



### SECRET SOCIETIES.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE FAMOUS ORGANIZATIONS OF YALE.

Strange Proceedings on the Campus of the New Haven University—Peculiar Rites and Ceremonies of Skull and Bones, Scroll and Key and Wolf's Head.

The election ceremonies to the Skull and Bones, Scroll and Key, and Wolf's Head societies of Yale university are very impressive. The members of the junior class on the afternoon of this day gather in little knots in front of one of the big buildings which are used by the scholars as sleeping rooms. The windows of every other building which commands a view of the expectant students on the campus below are crowded with other scholars and their friends.

Suddenly a solemn looking young man comes around a corner of one of the dormitories. He goes straight toward the waiting crowd without a word to any one. He walks in among the fellows, many of whom are his friends, without noticing anybody. Every other student stands perfectly still, and without turning his head follows with his eyes the movements of the mysterious looking fellow who has recently appeared and who is going up and down, up and down, in and out, in and out among the crowd, looking at nobody, speaking to no one, apparently seeing nothing. Then he goes around in a circle. All hold their breath. The people in the windows on every side lean a little farther out and watch with increased interest. It is a moment of intense suspense! All of a sudden the quiet man, on whom everybody's eyes are fastened, slaps a fellow student right between the shoulders and almost knocks him over.

Then a great shout goes up! The students on the campus are yelling themselves hoarse. The crowded windows are alive with frantic men and women who are waving handkerchiefs and hats, clapping hands and laughing, each adding something to the terrible uproar. Meanwhile the student who was slapped on the back is the happiest man in the immense crowd, for he has been elected a member of Skull and Bones, the famous secret society of the university.

The first thing the fortunate student does when he realizes that he has been slapped is to go straight to his room, without a word to his most intimate chum, or even to the man who has so rudely struck him. He is followed by the man who did the slapping, and who all this time has not even so much as smiled or said "Hallo" to any one—in fact has not recognized the man he is following except by the slap.

Nobody knows, except these two, what takes place in the room, and the men are not seen again that day, for the interest of the people outside is centered on another man who has come from the same direction as the first one, and who is going through exactly the same performance that the first fellow executed. When he finally slaps a man, another great shout goes up, and then these two students go away to the room of the one whose back has been slapped. These scenes are repeated until forty-five men have been slapped, for that is the number composing the three societies. Each society is made up of fifteen men, no more and no less, and each member is said to choose one student.

When the forty-five have been selected the elections are over and the people go home feeling that they have witnessed an event more interesting and more exciting than the graduating exercises which take place when a whole class are about to leave the school. Nothing more is done to the students who have been slapped until the next Tuesday. What occurs then is seen by nobody except a few of the students who gather in front of the secret society houses.

The names even of the societies are not known. They are called Skull and Bones, Scroll and Key, and Wolf's Head, because each member wears a little gold pin, with one or another of these objects on it as the case may be.

The Skull and Bones pin is a horrid bit of gold in the shape of a human skull and crossbones. The Scroll and Key, as the name implies, is made up of a small sheet of gold, like an ancient piece of paper. On the scroll is a key, above the key are the letters "C. S. P." and below the key are the letters "C. C. J." What they stand for only the wearers of the pins know.

The other society has for its pin a little gold head of a savage looking wolf. Often the eyes are made of two brightly shining diamonds.

Another wonderful thing about these pins is that the wearer never loses one. He never lays it down even for a second. Of course they have to bathe, and how do you suppose they would have to lay the pin aside at that time anyway, wouldn't you? But they don't; they hold the bit of gold in their mouths!

"Bones" is the oldest of the three societies. Tradition has it that the pins first appeared in 1832. About ten years later men who had expected an election to "Bones" and were disappointed organized the Scroll and Key. Wolf's Head was founded less than ten years ago, but today is almost as exclusive in its membership as either of the others. In fact it generally represents as much wealth among its members as the two other societies combined.—New York Herald.

**Blotting Paper from Cottonseed.**  
The cottonseed hull is like the scale of a fish, and when it is treated it becomes pure cellulose. It is absorbent to a wonderful degree and will in all probability enter largely into the future manufacture of blotting paper, even if blotting paper cannot be made entirely from it.—New York Telegram.

**Their Only Use.**  
Little Boy—Mamma, mayn't I wear long pants?  
Mamma—What in the world do you want long pants for?  
Little Boy—So I can tuck 'em in my boots w'en it rains.—Good News.

### Soudanese Troops in Battle.

I was told a delightful story of one recent action in which the Soudanese troops took a prominent part. The enemy was under cover not far off, but the firing line of blacks were blazing away at him as fast as they could open and close their rifles. In vain their officers tried to stop them. The waste of ammunition threatened to become extremely serious, and their commanding officer, a Scotchman who had seen many fights with them, losing his temper, rode up and down behind the line cursing them with every abusive epithet in a fairly adequate vocabulary of Arabic invective, but entirely without effect. At last one of them happened to turn and discovered the beloved bey in evidently a very excited state of mind. He at once rose, ran back to him, and patting him reassuringly on the boot he said: "Don't be frightened, bey. It's all right. We're here. We'll take care of you!"

The Scotch bey, however, was equal to the occasion. He rode out through the line, and walked his horse up and down in front of the rifles. "Now," he said, "if you must fire, fire at me!" After this it is not surprising to read in dispatches that this officer has twice recently had his horse shot under him.—Contemporary Review.

### Jay Gould's Book.

Occasionally some person knocks at the door of Jay Gould's office in the Western Union building with a copy of "The History of Delaware County, New York, by Jay Gould," to sell. An impression exists in the minds of many people that Mr. Gould is desirous of suppressing this publication as completely as possible, and that he will pay almost any price to get possession of the few stray copies that are left. Residents of Delaware county are authority for the statement that several years ago an agent of Mr. Gould's scoured that county for these books and bought nearly all of them at fancy prices. Whenever a copy of this particular history of Delaware county is displayed in that county at the present day the older residents will advise the owner, "Just you take that down ter New York, an Jay Gould'll give yer thirty or forty dollars fer it." It is certain that nobody in Mr. Gould's office ever heard of his paying any such price for one of those books. And nobody is able to explain why Mr. Gould should want to suppress the publication, unless it is that he thinks there is too much sentiment in it for a man of his present reputation.—New York Times.

### The Unreasoning Crowd.

Speaking of the queer things to be seen on the streets, it is really astonishing how instinctively one person imitates another. A man with a passion for psychological research has been proving this by some experiments which are, to say the least of it, original. Going along about dusk the other night in advance of a small party of folk, he suddenly turned out into the muddy street, as if avoiding something in front. Unquestionably every person behind did the same thing in spite of the mire.

It isn't likely that they felt the full humorous force of the incident in quite the way he did, however, when they saw him face about and walk calmly back in the beaten path. The sheep went to all the trouble of jumping over a bar of dust, to be sure, but it would really seem worth while if human beings could think a little more independently and for themselves. The truth of it is, it is just this blind unreasoning herding together that leads to half the accidents and panics which are cropping up on all sides.—Boston Transcript.

### Antidotes for Snake Poison.

The effect of snake bite depends partly on the condition of the snake and partly on that of the person bitten and the part attacked. No effectual antidote has yet been discovered. Ammonia and permanganate of potassium will not suffice, although a solution of the latter will take away the poisonous property of the snake's venom if it be mixed therewith. Immediate amputation of a bitten toe or finger is the best course, as the delay of a few seconds may suffice to convey the poison into the patient's circulation.

If from the nature of the part bitten amputation cannot be performed, a very tight ligature applied after cauterization and sucking the part is the best course, and the administration of stimulants is generally recommended.—Quarterly Review.

### Rice and Wheat at Weddings.

Throwing rice and wheat at a wedding is a relic of an old Roman custom, and has probably been common in England since Roman times. Brand gives several authorities for it. Friend refers to the case of the bride of Henry VII at Bristol in 1486, when wheat was thrown upon her with the greeting, "Welcome and good luck!"

Rice is used similarly at weddings in India, and the substitution of this grain for wheat in our own country of late years may be partly due to that fact; but where wheat cannot readily become a substitute, naturally suggest itself as a substitute.—Notes and Queries.

### A Physician's Fees.

South Africa responds to modern innovations. A recent traveler in Kaffirland tells this incident:  
As we were up-saddling, there passed us a man driving a small flock of goats and several head of cattle. This was the husband of a lady physician who is ruining the practice of the local witch doctors, and he was taking home his wife's fee for attending a patient.—Youth's Companion.

### Not the Man in Question.

A laborer in a rough felt hat and long smock walked the other day into the Shakespeare library, and after looking attentively for some time at one of the custodians, went up to him and said, "I say, zur, be you Mr. Shakespeare as I've heerd'n speak of?" The custodian explained to Hodge that he was not the gentleman referred to.—London Telegraph.

### Don't be Hoodwinked

by dealers who pretend that they can sell Dr. Pierce's genuine medicines at less than these long established prices:  
Golden Medical Discovery for liver, blood and lung diseases, \$1 a bottle.  
Favorite Prescription (for woman's weakness and ailments), \$1 a bottle.  
Pleasant Pellets (for the liver), 25 cents a vial.  
Com. Ext. Smart-Weed 50 cents a bottle. Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, 50 cents a bottle.  
The genuine medicines can only be sold by druggists, at the above prices.

There are more ways than one to make a profit, even at "cut prices." Unscrupulous dealers tamper with the bottles, or refill empty ones—and such mixtures can be sold cheaply. But every bottle of Dr. Pierce's genuine medicines is guaranteed. If it fails to give satisfaction in any case, you have your money back.

Can anything else, at any price, be really as cheap?  
You pay only for value received. Something else, that pays the dealer better, may be offered as "just as good." Perhaps it is, for him, but it can't be, for you.

Oregon, Washington and the Northwest Pacific Coast.

The constant demand of the traveling public to the far west for a comfortable and at the same time an economical mode of traveling has led to the establishment of what is known as Pullman Colonist sleepers.

These cars are built on the same general plan as the regular first-class Pullman Sleeper, the only difference being that they are not upholstered.

They are furnished complete with good comfortable hair mattresses, warm blankets, snow white linen curtains plenty of towels, combs, brushes etc., which secure to the occupant of a berth as much privacy as is to be had in first class sleepers. There are also separate toilet rooms for ladies and gentlemen, and smoking is absolutely prohibited. For full information send for Pullman Colonist Sleeper leaflet. E. L. Lomax, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Omaha Nebraska.

### Nothing New Under the Sun

Not even through cars to Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Portland. This is simply written to remind you that the Union Pacific is the pioneer in running through cars to the above mentioned points and that the present through car arrangement is unexcelled. We also make the time. For details address any agent of the company, call on your nearest agent or write to E. L. LOMAX, G. P. & T. A. U. P., Omaha Neb.

The following item, clipped from the Ft. Madison (Iowa) Democrat, contains information well worth remembering: "Mr. John Roth of this city, who met with an accident a few days ago, spraining and bruising his leg and arm quite severely, was cured by one 50-cent bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm." This remedy is without an equal for sprains and bruises and should have a place in every household. For sale by F. G. Fricke & Co.

### Wonderful Cures

Dr. Miles' Nerve not only cures all nervous diseases, headache, blues, nervous prostration, sleeplessness, neuralgia, St. Vitus dance, fits and hysteria, but also builds up the body. "I am pleased to say that after years of intense suffering with nervous disease, headache and prostration, I tried Dr. Miles' Restorative Nerve, and in two weeks gained eight pounds in weight. I could not lie down to sleep, but now sleep perfectly easy, and am improving wonderfully. Cannot say enough for the Nerve." Mrs. L. E. MILLARD, Dunkirk, N. Y. One customer used Nerve and gained fifteen pounds in flesh.—BROWN & MAYBURY, Cortland, N. Y. Trial bottles and elegant book free at F. G. Fricke & Co.

The wisdom of him who journeyeth is known by the line he selects; the judgment of the man who takes the "Burlington Route" to the cities of the east, the south, and the west, is never impeached. The inference is plain. Magnificent Pullman sleepers, elegant reclining chair cars and world-famous dining cars on all through trains. For information address the agent of the company at this place, or write to J. Francis, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Omaha.

The Missouri Pacific will sell round trip tickets May 9 to 14 inclusive, to Portland, Oregon, the Presbyterian general assembly being held their May 19 to June 2. Tickets good until May 19 and returning inside 90 days at \$80, going via one route and returning via another. Apply at ticket office for particulars.

### The Handsomest Lady in Plattsmouth

Remarked to a friend the other day that she knew Kemp's Balsam for the throat and lungs was a superior remedy, as it stopped her cough instantly when other remedies had no effect whatever. So to prove this and to convince you of its merits any druggist will give you a sample bottle free. Large bottles 50c and \$1.

### Some Foolish People

allow a cough to run until it gets beyond the reach of medicine. They say "Oh, it will wear away," but in most cases it wears them away. Could they be induced to try the successful Kemp's Balsam, which is sold on a positive guarantee to cure, they would see the excellent effect after taking the first dose. Price 50c and \$1. Trial size free. At all druggists.

### German Baptist Conference

The German Baptist Conference meets at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 3 to 9. One lowest first class fare for round trip over the M. P. Tickets on sale May 30 to June 6, good until June 30.

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