatched 60 boxes of wedding cake, properly directed and packed, and that many failed to reach their destination.

He suggests that senders of wedding cake "should dose it with tartar emetic" and so discover the culprit.

"Cake in a majority of cases," said a post office official, "is packed hurriedly after the wedding breakfast, and in hundreds of instances wrongly addressed. Some of the cheap boxes sold are too fragile to hold their contents through the post. We have few cases of dishonesty in the service on this score. A piece of wedding cake is too small a temptation. Derelict wedding cake samples reach hundredweights in a season. There is a stock of it on hand now."

Imaginary Holidays.

I know a man who cannot afford to travel, and yet has a delightful way of deceiving himself. He learns about the cost of traveling, the proper clothing to be worn, gets a time table, and arranges excursions for himself to various places, and then reads about them in books of travel. To the man with imagination it is a captivating occupation.—Hearth and Home.

Advice from a Wise Man.

After getting the best of a man in one deal steer clear of him, for he will begin to sit up and take notice.—Exchange.

It's a pity some people can't marry for brains instead of money.

A woman says that all men may be equal, but none are superior.

The wise man who has a good opinion of himself keeps it to himself.

The love of money is the easiest of all roots to cultivate.