

FORGIVE WRECKER OF MANY FORTUNES

Friends Give Him an Ovation on His Return.

Tunica, Miss.—After an absence of 11 years, during which time he played the role of chauffeur, clerk and merchant in various cities in the United States and Canada, Leo Lesser, former planter, cotton factor, banker, manufacturer and philanthropist, returned home, was forgiven by his legion of friends and the courts and announced his determination to repay his many and varied creditors, dollar for dollar, the almost countless sums, large and small, they lost when he went away and left a score of wrecked business firms and a trail of worthless paper.

Hundreds of Tunica county citizens, apprised in advance of Lesser's homecoming, met him at the train and with one voice bade him welcome. Whatever odium followed in the wake of his departure in 1913 was forgotten in the rejoicing over his return.

Although he was charged in eight indictments with embezzlement, forgery and fraudulent breach of trust, dozens of men and women recall that Leo Lesser had befriended them in the days when his meteoric career was cast across the sky of the financial and business world. Hundreds of notes bearing the signatures of his friends and indorsed and paid by him were found by the receivers who tried vainly to salvage the business enterprises he was accused of wrecking.

Lesser went before Judge W. A. Alcorn to face a charge of embezzlement in connection with the failure of the Bank of Tunica, of which he was the president. A petition signed by 600 citizens of Tunica county, and asking that the charge be dismissed, was presented to the court. The embezzlement charge was not pressed, and Lesser left immediately for Senatobia, Miss., in an effort to effect a reconciliation with his wife, who has been teaching school since her husband's disappearance.

Balboa Set Precedent for Illiterate Alien

New York.—Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the discoverer of the Pacific ocean, seems to have laid the foundation 400 years ago for the admission of an illiterate immigrant woman into the United States.

Manuel Gomez, in a little town in Pennsylvania, decided to marry the girl of his choice back in Portugal. For lovers, separated by thousands of miles, the law of Portugal provides that a relative of the bridegroom may stand beside the bride while a priest, or civil official, conducts the ceremony. The marriage was solemnized in a little Portuguese village and Mrs. Gomez set proudly forth to meet her husband.

Immigrant officials at Providence denied admission to her on the ground that she was illiterate. They pointed out the marriage by proxy was invalid under the law of the United States.

Judge J. A. Lowell in the Massachusetts District court said in part in ordering admission: "Gomez was following an illustrious precedent set in 1516 by Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the discoverer of the Pacific ocean, who was wedded by proxy while in Darien to the daughter (who was in Spain) of the royal governor, Pedrarias."

The judge then established in his opinion that the marriage is governed by the law of the country in which it takes place and directs: "Let the writ of habeas corpus issue."

Discover New Method of Making Crystals

Tokyo.—A startling invention by a Japanese is given prominence in local newspapers. Two professors of the Tokyo Imperial university have perfected a method of manufacturing perfect artificial crystals.

FRENCHMAN SWIMS RIVER UNDER EARTH

Takes Life in Hands to Explore Stream.

Paris.—Some interesting and thrilling stories are told in connection with the feats of some of the unsuccessful candidates for the grand prix of the Academy des Sports, but they are overshadowed by the publicity given to the feat of the winner. The prize for 1923, recently awarded to Alain Gerbault, a noted tennis player, went to him only after a spirited debate of the jury, some of whose members favored Norbert Casteret, a student at the University of Toulouse.

The prize is awarded annually to the man or men accomplishing a sporting exploit in France, by a Frenchman or foreigner, or abroad by a Frenchman alone, likely to result in a material, scientific or moral progress for humanity. Gerbault won the prize by making a trip across the Atlantic in a 90-foot sloop.

In the region of St. Martory, department of the Haute Garonne, a brook enters the north side of a mountain 1,500 feet in altitude and emerges on the southern slope. On August 23, 1923, Casteret, a strong swimmer and expert diver, decided to explore the brook. Before taking the leap into the unknown, Casteret made his will. Then, armed only with candles, adequately protected from the water, to dispel the darkness of the subterranean cavern, the young student dived in.

The distance between the spot where the water disappears into the mountain to its outlet on the other side measures three-quarters of a mile. For three hours, friends awaited in anxiety at the mouth of the grotto.

Suddenly, dripping with muddy water, disheveled and haggard, but with the grim smile of victory on his features, the student was shot out of the mountain into the arms of his friends. He told a remarkable story. Fighting against the current, swimming to the vaulting light of the candle, Casteret, in many places of the grotto where the water met with the roof of stone, had to halt.

Ignorant as to whether the brook, which in these spots assumed exactly the appearance of a huge pipe completely filled with rushing water, would again after a few feet widen and the swimmer find open air above his head, he had to decide whether to turn back or to chance the long swim under water. He chose the latter.

His courage was rewarded, for, after a swim under water, which he reckoned at about seventy feet he emerged into a dry gallery about 600 feet long and quite high above his head.

In the grotto Casteret declared he discovered a wonderful prehistoric museum. Upon the walls of the cavern, engraved as if with sharp instruments, or painted, were mysterious characters, in a language Casteret had never before seen or heard of. Statues of clay, some of them well preserved, depicted animals which have long since disappeared from the surface of Europe.

British Statesman Is an Efficient Fireman

LINCOLN NEWS AND COMMENT

Sacrament Services were observed at Quinn Chapel Sunday morning. A large number of worshippers participated in the solemn services. The Troubadours had charge of the evening services and were well received. The program was fine. Several commendable features of the program was a paper by C. T. Denton—"Power of Man." Address by T. T. McWilliams "Relation of Father and Son," and a reading by Chas. Haynes, "Hiawatha."

Palm Sunday will be observed next Sunday, April 13 by a series of tableaux, Easter-tide depicting the events preceding the Easter services on the following Sunday. The program will be under the supervision of Mme. Malone.

The jolliest birthday surprise was given by Miss Dorothy Loving in honor of her mother, Mrs. Mayme Loving, Wednesday night. A large number of friends were present. Among them 10 of the L. L. K. of whom Mrs. Loving is a member. The birthday tokens were many and beautiful.

The new \$4,000 parsonage of the Quinn Chapel is furnished and Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Knight took charge Monday, April 7. The house is beautiful inside and out and we are proud of our latest achievement.

Memorial services for Sisters Wade, Alexander and Bro. Joseph Carr were held at Masonic Hall Sunday at 3:00 by Amaranth and Princess Hatipha Chapters. Eulogies by G. M. R. H. Young and Sister Fannie Young were eloquent and impressive. The memorial services were conducted by Pastor Cecil Denton, and Grand Deputy Elizabeth Wood.

Minnehaha Camp Fire Girls hiked to Antelope Park and cooked breakfast Wednesday morning at 7:00. The girls are working hard practicing for "The Enchanted Garden" to be given round about the first of May. Guess who will be Queen. And the Spanish girl will look her best in the costume from Spain.

The Troubadours scored quite a hit when they appeared in concert at Mt. Zion Baptist Church last Tuesday night. The boys looked neat and sang in harmony, and with exactness, which shows they adhere to practice.

Ella N. Botts is reported doing well since her operation in removing her tonsils a few days ago.

The services at Mt. Zion Baptist church last Sunday were interesting to the members, as Praise and Covenant meeting were participated in by a number at morning hour. The pastor preached at night, and communion services were held and many participated. The Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. had most interesting lessons. The Saturday nights serving club is doing nicely with their meals.

Rev. Geo. W. Carter of the Newman M. E. Church held three services Sunday; Rev. I. B. Smith preached at the morning hour. Rev. W. H. Botts of Mt. Zion Baptist Church preached at 3:30 p. m. and Rev. Carter preached his closing sermon at night, and will leave Tuesday April 8, for Annual Conference at Denver, Colo.

WILBERFORCE ELEVEN TO MEET WHITE COLLEGE

(Preston News Service.) Wilberforce, O., April 11.—For the first time in several years of football history, a colored college eleven will meet a white college eleven in Ohio. According to a report of the schedule committee arrangements have been made for a game on October 4, 1924, when Wilberforce University's powerful aggregation opens the season against a white team, Carroll College, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Several years ago when J. Sherman Hunnicutt, now principal of McKinley School, Topeka, Kansas, was manager of the foot ball team at Wilberforce, the local eleven played annually with Antioch College (white) at Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Cedarville College (white), Cedarville, Ohio, and Tippicanoe City team. He also managed the baseball team and played with Otterbein, Springfield, Ohio, Tippicanoe City, Cedarville, Antioch, Capital City College and Ohio Medical College of Columbus, Ohio. These same teams also were on the Wilberforce University schedule during the ten years prior to Hunnicutt's regime, when Richard C. Holland, now of Washington, D. C., was manager of the baseball and football teams. At least for fifteen years Wilberforce played white teams throughout Ohio. It is, therefore, nothing new, but really the old school is getting back to be recognized by her former white friends throughout the great state of Ohio.

DENOUNCE KU KLUX KLAN

(Preston News Service.) Harrison, Ark., April 11.—Several hundred people attended an anti-klan meeting in Bellefonte, last Thursday night and heard Jeff F. Fowler, of St. Joe, a lawyer, denounce the Ku Klux Klan in the most scathing manner the klan has ever received in the State.

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Help Wanted

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WANTED—Colored men to qualify for sleeping car and train porters. Experience unnecessary, transportation furnished. Write T. McOatfey, Supt., St. Louis, Mo.
Wanted—Wide awake boys to sell The Monitor every Saturday.

Miscellaneous

DRESSMAKING—Mrs. A. E. Smith, experienced dressmaker. Work guaranteed. 2426 Blondo. WE 5552. 4-4-24
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JOSH LIPSEY KILLS WIFE AND COMMITS SUICIDE

(Preston News Service) St. Louis, Mo., April 11.—Josh Lipsey, aged 22 years, 1311 North 8th street, at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon fatally shot his wife, Mrs. Mary Lipsey, aged 19, and then committed suicide by shooting himself in the head, following a quarrel at their home.

Mrs. Lipsey died at the hospital about a half hour after the shooting, without regaining consciousness. Lipsey had fired a shot into her head. Both bodies were taken to the morgue. It is said that Lipsey was extremely jealous of his wife on account of her beauty. Both are well known in St. Louis and vicinity.

There are 30,233 colored porters on steam railroads.