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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Interesting Items Concerning People of Note—What the Newspapers Say.
Sabin was a millionaire when elected to the senate, in 1882, but made an assignment to his creditors. He is on his feet again, and is even reported to have recovered considerable of his fortune.

Lord Lyons has left a regular series of diaries, in which are related all the more striking private incidents of his diplomatic career. The passages relating his Washington experiences during the civil war, and his notes of Parisian life before and after the fall of the empire, are of extraordinary interest.

On his 68th birthday, Feb. 8, 1888, Gen. Sherman was captured by Lieut. Gurney, of Sarony's photographic establishment, and during his term of imprisonment was "taken" in twenty different positions. Gen. Sherman was in full uniform, and bore the ordeal with his usual stoicism.

Mr. George W. Childs went to Washington a few days ago to stand godfather to the infant of John R. McLean, editor of The Cincinnati Enquirer. Mr. Childs presented his godchild with a silver bowl. Another silver bowl was presented by Mrs. Grant, and bore the inscription, "From Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, widow of Gen. and President U. S. Grant."

Wagner was the most furious anti-Semitic fanatic of his time, but the Jews at least love his music. Apropos of this, a story is told of Liszt's visit to a wealthy Jewish lawyer of Leipzig. Sitting in his library the two discussed music with great enthusiasm, when suddenly Liszt stopped in the midst of a laudatory tirade on the "Music-drama" with the interjection, "But I forgot; you probably feel a race hatred toward Wagner." The other arose, took down a bust from a retired niche showing Wagner with a chaplet of laurel around his brows and a halter around his neck, and said: "That's what I think of Richard Wagner."

Charles Hoag, who died recently at Minneapolis, was one of the original settlers of that city. There was not a dozen actual settlers west of the river at the Falls of St. Anthony, now nearly forty years ago, when Mr. Hoag arrived there with his family, and within a few weeks of his advent, he had the distinguished honor of standing godfather for the new frontier settlement. Having been a school teacher in the east, he conceived the idea of combining in the name of the new settlement a word from the ancient Greek and one from the Indian tongue, hence the name Minneapolis (water city literally).

Mrs. D. G. Croly, better known as "Jennie June," is one of the few women who have had a thorough journalistic training. She began her career by writing for the newspapers, and she has worked in every department of a newspaper office except the composing room. She is a very hard worker, but she has won the reward that does not always follow hard work—good pay. Mrs. Croly was one of the founders of Sorosis, and was its president from the first until within two years, when she handed in her resignation, much to the regret of the several hundred members of that society. She is now editor and proprietor of the long known "Godley's Lady's Book."

John Habberton made more money out of "Helen's Babies" than out of all the rest of his books put together, but it is hardly safe to mention it to him. He thinks more of any of the others, and has a great distaste for being known especially as the author of that skit. What he wants to be and is willing to lose money in being is a heavy historian. Bret Harte has an almost equal distaste for being recognized on the merits of the "Hoosier Chimes." But he never received directly a cent for that. He wrote it in a California newspaper office to fill space, and quell the insistent cry for copy, and he never thought it was funny.

We have two Peter Coopers in Washington—George Bancroft and W. W. Corcoran. They are the last resort for people who wish to write newspaper paragraphs. When everything else fails, then George Bancroft can be trotted out. I saw him last at the White House, where he is very fond of going when weather and health permit. He had just passed in front of the president and was being shot through the passageway into the East room, which was already well filled. He tottered as an old man in his 90th year will, and he was rather timid and garrulous. He was clinging to the arm of his granddaughter, Suzanne, who eloped with a fellow to Baltimore and married him. "Don't go so fast," he said. "We shall get lost in the crowd. Here, hold on to my arm! Dear me, what a sight of people. Be careful of the way you go." The story that he is losing his mind is contradicted by Gen. Badeau, who recently spent several hours chatting with him. The general tells me that he found Mr. Bancroft in the best mental condition, with a clear recollection of the past. Of course, he will never write much more history, and some one else will have to take up his great work when he leaves it.

A Very Remarkable Room.
 The pure amber is precious stuff, and the extravagance and grandeur of the Russian rulers may be suggested by a chamber in the old palace of Catherine the Great at Tsarskoye Selo, thirty miles from Petersburg, which is lined, walls and ceiling, with the finest amber. As the room is half as large as the great East room in the White House at Washington, its value is purely a matter of speculation. It cannot be estimated. The golden gum is in large pieces—larger than can be found elsewhere in the world; in fact, nowhere but under the waters of the Baltic is so large an accumulation of the stuff, and it is laid, like mosaic, so artistically that the divisions can scarcely be detected. When the room is lighted the effect is superb. There is nothing to compare with it. This amber was a gift from Frederick the Great of Prussia to Catherine II, the most extravagant monarch that ever reigned, at the time he was trying to prevent an alliance between her and her sister queen, Marie Therese of Austria. The coat of arms of the giver is carved in a corner of the wall. It is the center of the widest wall.—William Elroy Curtis in Chicago News.

Youthful Wisdom in a Blizzard.
 It is related of two little girls of 11 and 15 years of age that they were late in going to school, and when about half way the storm arose and they turned back. After wandering about for a time they came to a straw stack. The older girl dug out the straw as far as she could. She then put her sister in ahead of her and crowded in after her. She took off their shoes, and when their feet grew cold she rubbed them briskly. The younger girl fell asleep, but the elder kept awake and continued the rubbing process when necessary. The parents gave up their children as lost, but early Friday morning, after the storm had subsided, the girls, none the worse for their experience, made their way home, and it is needless to say there was great joy and rejoicing in that house. A wise head is sometimes found on very young shoulders.—Minneapolis Tribune.

The last new language into which the "Pilgrim's Progress" has been translated is that of the Faunt on the Gold Coast.

CLIPPINGS OF ALL SORTS.

The four girders of the Eiffel tower are in place, and the work is rising fast.
 Ottumwa, Ia., has an artesian well which discharges 2,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. It is said to be the best well in the country.

In portions of Florida people are planting the peach tree instead of the orange. The idea is that the peach will be the more popular fruit, and it begins to yield a return earlier than the orange.
 Dwarf fruit trees are coming into fashion again. They are recommended to ornament lawns and for producing fruit for persons who have but small plots of ground.

Manual training is practiced in Swedish schools with great success. It is called "slöjd," a word allied to our "slight of hand." The teachers say that it stimulates exertion in other studies.

The king of Portugal, owing to ill health, was unable to attend the recent Patti concert in Lisbon. He sat in his palace, however, with a telephone at his ear heard the great diva as she sang in the San Carlos theatre, and seemed to enjoy the entertainment.

A unique election recently occurred in a small community in Germany. The vote was taken to decide who was the "best man" in the community. Only one man, a shoemaker, voted, and as he voted for himself, he was declared to be unanimously elected to the position of best man in the municipality.

For the first time in England a woman has been buried with military honors. Mrs. Fox, wife of the quartermaster of the Connaught Rangers, was borne to her grave on a gun carriage, the coffin being covered with the Union Jack, and all the usual military forms being observed. She died from wounds received six years ago in the Transvaal war, in which she was made a prisoner.

It is claimed that there has recently been discovered a new oil and a process for obtaining it. The oil is a hydro-carbon and vegetable in its nature. It can be obtained from any source not mineral or animal. It can even be made from waste paper, woods, etc. It is a pure grease, colorless, and has a very faint and hardly perceptible odor, not at all disagreeable. It is perfectly neutral, will not ferment or become rancid, and remains perfectly limpid in cold weather. As an illuminant it gives a strong, brilliant light, and is non-explosive. It is also an excellent lubricant.

The craze for Japanese bric-a-brac which has so thoroughly caught and held American collectors is the growth of a little over thirty years. When Commodore Perry returned to Washington from Mikado land, about 1854, he brought the first Japanese curios ever seen here. Among them were two large lacquered bowls, with covers, one of which was bought by Edward Everett. Lacquered ware was greatly admired, and it was declared that the Japanese had made wood malleable.

Watching the Wealthy "Snorer."
 "There goes another snorer," said the clerk of a downtown hotel, nodding at a well dressed, dignified gentleman who was walking to the parlor. "They're a nuisance and every hotel in the city is bothered with them." The dignified man entered the parlor, selected a comfortable chair, crossed his knees, closed his eyes as if in deep meditation and was soon sound asleep. In a little while he whistled softly through his nose, but the noise gradually attained such a high pitch that guests passing through the corridor were startled by the sound. The other guests in the parlor rattled their newspapers, looked angry, muttered "outrageous" and otherwise evinced their displeasure. "Ten minutes, time up," exclaimed the clerk looking down the corridor and placing his finger on his nose. The quiet man who walks about the hotel during the day, and is known as the hotel detective, entered the parlor, shook the snorer until he was awake, and made his exit without saying a word. The dignified individual looked around calmly, crossed his knees again and in ten minutes was hard at work snoring again. Of course the detective shook him up soon after.

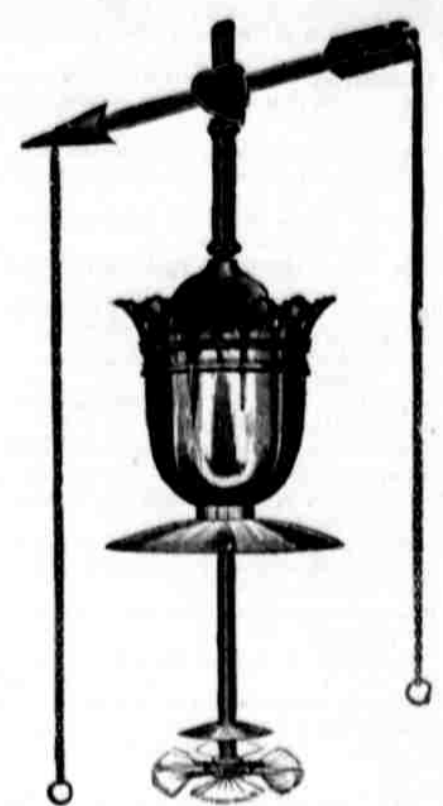
"That gentleman pays the largest bill here every week, and of course we cannot turn him out. He will enter the parlor and he will snore. We simply shake him up every ten or fifteen minutes."—New York Mail and Express.

Beautiful Woods of California.
 Some of the natural woods of California and Oregon are coming into extensive use, both at home and abroad, for interior finish, the most valuable for this purpose being the redwood, the white cedar, the laurel, and the sycamore. The redwood takes the lead in this line, taking a good polish, and, for general use, wear and staying qualities, is alleged to have no superior in any forest in the world. The laurel is smooth, firm, beautifully figured, and altogether a desirable wood. The value of the sycamore as an ornamental wood has only quite recently become generally known, its grain being much like that of the eastern birch, having wavy lines close together, and, as it is quite tough and strong, it possesses superior value for veneering. The Oregon ash is of beauty and utility for decorative purposes, is figured with concentric curves, and allows an attractive polish. The maple of that state is also of beautiful appearance, light yellow in color, and a surface covered with small, wavy lines, of especial beauty in the gaslight.—New York Sun.

The Origin of "Leap Year."
 The custom observed every fourth year of permitting the fairer sex to assume the rights and prerogatives appertaining to the brothers during the remaining three is a very ancient one. When it originated is not definitely known, but a law enacted by the parliament of Scotland in the year of 1588 is doubtless the first statutory recognition of the custom. The law was as follows: "It is statut and ordaind that during the reime of her maist blisssit megestie, ilk fourth year, known as leap year, ilk maiden ladye of baith high and low estait shall have liberty to bespeak ye man she lik. If she refuse to take hir to be hir wyf, she shall be mulcted in ye summe of five uncleris' fees, as his estait meet be, except and awis gif he mak it appear that he is betrotht to anoither woman, that he shall then be free."—Chicago News.

Experimental Torpedo Boat Cruise.
 Put not your trust in torpedo boats, is the moral to be drawn from the return which has just informed an astonished public of the results of the experimental torpedo boat cruise of last spring. Twenty-four so-called first class boats started on this expedition. Five passed through the ordeal (which consisted of several hours' run down channel in very fair weather) uninjured. Of the remaining nineteen one burst her boiler, one ran on a rock and two got into collision, while the rest sustained more or less serious break-downs of machinery, or one kind or another. What would have been said to the flotilla in real warfare is more easy than pleasant to contemplate. The natural inference would seem to be that torpedo boats are absolutely useless craft either for offensive or defensive purposes.—London Truth.

Ranson Carbon Light.

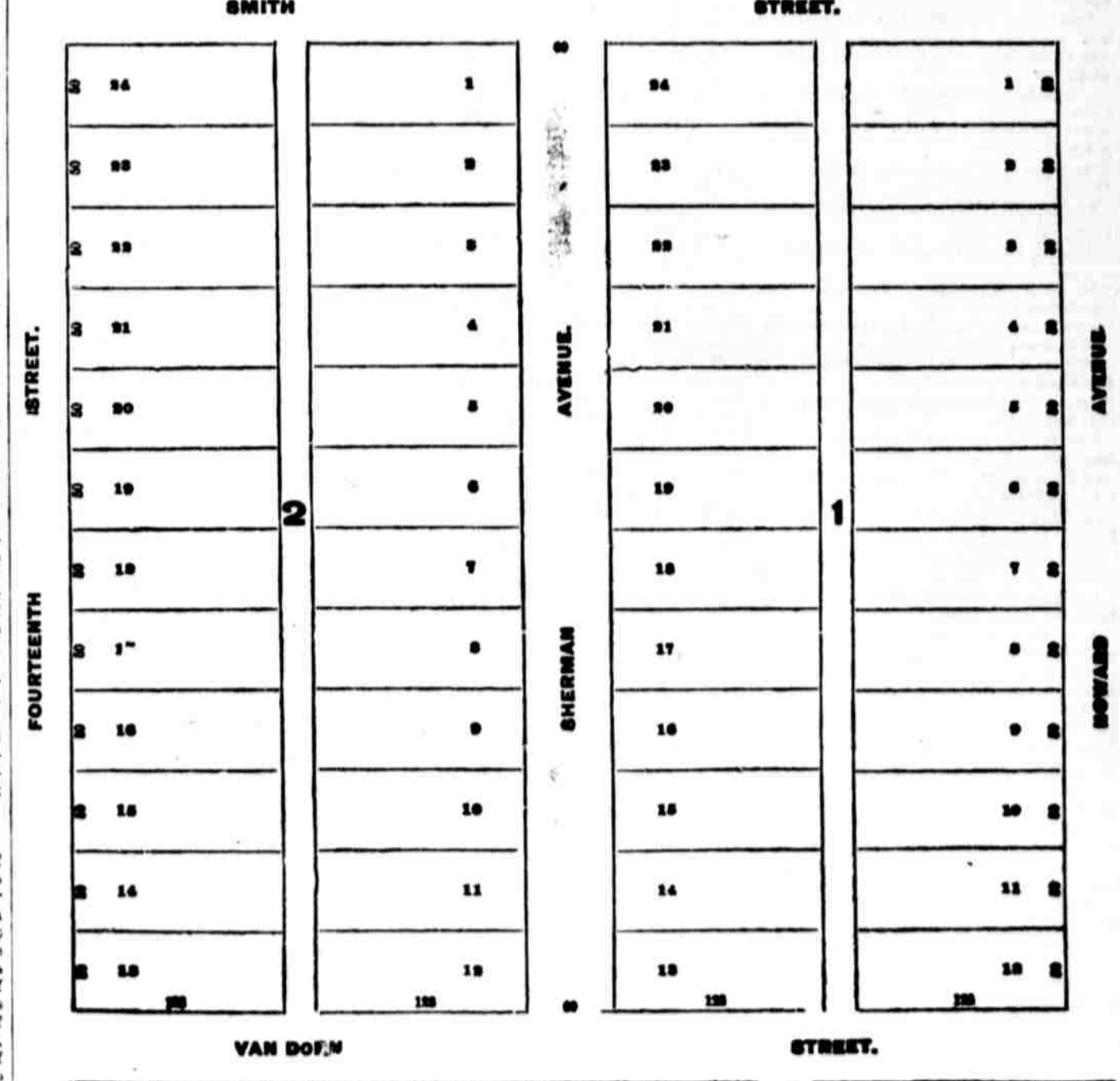


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