

COMMENT & DISCOMMENT

Just as an illustration of how far good men may go wrong, we will turn back to the written records of the early New Englanders, a God-fearing people who much desired to do right, but who occasionally guessed wrong. Herewith is presented "Some Evidence That Susanna Martin Was a Witch," from the pen of Cotton Mather, one-time pastor of the famous old North church in Boston. It seems strange, in the light of present day knowledge, how so intelligent a man could go so far astray mentally. Cotton Mather was a Harvard-graduate, and one of the strongest leaders in the movement to retain the old beliefs, and the old prerogatives of the ministers.

Susanna Martin was found guilty of being a witch, largely on such testimony as that which follows, carefully collected by such men as Mather. It's just barely possible that people who argue for movie censorship and three or four dozen kinds of welfare laws may be just as mistaken as this staunch old minister, who never had any other idea than that he was absolutely right. Other people remonstrated with him, and told him he was too narrow-minded, too radical, but he couldn't see the light. And now cometh the testimony of one John Atkinson, as transcribed by Mr. Mather:

"IV. John Atkinson testified, That he exchanged a Cow with a Son of Susanna Martin's, whereat she muttered, and was unwilling he should have it. Going to receive this Cow, she he Hamstring'd her, and Halter'd her, she, of a Tame Creature, grew so mad, that they could scarce get her along. She broke all the Ropes that were fastened unto her, and though she were ty'd fast unto a Tree, yet she made her escape, and gave them such further troubles, as they could ascribe to no cause but Witchcraft.

"V. Bernard Peache testified, That being in Bed, on the Lord's-day Night, he heard a scrabbling at the Window, whereat he then saw Susanna Martin come in, and jump down upon the Floor. She took hold of this Deponent's Feet, and drawing his body up into a Heap, she lay upon him near Two Hours; in all which time he could neither speak nor stir. At length, when he could begin to move, he laid hold on her Hand, and pulling it up to his Mouth, he bit three of her Fingers, as he judged, unto the Bone. Whereupon she went from the Chamber, down the Stairs, out at the Door. This Deponent thereupon called unto the People of the House, to advise them of what passed; there being a Bucket at the Left-hand of the Door, there was a drop of Blood found upon it; and several more drops of Blood upon the Snow newly fallen abroad: There was likewise the print of her 2 Feet just without the Threshold; but no more sign of any Footing further off.

"VI. Robert Downer testified, That this Prisoner being some Years ago prosecuted at Court for a Witch, he then said unto her, He believed she was a Witch. Whereat she being dissatisfied said, That some She-Devil would shortly fetch him away! Which words were heard by others, as well as himself. The Night following, as he lay in his Bed, there came in at the Window, the likeness of a Cat, which flew upon him, took fast hold of his Throat, lay on him a considerable while, and almost killed him. At length he remembered what Susanna Martin had threatened the Day before; and with much striving he cried out, Avoid, thou She-Devil! In the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, Avoid! Whereupon it

left him, leap'd on the Floor, and flew to the Window. "And there also came in several Testimonies, that before ever Downer saw the word of this Accident, Susanna Martin and her Family had related, how this Downer had been handled!" "IX. Sarah Atkinson testified, That Susanna Martin came from Amesbury to their House at Newbury, in an extraordinary Season, when it was not fit for any to Travel. She came (as she said, unto Atkinson) all that long way on Foot. She breg'd and shew'd how dry she was; nor could it be perceived that so much as the Soles of her Shoes were wet. Atkinson was amazed at it; and professed, that she should her self have been wet up to the knees, if she had then come so far; but Martin reply'd, She scorn'd to be Drabbed! It was noted, that this Testimony upon her Trial, cast her in a very singular Confusion."

This is only a small part of the case against Susanna, some fifteen or twenty witnesses altogether furnishing a most complete line of evidence that convicted her without a shadow of a doubt. It was proved that she had caused the death of a large herd of cattle by bewitching them, and all in all, she must have been a most wicked woman, and it must have been a great relief to the pious citizenry when she was out of the way. The style of argument has a strangely familiar sound. The witnesses were sober, God-fearing men and women, and they really believed the stories they told, much as thousands of witnesses before and after their time.

All of which goes to show that the testimony of interested parties, who wish to compass certain things, is likely to be colored. This poor old woman, whose only fault probably was that she looked like a witch, was condemned because a cow got a case of nerves and refused to be led peaceably along the King's highway; because an old man had a nightmare and dreamed that she attacked him, and because a cat jumped in at a window. Some of the testimony of modern reformers is almost as flimsy. The disposition of a few of them is quite similar to that of men who fought witchcraft in the early days. There are a number of other morals which might be drawn, but we simply haven't the time to do it.

Edgar Howard, whose ideas are always interesting, plans to print the names of all the men and women in his community who pay over \$100 income tax, provided, of course, that the government will give permission. Edgar doubts at the outset whether he can secure the necessary permission, but argues that if the names are printed this year, there will be more of them next year.

As an instance of the value of publicity in matters of this kind, the Columbus man tells a story of a country editor of his acquaintance who once printed this sort of an item:

"There is not one real diamond in this village. I went with my wife to a party last night, and saw what looked like fifty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds on the hands and in the ears of the women at the party. But all of the glittering things were either glass or paste. The county assessor was at the party, and he told me so. He ought to know."

The next week there was all sorts of diamond talk in that town, and a year later the same editor published a list of forty-six owners of diamonds.

Stock hogs wanted by the Nebraska Land Co. 103-ft

DISCHARGE CERTIFICATES HELD IN WASHINGTON

The war department has just published a list of 6,600 discharge certificates held in Washington because the department has not got the proper addresses of the owners and therefore cannot deliver them. By far the greater portion of these discharges were sent in with claims for bonus, travel pay, or back pay. They were sent out to the addresses given when the claims were made, but the owners had moved.

The owners may get their discharges by writing to the "Miscellaneous Accounts Division, Finance Office, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.," giving sufficient data to identify them as the proper owner of the discharge certificate. The data required to be given is: Full name; rank, organization, and station at time of discharge; army serial number; date of enlistment and date of discharge; present address; and address to which the discharge is to be mailed. This must be in the owner's handwriting and signed by him.

Any one interested may see the list at the local army recruiting station. The war department has suggested that the information required may be given in the following form:

Form for discharge certificate information: Full name (Christian-Middle-Surname), Rank, organization and station at time of discharge, (Rank), (Organization), (Station), Army serial number, Date of enlistment, Date of discharge, Present address, Address to which discharge certificate should be mailed, (Number and street), (City), (State), (Signature of Owner)

Wanted to buy both your fat and stock hogs. O'Bannon and Neuswanger. Phone 71. 13ft

A blind and armless Englishman says a cable has become an expert typist. This will be consoling to many a business man who finds "horse" in his letters spelled with a "q."

MARSLAND

Tom Hunsaker is on the sick list this week. Wm. Andrews has been on the sick list this week. Dick Furman visited with his parents in Crawford over Sunday. Mrs. Harry Crane of Girard was in Marsland on business this week. Miss Clara Tollman and little sister Alice, visited relatives in Chadron the past week. August Rhodes came down from Crawford Monday morning to look after renting his farm. Engineer Witty of Crawford was in

town between trains Tuesday, visiting Ernestine McLaughlin. Ed. Greggs are again busy with the ice harvest, having received a large order from a Lincoln firm. Little Pansy Poole has been quite sick the last few days with a bad cold which threatened pneumonia. Mrs. Townley and Mrs. Curry were passengers to Edgemont, Monday, returning home Wednesday morning. Ernestine McLaughlin was a passenger to Crawford Saturday evening, returning home Sunday morning. Mrs. Gus Hoffman's sister, who have made her an extended visit, returned to their home in Chicago last Monday. The second and third trick operators were laid off Saturday night. Mr. Fleming is taking care of all the work now. Mrs. Earl Gregg and Miss Helen Huss were passengers to Crawford Thursday where they visited with Mr. Gregg, who is employed there at present. The potato growers of this neighborhood held a meeting Saturday afternoon. County Agent Taylor had charge of the meeting and gave an interesting talk.

VALENTINES OF JEWELRY THE Young Lady who opens a package and finds it is a gift of jewelry certainly will be delighted with the way you express Valentine greetings. It is a real 1921 idea—a fine opportunity to show that friendship is held particularly high. You will find at Thiele's, innumerable dainty articles of jewelry not too costly for Valentines. We will wrap the package for mailing if you wish. Thiele's Drugs and Jewelry

Boys and Girls Ask Yourself These Questions And Then Answer Them What are you going to do when you grow up? Are you going to be your own boss or work for someone else? Will you be independent and have your own home, or will you be one of the many who just scrape and manage to make both ends meet? It all depends on you. Nearly all of the great men of this country began to prepare for success when they were young like you. The first step is to save what you earn and are given. The folks at home will be glad to help you. Then, when the time comes for you to go to college, or start out for yourself, you will be equipped for the fight. Every penny you save now puts you that much ahead of the boy or girl who does not save. Children's accounts are always welcome at this bank, no matter how small they may be. First National Bank ALLIANCE NEBRASKA

Imperial Theater TONIGHT—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11th SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF GEORGE MELFORD'S production "BEHOLD MY WIFE" From The Translation of a Savage. 11th Episode—"Lost City" Comedy—"The Road to Ruin" OPENING of NEW ORCHESTRAL ORGAN PROGRAM 1—STAR SPANGLED BANNER 2—March Selected J. M. Fulton 3—Evening Star Tanhauser 4—Traumerf Schuman 5—Silver Threads Among the Gold Request number by H. A. Dubuque, played on Vox Pipes 6—A Wee Bit O' Scotch (a) Annie Laurie (b) I Love a Lassie 7—Chorus from Popular Songs of the Day 8—Two Movements from William Tell Overture Rossini STARTING PROMPTLY AT 7:30 P. M. Admission—22c and 50c and War Tax SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12th ROY STEWART in "THE LONE HAND" COMEDY—"WHEN THE WIND BLOWS" MUTT and JEFF—"HARD LUCK SANTA CLAUS" Matinee and Night—Regular Admission SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th OLIVE THOMAS in "OUT YONDER" COMEDY—LARRY SEMON in "HOME, SWEET HOME" Matinee and Night—Regular Admission MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14th HARRY CAREY in "HEARTS UP" FOX NEWS Matinee and Night—Regular Admission

we have just received A Big Shipment of Ladies' SPRING HATS CHOOSING the first spring hat is always an adventure that is looked forward to by every woman. The new colors, the new combinations of fabric and straw, the distinctive trimmings afford much interest to the woman in quest of a new chapeau. This season there are many bright-hued hats, although the all-black or black and white model is also in evidence. The shapes are decidedly varied, while the trimmings, too, show a variety that is quite interesting. In our assortment are several types of headgear that invite the attention of those in search of new millinery motifs. It is noteworthy that the crown is rather low, but this merely adds to the charm of the new hat. Our late shipment, direct from New York, includes clever combinations of Straw, Flowers and Cire Braid. We are sure you'll be immensely pleased and invite you to see the selections. PRICES RANGE FROM \$6.50, \$8.50 AND UP HORACE BOGUE STORE, Inc.