

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

by E. J. Edwards

Light on a Famous Forgery

Story Shows Stephen French Was Innocent in Bogus Proxy Incident Which Had Much to Do With Cleveland's Election.

It was in 1882 that the name of a rover Cleveland first became a household one throughout the country. In that year he was elected governor of New York over Charles J. Folger by a plurality of nearly two hundred thousand. Two years later he was president-elect, his second phenomenal elective victory resulting directly from his first, which was due in no small measure to the famous forged telegram of 1882.

That telegram cropped up when the Republican state convention was gathering to select its gubernatorial candidate. A desperate struggle was under way to secure control of the convention through its organization by the state committee. The friends of President Arthur were backing his secretary of the treasury, Mr. Folger, for the nomination. At the height of the battle Stephen V. French, a personal friend of the president, appeared before the state committee holding a telegraphic proxy which entitled him to serve in place of William H. Robertson, collector of the port of New York. This proxy determined the control of the convention and assured the nomination of Folger.

But Folger had not been nominated many hours before Collector Robertson was out with a statement denouncing as a forgery the proxy presented by Mr. French. Instantly the telegram became a powerful issue in the campaign, helping materially to defeat Folger. And as for French, though he denied forging it, he became known far and wide derisively as "Proxy" French, he became an outcast, almost, and at last died practically unknown.

Now, nearly twenty-eight years after the forged telegram, which helped to shake great events, was sprung, I am able to offer some hitherto unpublished evidence in support of Mr. French's declaration that he did not forge the telegram, that he was made to suffer innocently. My authority in this matter is Gen. Howard S. Carroll, who was Republican candidate for congressman-at-large in 1882, and is today the head of one of the big shipping interests of New York harbor.

"Mr. French and I had connecting rooms in the hotel at which we were stopping for the convention," said Gen. Carroll. "We were warm personal

friends, and we sat up quite late the evening before the convention met, chatting with politicians, and I think it was about 2 o'clock in the morning when we went to bed. The situation was then all in the air. Nobody could tell how the convention would be organized.

"At ten o'clock the next morning, there came a series of very loud knocks upon Mr. French's door. They awakened me, for the door between our rooms was wide open; and as I looked at my watch to find out the time I heard Mr. French growling sleepily because he had been disturbed. But the hall boy shouted over the transom: 'It's a telegram for you, Mr. French.' So he arose, opened the door and took the telegram.

"I heard him tear open the envelope, and, an instant later, heard him utter a very excited exclamation of surprise, which sounded suspiciously like: 'Well, I'll be damned!' Then he came hurrying into my room. 'Here, Howard,' he said excitedly. 'I wish you would look at this!'

He handed me the telegram and I read that he had been authorized by Collector Robertson to act as his

proxy in the state committee meeting. The telegram was signed 'William H. Robertson.'

"As we stood there discussing the telegram, the only thing that occurred to us was that Judge Robertson was getting ready to resume friendly relations with the Arthur administration, and that this was his way of showing it. We never doubted the good faith of the telegram, which French showed after breakfast to various Republican leaders, and afterwards presented to the state committee as his authority to act for Mr. Robertson. There wasn't a person who saw it who doubted its authenticity.

"When the word did come that the telegram had been forged poor French was thunderstruck. 'It will ruin me politically,' no one will believe that I did not put up the job myself,' he said to me, adding, prophetically, 'It will make a martyr of me.' It did—poor French, with his broken heart, dying a few years later unburied and ununsung.

"Personally, I consider that my proof of his innocence of the forgery is complete; I know that Stephen V. French never sent himself that forged telegram. But who did send it will probably remain forever an unsolved mystery of American politics." (Copyright, 1910, by E. J. Edwards.)

"Saved" Mark Twain's Life

Famous Humorist, Having Lost His Taste for Good Tobacco, Sought and Found the Worst Cigars in All His Life in New York.

One morning in the late eighties I met Mark Twain in the office of a mutual friend.

"I am come to see you on an errand of mercy," he said, as he shook hands. "You can save my life. You must have observed my distraction, because I have appeared upon the streets these mornings wearing my somewhat rusty silk hat and a sack coat. I have been told that this is a highly improper thing to do in New York, and, while I am a temporary sojourner here, I am anxious to observe the proprieties."

I saw that behind this jesting Mark Twain had a real purpose in mind, and in a moment or two he revealed it.

"My friends for some years now have remarked that I am an inveterate consumer of tobacco," he said. "That is true, but my habits with regard to tobacco have changed. I have no doubt that you will say, when I have

explained to you what my present purpose is, that my taste has deteriorated, but I do not so regard it.

"Let me tell you briefly the history of my personal relation to tobacco. It began, I think, when I was a lad, and took the form of a pipe, which I became an expert in tucking under my tongue. Afterwards I learned the delights of the pipe, and I suppose there was no other youngster of my age who could more deftly cut plug tobacco so as to make it available for pipe-smoking.

"Well, time runs on, and there came a time when I was able to gratify one of my youthful ambitions—I could buy the choicest Havana cigars without seriously interfering with my income. I smoked a good many, changing off from the Havana cigars to the pipe in the course of the day's smoking.

"At last it occurred to me that something was lacking in the Havana cigar. It did not quite fulfill my youthful anticipations. I experimented, I bought what was called a seed leaf cigar with a Connecticut wrapper. After awhile I became satiated of these and I searched for something else. The Pittsburgh stogie was recommended to me. It certainly had the merit of cheapness, if that be a merit in tobacco, and I experimented with the stogie. Then, once more I changed off, so that I might acquire the subtler flavor of the Wheeling toby. Now that has passed, and I have been looking around New York in the hope of finding cigars which would seem to most people vile, but which, I am sure, would be ambrosial to me. I can't find any. They have put into my hands some of those little things that cost ten cents a box, but they are a delusion. I would sooner smoke sweet fern cigarettes.

"So I want to know if you can direct me to an honest tobacco merchant who will tell me what is the worst cigar in the New York market, excepting those made for Chinese consumption—I want real tobacco—and if you will do this, I find the man is as good as my word, I will guarantee him a regular market for a fair amount of his cigars."

I saw Mark Twain was really in earnest, and, after making some inquiry took him to a tobacco dealer who I knew would tell the truth; who, if a cigar was bad, would boldly say so. I introduced the humorist to this man, explaining our errand, and he produced what he called the very worst cigars he had ever had in his shop. He let Mark Twain experiment with one, then and there. The test was satisfactory.

"This is, after all, the real thing," exclaimed Mark, with delight. "I will now negotiate for a box of them so that I may be sure of having them handy when I want them." A few minutes later, with a hundred of those awful affairs tucked fondly under his arm, with one of them scenting up the whole neighborhood from its position between his lips, and with the parting assertion that he had discovered that the "worst cigars, so-called, are the best for me, after all," Mark Twain went happily to his home. And afterwards learned that for some months he was a steady purchaser of those cigars.

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First White Women in China

Greeted With Astonishment and Curiosity, They Were Finally Ordered Back to Their Ship as Most Undesirable "Foreign Devils."

Seta Low, who is known in national education circles as a former president of Columbia university, in national philanthropic circles as a maker of numerous magnificent gifts, and in politics as a former mayor of New York city, and also of Brooklyn when the latter was an independent city, was one of a company of gentlemen who had met to discuss the twentieth century industrial and commercial awakening of China. Mr. Low's father, the late A. A. Low, gained his great fortune and established a worldwide reputation as a merchant, through the great commerce established by his house with China. He was owner of some of the clipper ships which made America famous on the seas sixty odd years ago.

Of the men who met with Mr. Low there were several who had recently been in China, and they told from personal knowledge of the great changes taking place in the empire, and particularly of the new and friendly attitude towards foreigners on the part of the ruling classes.

"The change towards foreigners has, indeed, been most marked," said Mr. Low. "The anecdote of the first woman of American birth and training—and, also, I think, the first white woman of any nation—to put foot upon Chinese soil proves that. One of these ladies was an aunt of mine, a sister of my father, and the other was a near relative of hers, and younger. Their adventure in China, I believe, is not generally known."

"These ladies took passage for China upon one of my father's clippers. On reaching port they went ashore, and were at once the objects of the most astonishment and curiosity.

Almost as speedily, too, there came mutterings against the two women, not so much from the merchants as from the ruling classes, who insisted to the ship's officers that the 'foreign devils,' as the authorities described the amiable ladies, should be instantly deported.

"At once assurances were given the authorities that the two ladies had no intention of interfering in any way with Chinese customs; that they had simply come to China on a ship of their relatives as travelers anxious to see strange lands.

"The explanation did not make the slightest difference; in fact, the ruling classes insisted more strongly than before that the ladies should be deported. At last, the authorities pronounced sentence, so to speak. They sent word to all the native merchants that unless the two American women were at once placed on board ship and kept there, and from off Chinese soil, until the vessel sailed, an edict would be issued which would permanently prohibit any further commercial relations of any sort with the firm of A. A. Low & Co.

"The merchants knew that the ruling classes meant what they said; the officers of the vessel likewise knew that the authorities were in dead earnest, and with neither officers nor merchants anxious to have the threatened edict issued, the ladies were at once escorted back to their quarters aboard ship and kept there until after the vessel had cleared the harbor and all danger was past of disturbing large commercial relations that were profitable alike to China and America.

"That, gentlemen, was the China of 1840 and thereabouts." (Copyright, 1910, by E. J. Edwards.)

Merchant Has Proper Idea

Doesn't Like the Way Big City Stores Are Run and Tells Why.

The summer visitor in a small seaport town was amazed and amused at the assortment of merchandise displayed in the little store at the head of the wharf.

The showcase was devoted to an assortment of candy at one end and a lot of cigars and tobacco at the other end, and no barrier between. Next to the showcase stood a motor engine valued at several hundred dollars.

Thinking to please the proprietor, says the Youth's Companion, the visitor remarked that even the large department stores in Boston could not boast of such a collection.

"Well," he said, "I don't sling them stores, I can tell you. I aim to keep what my folks want. When a man wants an engine he'll buy it, and if he can't wait for it he'll buy it in Portland or

Boston for it. He wants it when he sees, then and there." After a little pause he continued: "I don't like the way they do business in them big stores, anyway. Why, when you go into a store up to Boston the first thing you know somebody asks you what you want."

"Now, I never do anything like that. If a thing comes into my place I pass the time of day and ask him to set, and after he's set and talked a while, if he wants anything he'll tell me. I never pester a man to buy. Maybe he ain't come to buy; maybe he's come to talk."

That "Hobble" Skirt. As woman once upon a time indulged herself in the apparently ultimate foolishness of the hoop skirt, so today she seems determined to indulge herself in the surely extreme silliness of the "hobble" skirt. Inevitably the "hobble" skirt must be freakish fashion's concluding word. It is the limit

of ugliness, coupled with exclusive attributes of awkwardness. To say that a woman possibly may contrive to be comfortable in a "hobble" skirt is to say that which so palpably false that it could not deceive the most credulous of mortals. To say that a woman possibly may suspect that she wears a "hobble" skirt to the enhancement of her personal appearance is to slur her intelligence in a manner that could not be considered either gentlemanly or gallant. She knows that she is outrageously garbed when she comes forth bedecked with "hobble" skirt attachments. Those women who wear them merely wear them because they feel that a fashion, no matter how ridiculous, must be followed, regardless.—Washington Star.

Hand Run Lace. Net laces run by hand are in good style, and they may be copied even without a definite lace pattern by using some simply designed lace and darning in the cotton, linen or silk dress upon the net, as nearly like the original as possible.

Also there is a way to make your own lace patterns. Any old piece of lace spread out upon a sheet of manilla paper may be successfully traced by the aid of pencil or tracing wheel, or by laying between the two a sheet of carbon paper and then carefully darning the carbon tracing with a hard pencil.

Over this paper pattern the net or wide footing is basted and the design worked out in whatever dross is chosen. "Silver threads among the gold"—both of these metallic strands upon black or white produce excellent results.

Hook-and-Eye Hints. When sewing the hooks and eyes on the back of a skirt, sew one pair at the very bottom, fasten them and

For the Hostess

Chat on Interesting Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

A New Game of Characters.

The hostess told us that the answers to the questions on our papers were all well-known personages in history, politics, literature and art; ancient and modern. The initial letters begin words that give a clue to identity. A certain time is allotted for discovering and putting down the full names. A prize is awarded for the best list. Have the slips typewritten with spaces left below each question.

America's Liberator (Abraham Lincoln). His Union's Guardian (Hiram Ulysses Grant). Governed Wisely (George Washington). Won Santiago's Siege (Winfield Scott Schley). Was Martyred (William McKinley). Governed Cautiously (Grover Cleveland). The Roughshod (Theodore Roosevelt). Overcame Bonaparte (Otto Blumark). Was Ever Great (William Kwart Gladstone). Eccentric and Poetic (Edgar Allan Poe). Oh What Humor (Oliver Wendell Holmes). Renowned With Essays (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

Merry Tramp (Mark Twain). Jolly Keen Joker (Jerome K. Jerome). A Cunning Detective (A. Conan Doyle). Wizard Story-teller (Walter Scott). Suffrage Before All (Susan B. Anthony). For Every Woman (Frances E. Willard). The Astonishing Electrician (Thomas A. Edison).

Amiable Croesus (Andrew Carnegie). Improbable Pianist (Ignace Paderewski). Mighty Artist (Michael Angelo). Wonderful Sapiens (Wm. Shakespeare). Admired Post (Alex. Pope). Rustic Bard (Robert Burns). Terrible Complainer (Thomas Carlyle). Clever Delineator (Charles Dickens). Famous Dairymaid (Fredk Douglas). Original, Witty, Humorous (O. W. Holmes). Rabid Iconoclast (Robert Ingersoll). Volunuous Humanist (Victor Hugo). Racy, Humorous, Delightful (Richard Harding Davis). Rational Wise Essays (R. W. Emerson). Readable Lasting Stories (R. L. Stevenson).

Weird Concocter (Wilkie Collins). Creation Revealing Development (C. R. Darwin). Cruelling Traveler (Rayard Taylor). Jubilant War Hymn (Julia Ward Howe). Arthurian Troubadour (Alfred Tennyson). Rejoices Kids (Rudyard Kipling). His Words Live (H. W. Longfellow). Wittily Delineating Humanity (W. D. Howells).

Few More Copious (F. M. Crawford). Little Maids' Author (E. M. Alcott). English Critic Scholar (G. C. Steadman). England's Bright Bard (E. B. Browning). Brilliantly Notorious (Nyxos). Preached Beautifully (Phillips Brooks).

An Experience Party. The invitations for this novel affair were given over the telephone, with out which how did we ever live, move and have our being? The hostess asked each of her twelve guests to come prepared to tell in five minutes some incident of their summer. Most of them had been on various vacation trips. In this way an hour's entertainment was delightfully furnished. Then there was a reading that lasted 20 minutes given by a friend who was good enough to share some of her unpublished stories. The place cards laid on the tables spread on the porch were all foreign scenes collected by the hostess. Delicious sandwich rolls were served, food coffee, olives, salted nuts and bonbons.

A Magazine Game. Some time ago the request came for a repetition of a certain magazine guessing contest. This one was sent by a Chicago reader and I hope will be what is needed.

1. One hundred years (Century). 2. Santa Claus (St. Nicholas). 3. An ancient minstrel (Harper). 4. A public place in Rome (Forum). 5. An early New England settler (the Puritan). 6. Veracity (Truth). 7. One who sits high (The Delineator). 8. A noted fairy (Puck). 9. A large body of water (Atlantic). 10. The sailor's hoodoo (The Black Cat). 11. A dispenser of justice (Judge). 12. A prospect (The Outlook). 13. What we all cling to (Life). 14. A planet (The World). 15. A citizen of the world (Cosmopolitan). 16. A show ground (Arena). 17. A boy's jackknife (Youth's Companion). 18. Part of a rope (The Strand). 19. A child at night (Wide Awake). 20. Hash (Review of Reviews). MADAME MERRI.

Leather and Plush. A pretty cardcase seen recently was of brown oiled leather, with a design cut out so as to show the burnt orange plush lining. This would be equally pretty with velvet instead of plush, and is a welcome relief from the everlasting silver.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION

STEAM TURBINES ARE SIMPLE

Well-Known Objections to Their Employment for Direct Driving of Low Propellers.

Steam turbines are simple and can make effective use of heat energy in steam down to very low pressure. Moreover, they have a very fair efficiency over the whole range of pressure—say from 200 pounds per square inch, absolute, to one pound per square inch, absolute, says Cassier's Magazine.

There are, however, well-known objections to the employment of steam turbines acting alone for the direct driving of the propellers of low-speed vessels, especially vessels of small or moderate size where the power required is not great. For cargo boats, where the power of the engines is not more than 2,000 indicated horsepower and the speed less than 11 knots, the direct-drive turbine is particularly unsuitable.

The unsuitability of the turbine lies in the fact that its desirable speed of rotation is far removed from the desirable speed of rotation of the propeller. To overcome this difficulty three schemes have been proposed and to a certain extent tried, whereby the propeller can rotate at a lower speed than the turbine. These schemes respectively involve:

1. Mechanical gearing.
 2. Electric transmission of power.
 3. Hydraulic transmission of power.
- The mechanical gearing scheme, which at present looks the most promising of the three for cargo boat use, will be first considered.

CLIP FOR THE LEMON SLICE

Neat and Effective Table Fixture of New Design—Prevents Soiling Finger Tips.

Lemon has almost entirely taken the place of vinegar as a condiment, and the little slices appear on the table almost universally for use on the oysters, fish and salad. For convenience in handling the slices and obtaining the juice without the necessity of soiling the fingers the clip shown

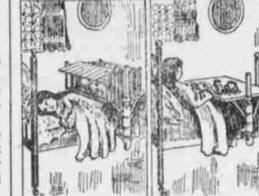


herewith has been devised as one of the adjuncts of a carefully laid table. The lemon slice is secured between its spreading ends and is retained there by a point on each side. A slight pressure acts on the slice of lemon and releases the juice.

CRIB AND TABLE COMBINED

Useful and Simple Device for Sick Child—Attachment Is Adjustable—No Tool Needed.

The table and crib attachment shown in these illustrations was recently patented by a Lakewood, Fla., inventor, who believes his device will fill a much required need, says Popular Mechanics. The drawings showing both the crib and table explain themselves. The attachment is ad-



justable and can be raised to any height. No tool of any kind is needed to fasten it into position and it can be slid back and forth as desired.

Salt River Flows Inland.

A current of water will flow back and forth in a tide-water river, but on the island of Cephalonia near Greece, is the curious phenomenon of a river steadily flowing inward from the sea and disappearing. All rivers naturally flow towards the lower levels to the sea and this curious instance on the island in the Mediterranean is not duplicated anywhere else in the world, so far as is known.

The sea, which is almost tideless, enters the land at four points where the coast is practically on a level with the surface of the sea. These four streams unite to form the little river that flows inland until it finally disappears in the limestone rocks and sinks into the earth. The volume of the river is too great to be removed by evaporation, and the question is where does it go?

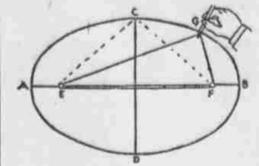
Try It.

Scientists of Europe have lately been conducting experiments in the art of breathing and as a result have discovered some interesting conclusions. The theory is advanced that by abnormal control of the breathing powers, the breath being held for an unusually long time, a person may "ascend into the astral realm" and commune with things higher up.

DRAWING ELLIPSE OR OVAL

Very Simple Method Is Shown in Illustration—Piece of String and Two Pegs Needed.

To draw an ellipse or oval with a string and two pegs is very easy, and the rule for finding the length of the strings and the distance the pegs should be apart is also simple. Draw two straight lines, a b and c d, equal to the two axes and bisecting each other at right angles. Set off from c half the length of the great axis at e and f, which are the two fociuses of the ellipse. Take an endless string as



long as the three sides of the triangle, c e f, fix two pins or nails in the fociuses, one at e and one at f, lay the string around a and f, stretch it with a pencil g, which then will describe the desired ellipse.

TELESCOPE IS USED IN LUNG

New Invention With Searchlight Employed to Locate Pin in Bronchial Tubes of Patient.

By the use of a newly invented miniature searchlight-telescope passed down the windpipe and into the bronchial tubes of a patient who had swallowed a sharp pin, one of the surgeons of King's hospital of London, Eng., was recently able to see the pin, to remove it with forceps and to save the life of the patient, who was apparently beyond human aid.

The instrument, called a bronchoscope, resembles a small telescope fitted with lenses at different angles, and has a tiny electric light which can be passed deep into the lung. The day after the pin was swallowed an X-ray examination showed its position beneath the sixth rib, about an inch to the right of the breastbone. The patient was chloroformed and then a 20 per cent solution of cocaine was sprayed over the larynx and windpipe. The telescope tube was then passed through the mouth and larynx down the windpipe. Peering down, fixed head downward, in one of the branches of the windpipe at a distance of 13 inches from the mouth.

A pair of very fine forceps on the end of a long, flexible wire passed down the hollow telescope tube was then made to grasp the pin, and the pin, forceps and telescope were then withdrawn together. Within a few hours the patient was able to return to her home none the worse for an accident which before the invention of the lung telescope would almost inevitably have proved fatal.

Old-age insurance is compulsory in Germany. Germany and Austria together have 150 cooking schools. A 400-pound halibut was recently displayed in London. Among the 4,002 public schools for girls in Prussia there are 854 in which no instruction in gymnastics is given. In order to give the London policeman a day of rest each week it has been necessary to add 1,500 men to the force. Fujiyama, the volcano that appears in all Japanese pictures, is 12,365 feet high and 10,000 pilgrims ascend it every year. Jeweled sunbursts in which one set of rays is made to revolve over another by clockwork have been invented by an Englishwoman. A wire contrivance, patented by an Illinois man, to lift a pie from an oven, is designed to operate in such a way that the edge of the crust will not be broken.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

A Scotch inventor has perfected a sledlike machine which, when drawn over a road, accurately records on a paper covered cylinder all irregularities in the road's surface. According to a French authority the custom of trailing ivy on the sides of buildings is injurious to either new or old brick walls, and is a positive benefit to old walls.

In a new German invention of value to balloonists illuminating gas is forced through tubes maintained at a high pressure. This separates out most of the carbons and about doubles the buoyancy of the gas.

The Society of Illuminating Engineers in England has lately discussed the question of the best means of avoiding glare from artificial lights. It is beginning to be recognized that the recent introduction of intensely dazzling points of light raises problems in the solution of which the oculist must take a hand. Two Berlin professors urged in a communication to the society the "advantages of imitating daylight." The quality of daylight is its diffusion, whereby the eye is saved from injury. It has been estimated that the diffused daylight from a clear sky is about 60 per cent. of the direct sunlight. It is pointed out that the injurious eye effects of artificial lights are not confined to the light centers, but arise also from the glare reflected from the surface of shining paper and other bright objects.

Balloon Gas Bags. Gas bags of modern balloons are made of a cotton fabric, coated with India rubber in the most careful manner, in order to assure perfect impermeability without sacrificing lightness. For all large balloons, and especially for dirigibles, two layers of cloth are superposed and cemented together. The outer skin is covered with India rubber on one side only, but the inner skin is coated on both sides. As India rubber, even when vulcanized, is altered by exposure to light, the canvas is colored yellow in order to arrest the violet and ultra-violet rays, which are the most active.