

Now comes a New York woman who is sure to be charged with "woman's inhumanity for woman," professing to be shocked at the multiplicity of divorces and proposing a remedy in the total abolition of alimony, says Omaha Bee. She conceives the prospect of alimony to be the chief cause of divorces granted to women and denounces the system as nothing but a simple graft. Undoubtedly many designing women can consistently take no exceptions to these charges, and it is not to be questioned that some unscrupulous lawyers will co-operate with women for the purpose of obtaining financial emolument through the operation of the divorce courts, but that alimony, or the desire to obtain alimony, constitutes the prevailing cause and purpose of women seeking legal separations from their husbands, it is hard to believe, any more than it would be wise, safe or just to do away with the law providing for alimony. Society has come to recognize that there is such a thing as a justifiable divorce, and there is certainly such a thing as a woman needing and deserving support from the man from whom she seeks and obtains a divorce, and to abolish alimony would work hardship on many women and children, alike blameless for the causes as well as the fact of the separation.

Has everybody forgotten Halley's comet? There was a reaction after the trepidation and intense curiosity aroused by its approach, and now, instead of piling out of bed at unearthly hours of the early morning in the hope of getting a glimpse of it, there are many who would not, for the promise of a good square look at the wanderer, take the trouble of walking across the street. They have seen it once, and so far as they are concerned, it is an old story. Halley's comet is not beyond viewing distance from the earth; yet it cannot be seen. The reason of its invisibility is its nearness to the sun. It sets in the early evening, while the twilight is strong enough to hide it with a veil of light. At the end of the month it will set before sunset. It is further south in the sky than the sun.

The Canadian authorities have been so much disturbed over the report that 15,000 American farmers have left the Canadian northwest that they have undertaken an inquiry of their own. The result of that is the admission that 261 farmers and their families have returned to the United States. During the same time they claim that over 50,000 settlers have entered Canada from this country. Perhaps it is up to the United States to investigate these last figures.

A Louisiana man has patented a combined pickle fork and pair of tongs. With the aid of this useful instrument you may, after a pickle slips from your fork, reach into the jar and pick it out with the tongs. For our part, we are unable to understand why anyone should wish to take so much trouble for the purpose of securing a pickle.

If it comes to pass that a guard must go with every canoe, canoeing will lose its vogue. Its chief charm has always been in affording the young man an opportunity to show the girl how he can handle the oars. He will never consent to be followed by a life saver.

One of New York's fashion experts makes the interesting announcement that millionaires are not the best dressed men. The millionaires appear to be bearing up as hopefully as could be expected.

"A hearty laugh is a good thing for indigestion," says one of the doctors. In these days the trouble is to find the thing that will provoke a hearty laugh.

One of the ministers candidly announces that automobile scorches have no chance to go to heaven. But there are probably no automobiles in heaven, anyway.

Why is it so astounding that a man in an aeroplane can go faster than a bird? Doesn't a man on a locomotive go faster than a greyhound or a race horse?

If the cow shows its appreciation of music by giving a bigger yield of milk, why not try the experiment on chickens during the egg famine?

Aviators seem annoyed because an airship was wrecked by a flag pole. Yet a flag has a right to fly as well as a biplane.

Fears have been expressed that the weather bureau has mislaid the warm wave flag.

Of course, we all intended to travel in Switzerland and Italy this summer, but circumstances send us down to the old farm instead.

A 15-ton shark has been captured near Seattle, but even for Seattle we take it that this is exceptionally big fishing.

See to it that your grocery does not use ambush scales—the kind that lie in wait.

NO CLOUDS IN SIGHT

COLONEL GEORGE HARVEY, SAYS COUNTRY ALL RIGHT.

THE WRITER SEES NO CLOUD

Striking Article in North American Review That is Attracting Wide Attention.

The attention of business and professional men in all portions of the country has been attracted to a strikingly strong article by Col. George Harvey in the September issue of the North American Review in which the writer takes a view of the greatest hopefulness for the future of America and Americans. The article is entitled "A Plea for the Conservation of Common Sense," and it is meeting with the cordial approval of business men of all shades of political opinion throughout the entire country. In part, Colonel Harvey says:

"Unquestionably a spirit of unrest dominates the land. But, if it be true that fundamentally the condition of the country is sound, must we necessarily succumb to despondency and abandon effort looking to retrieval and cringe like cravens before clouds that only threaten? Rather ought we not to analyze conditions, search for causes, find the root of the distress, which even now exists only in men's minds, and then, after the American fashion, apply such remedies as seem most likely to produce beneficial results?"

Capital and Labor Not Antagonistic.

"The Link that connects labor with capital is not broken but we may not deny that it is less cohesive than it should be or than conditions warrant. Financially, the country is stronger than ever before in its history. Recovery from a panic so severe as that of three years ago was never before so prompt and comparatively complete. The masses are practically free from debt. Money is held by the banks in abundance and rates are low.

"Why, then, does capital pause upon the threshold of investment? The answer, we believe, to be plain. It awaits adjustment of the relations of government to business."

"The sole problem consists of determining how government can maintain an even balance between aggregations of interests, on the one hand, and the whole people, on the other, protecting the latter against extortion and saving the former from mad assaults."

"The solution is not easy to find for the simple reason that the situation is without precedent. But is not progress being made along sane and cautious lines?"

Conserve Common Sense.

"Is not the present, as we have seen, exceptionally secure? What, then, of preparations for the future? Patriotism is the basis of our institutions. And patriotism in the minds of our youth is no longer linked solely with fireworks and deeds of daring. It is taught in our schools. A new course has been added—a course in loyalty. Methodically, our children learn how to vote, how to conduct primaries, conventions and elections, how to discriminate between qualifications of candidates and, finally, how to govern as well as serve. They are taught to despise bribery and all forms of corruption and fraud as treason. Their creed, which they are made to know by heart, is not complex. It is simple, but comprehensive, no less beautiful in diction than lofty in aspiration. These are the pledges which are graven upon their memories:

"As it is cowardly for a soldier to run away from battle, so it is cowardly for any citizen not to contribute his share to the well-being of his country. America is my own dear land; she nourishes me, and I will love her and do my duty to her, whose child, servant and civil soldier I am.

"As the health and happiness of my body depend upon each muscle and nerve and drop of blood doing its work in its place, so the health and happiness of my country depend upon each citizen doing his work in his place.

"These young citizens are our hostages to fortune. Can we not safely assume that the principles animating their lives augur well for the permanency of the Republic? When before have the foundation stones of continuance been laid with such care and promise of durability?"

"The future, then, is bright. And the present? But one thing is needed. No present movement is more laudable than that which looks to conservation of natural resources. But let us never forget that the greatest inherent resource of the American people is Common Sense. Let that be conserved and applied with-out cessation, and soon it will be found that all the ills of which we complain but know not of are only such as attend upon the growing pains of a great and blessed country.

He Knows the Game.

According to the Metropolitan Magazine, Fire Chief John Conway of Jersey City, has solved the baseball excuse question by the posting of the following printed notice on his desk at fire headquarters:

"All requests for leave of absence owing to grandmothers' funerals, lame back, house cleaning, moving, sore throat, headache, brainstorm, cousins' wedding, general indisposition, etc., must be handed to the chief not later than ten o'clock on the morning of the game."

Duty Smeared.

"How can you go around," demanded his wife, "with tobacco juice all over your face?"

"This isn't tobacco juice," responded the candidate, mildly. "It's molasses. I've been kissing babies."

Pretending.

"See the boys," "Pretending to be soldiers, eh?" "Yes; kids get lots of fun pretending."

"And grown-ups, too. I put in my vacation pretending I was rich."



PRESIDENT ARTHUR BARCLAY

THE first idea of a "Liberia"—settlement of free negroes—arose with the foundation of the British colony of Sierra Leone. After the close of the American War of Independence in 1783 it became necessary to provide for the negro troops who had served Great Britain faithfully in that unhappy struggle. They were at first deported to Nova Scotia, but had no place there in the body politic of white men; they were no longer slaves, but the idea of granting the suffrage to negroes was then displeasing to the dominant race. There was also the problem of the free Maroon negroes of Jamaica, who were irksome to the authorities in a land of slavery. So the idea of founding a free negro state or community in West Africa for the reception of enfranchised American negroes came into being about 1784, and in 1787 the colony of Sierra Leone was founded under a chartered company and taken over by the crown in 1808.

Early in the nineteenth century the same difficulty arose in the United States, namely, the presence of thousands of free negroes whose case had not been sufficiently provided for by the American Constitution. Somehow



A NATIVE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

or other these free negroes and mulattoes—growing impatient of being taxed without representation—must be provided for. So several philanthropists, remembering Sierra Leone, thought to promote by private enterprise and philanthropy a similar colony across the sea which might provide for the return to West Africa (whence most of them had come), of the freed slaves of the United States. Indeed, there was a strong disposition to adopt Sierra Leone for this purpose, with the assent of the British government; but the local authorities of Sierra Leone showed themselves very averse from receiving American negroes, who might owe a divided allegiance.

Accordingly the American founders of "Liberia" (this name was not given to the infant state until 1824)—who were mostly white men with a few mulattoes and negroes—selected the Grain Coast, immediately to the south and east of Sierra Leone, for their experiment.

It was some weeks before the hostility of the natives, who were wedded to the slave trade, could be overcome, but in 1822 active operations were begun. A thirty-acre tract was allotted to each man with the means of cultivating it. The National Colonization society's agents became discouraged at the difficulties that were met and returned to America with a few faint-hearted ones; but the others rallied about a determined negro, Elijah Johnson, and remained. The colony was enlarged by the addition of new tracts. New settlements were afterward formed at Cape Monte and in the newly acquired Bassa Land, in which, in 1834, a town was founded and called Edina, in acknowledgment of pecuniary aid sent from Edinburgh. Many of the neighboring chiefs were received into the colony, and others were subdued. Trials of many kinds, deprivations and dissensions were the lot of the colony, managed by a society which did not fully know whether its aims were sentimental or practical. In 1847 Liberia was left to its own resources and declared an independent republic. The colony immediately began to show more prosperity, numerous churches and schools were founded, newspapers were established, and slavery in the neighboring states was abolished. The first president of independent Liberia was Roberts, an octogenarian. He was a most able and courageous man and the country made rapid strides in civilization and other material lines

of progress under his administration. The constitution of the republic is framed after that of the United States. There are a president, vice-president, a council of six ministers and a house of representatives. Voters must be of negro blood and own real estate. The natives generally do not avail themselves of the suffrage. No foreigner can own land without the consent of the government. The coast territory is formed into the counties of Bassa, Cape Palmas and Sinoe, with one superintendent each, and Montserrado, with four superintendents. The capital is Monrovia, named after President Monroe. English money is used, but American money figures usually in the keeping of accounts. There is a Liberian coinage and a rather large paper currency. The official language of the country is English. The civilized inhabitants are orthodox Protestants, mostly Episcopalians.

Poor Man-on Foot

In a few years aeroplanes will be as common as automobiles are now, and it is obvious that the man-on-foot will have little show, says the Emporia Gazette. The auto-scooter will be a harmless individual as compared with the speed mannikin overhead. A man who will take to aeroplaning must be naturally reckless to begin with, and his recklessness will increase with each flight. His boilers will bust, and his

THE NEGRO PROBLEM IN LIBERIA BY OVERTON PRICE



A NATIVE VILLAGE IN THE INTERIOR



CELEBRATING THE LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



A NATIVE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

tribes who for ages have been isolated in that forest, and were—and are—quite ignorant of the world outside their tribal land) were quite willing to regard the Liberians as the ruling power on the seashore. But they were very disinclined to obey orders from Monrovia if contrary to their own desires. The tribes farthest inland looked upon the British and French—the "white men"—as aggressors who were putting down by force a most lucrative slave trade, who were forcibly disclosing the secrets of sacred streams like the Niger near its sources, who, in short, were not only to be opposed, but whose organized territories offered a most profitable field for raids and robberies. More than this: the import of guns, gunpowder, rifles (above all) and alcohol was being restricted or forbidden by the Europeans. The Liberian coast, especially where it was slenderly guarded by the Liberian administration, offered the one loophole through which these forbidden goods might be smuggled. Accordingly a great trade sprang up between these uncontrolled hinterland tribes and the Kru people on the coast, who affected a sort of detachment from the government by the American-Negro republic. In these ways the Liberian hinterland became a positive source of danger and expense to the

Hiring Help In East Africa

The "servant problem" is bad enough in America, and the experiences mistresses have to relate are many and varied; but an infinitely wider range of possibilities is opened up when mere man—and a bachelor at that—tackles the servant and other household problems in an East African bungalow. Anything can happen—and does happen!

Native house servants of a sort are plentiful enough around the chief towns of British East Africa, Nairobi and Mombasa, and the slightest rumor that the Muzungu (white man) requires a "boy" or m'pezi (cook) fills one's compound with cooks, "generals" and raw niggers, representing every tribe under Africa's sun, a writer in the Wide World says.

The average bachelor contents himself with four servants—a head "boy," a cook, a "toto" (youth) to assist them, and a m'shenzi (raw, untrained native) for odd jobs, gardening, etc.

It is no easy task to make a selection from the host of eager, voluble applicants. Dirty, carefully stuck-together "barabas" (testimonials) are examined and the owners questioned, but it is unwise to put much faith in these documents, for it is no unusual occurrence for a "boy"—on the principle of "the more the merrier"—to proudly present you with three

Life Preservers for the Air.

Dirigible balloon accidents for the last four years show a loss of 35 lives, and in the past two years 12 aeroplan-



VIEW OF CAPE PALMAS

British protectorate of Sierra Leone and the French possessions of the Sudan and Ivory Coast. Consequently the Liberian government has been forced of late years to live somewhat beyond its means in organizing a police and a marine, in occupying the Kru coast and in attempting to construct roads to places of importance in the interior. It has from time to time engaged European officers for its services; but whereas some of these engagements have been of noteworthy success, others have been the reverse, and it is difficult to locate the blame. European capital is somewhat shy of Liberia, partly owing to the turbulence of the interior natives (though this has been exaggerated, for white men very seldom really incur danger from the indigenes), but more on account of the irresponsible fickleness of the legislature, which is given too much to the hasty making and unmaking of laws and to conflicts of opinion with the executive.

Yet the country is extremely rich. Its rocks and river valleys produce both gold and diamonds, some of the coast districts (especially in the east) even give indications of the existence of bitumen, or oil-bearing strata, while the forests of the interior are remarkable for their wealth of rubber-bearing trees and lianas, their ebony, African teak and "mahogany," and the passava fiber (derived from the raffia palm), which is used for so many purposes connected with the making of brooms and brushes. Then there is the oil-palm, with its two kinds of oil, both valuable to commerce—the oil of the husk and that of the kernel. The extraction of this last and its great value for special industries are said to have been discovered some seventy-five years ago by an American negro, one of the early colonists of Liberia. A great deal was done by these freed slave settlers, for which they have never received sufficient credit.

Unfortunately the attempted colonization of Liberia has been hindered by the American negro colonists proving almost as much liable to malarial fever and other African diseases as Europeans. They seem to have lost the relative immunity from these blood-germ maladies which their African ancestors enjoyed. The modern American-Liberian does not stand the climate of Liberia much better than the white man from Europe or America. The country is not unhealthy in the interior; it is the coast belt which, with its eternal heat and moisture, its very short dry seasons, and torrential rains (conditions which suit admirably the cultivation of rubber, coffee and cacao) saps the vitality of residents not of African birth. And the hinterland, with its superior conditions of climate, has already a somewhat large indigenous population, who are not eager for foreign additions to their numbers.

Horse Trade in Missouri.

In St. Charles last week Lester Ingraham traded A. S. Osborn a horse for a motor boat. A few hours later Osborn discovered that the horse was worthless, so he went to the boat and removed the engine and the horse died as he was hauling it away. A jury in a justice's court awarded Ingraham the engine and \$1 damage.—Detroit Free Press.

servant life in the case of accidents, which seem to be a foregone conclusion, at least in the early stages of the flying game.—Leslie's.

A Professional Diagnosis.

Police man—What is the matter with my finger, doctor? It pains me terribly.

Surgeon—It is a strictly professional affliction.

Police man—What do you mean?

Surgeon—Simply that you have a felon on hand.