

THREE AMERICAN DUCHESSSES ATTEND AN ELABORATE DINNER IN THEIR HONOR AT PARIS



The Baroness Von Andree, sister-in-law to Channey M. Depece, gave the most elaborate dinner of the season in honor of three American duchesses. No other hostess in the American colony has ever succeeded in getting these three together.

Fraud Record of a Negro School.
Of the fifty colored boys who were graduated from the Richmond Colored High School in the decade 1873-83, twelve have died. At the time of death one was a contractor, one was a professor of ancient languages in a college, three were postal clerks, and others, respectively, were an internal revenue collector, a candymaker and a preacher. Of the thirty-eight still alive thirteen are teachers, three are lawyers, two are doctors, two are journalists, five are postal clerks, one is a civil engineer, one is a clerk, two are bookkeepers, one is a bank president, and so on. Not one of the thirty-eight now living has ever fallen into disgrace.

WEALTHY PHILADELPHIA NEGRO WHO LEFT AN IMMENSE FORTUNE TO CATHOLIC CHURCH



The will of Col. McKee, who died a few days ago at Philadelphia, gives his fortune, the largest ever possessed by a negro in the United States, to Archbishop Ryan to be used in the construction of a Catholic Church, rectory and convent at McKee, N. J., and the building and maintenance of two schools for white and colored orphans, one in Philadelphia, to be modeled

Godless Florins.
Florins were first placed in circulation as a British coin in 1849. The first issue was speedily called in, however, for it omitted to declare that Victoria was queen dei gratia, "by the grace of God," or F. D. (fidei defensor), "defender of the faith." Even the threepenny bit and the farthing made this confession, and it was felt to be a shame that the bigger and more valuable silver coin should be so wanting in decency. The oversight was easily made right, but those florins became known to fame as the "godless" or "graceless" florins. Of course, examples of them are now rare, and worth far more than two shillings.—English Exchange.

No Tax Levy This Year.
No municipal tax levy will be made in Peterborough this year, the first time when such an incident was recorded in England.

New Line of Torpedoes.
The Portsmouth (England) torpedo school has devised a line of torpedoes to prevent submarine attacks.

FRANK R. STOCKTON, FAMOUS AMERICAN NOVELIST, WHO RECENTLY DIED IN WASHINGTON



Frank R. Stockton, author of "The Lady and the Tiger," "The House of Martha," "The Viceroy of the Two-Horned Alexander," and a score of other novels and juvenile books, passed away suddenly in Washington of hemorrhage of the brain. Mr. Stockton was born in Philadelphia in 1834, began his career by writing for Eastern newspapers, and later was for a number of years on the staff of Scribner's Magazine and St. Nicholas.

A Fatal Providence.
A Billville man who had obtained a pension from the government for having lost his voice as the result of injuries received in service, shouted "Hooray!" on the day his first pension money was paid to him. The pension was straightway called off, and now, in great dejection, he says: "It happened this way: Some of these meddlesome Christians got to prayin' for the return of my voice, and their prayers was answered at the wrong time!"—Atlanta Constitution.

CARDINAL SARTO SAID TO BE CHOICE OF THE POPE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR IN PAPAL SUPREMACY



Cardinal Giuseppe Sarto, Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, who is said to be the choice of the pope as his own successor, has never been an aggressive factor in church affairs and has always held aloof from quarrels of every kind, whether church or political. He lives a quiet, retired life among the people of his parish in Venice, visiting the sick, representing persecutions of every sort and preaching learned and eloquent sermons. The cardinal was born at Biese, northern Italy, in 1835. He was created cardinal in 1892, and has as his titular church in Rome that of San Bernardo alle Terme.

Finger-Touch Rings Great Bells.
Few persons who listen to the chimes of Grace church, New York, know that the ringer in the belfry is a woman, but that is a fact. The old system of chime ringing which required a corps of bell ringers with brawn and muscle went out long ago. Electricity killed it.

Secrets of "Romeo and Juliet."
Mrs. Gallup gravely tells the readers of "The Boston Transcript" that the play of "Romeo and Juliet" was the story of the love of Bacon's youth and early manhood, and the score of years between the time of writing the play and publishing the essay had filled his life with other things, yet those who have read the cipher story know that an inner chamber of his heart enshrined a memory of Marguerite.

Secretary of a Love of Rare Books.
Mr. Moody, the new secretary of the navy, is a connoisseur of rare books, his collection of works on law being one of the best in the country. He frequently prowls around the second-hand book stores and often picks up prizes which have been overlooked by other book lovers.

Secretary Shaw a Horseback Rider.
Secretary Shaw has taken up horseback riding in Washington and hopes to be able to join President Roosevelt, Secretary Root and Senator Lodge in their afternoon canter over the country roads.

MARK TWAIN AND HIS "ENGINE"

Unique Method of Propulsion on the Mississippi River.
Captain Thomas Bixby, under whom Samuel L. Clemens—Mark Twain—served as pilot and engineer on the old Mississippi river boat Swallow, has given in a New Orleans paper the following description of the engine of the Swallow:
"The craft was a little, shaky affair, which plied between St. Louis and Cairo. It had a stern wheel, a place for freight and passengers, a pilot house and a place on what may be called the pilot deck for the engine.
"That 'engine' went aboard when it was needed, and only then. It burned no wood or coal, but ate a powerful sight of grass. It was a large gray mule named Jerry, which worked a treadmill that propelled the boat. Samuel Clemens was chief engineer and pilot.
"He had a system of signals which was effective and ingenious. By pulling a cord he could raise a head of cabbage just out of reach of the mule. The 'engine' would start and begin to walk after it, and the boat floated majestically down or up the river, as the case might be.
"Without desiring to be personal, I will say that Jerry was one of the most intelligent animals I ever met. His voice was more on the order of a log horn than a whistle, being too much of a barytone for the latter. When Samuel wanted to whistle for a landing he just hit Jerry with a stick."
—Youth's Companion.

HADN'T RECKONED ON SPELLING

Would-Be Joker Who Went Up Against an Old, Old Game.
It is related that Dr. James Wise of Covington, Ky., is the victim of one of his own jokes, and that he is in half-mourning on account of it. From all the evidence that can be produced it appears that some time ago the doctor went up against an old game.
One of his friends met him and, producing a pencil, said: "Doctor, see this pencil? I can make it write any color I want to."
"Let's see you make it write indigo blue."
The owner of the pencil promptly sat down and wrote i-n-d-i-g-o-b-l-u-e.
Then the doctor tumbled and said, "That's pretty good. I'll just go down the street and try that on Theodore Hallam."
Down the street he went, looking for Mr. Hallam. He finally found him and, producing the pencil, said: "Theodore, here's a pencil that I can write any color I want to with."
Then the doctor gathered himself for a good laugh.
"Let's see you write eru," said Mr. Hallam.
The doctor smiled, picked up a piece of paper and started to work, and for ten consecutive seconds said nothing. Then he said swear words, and added: "I have forgotten how to spell that word."

JAPAN RUSHING TO BANKRUPTCY.

Island Empire of the East Has Been Recklessly Extravagant.
Frederick Taylor, a son of the late Moses Taylor of this city, known internationally for his work as an explorer was a passenger on the steamship Nord America, which arrived recently.
Mr. Taylor made a study of the Boer prison camps in Ceylon and Bermuda, explored the jungles of Borneo, visited the Malay Peninsula, and many points of interest in China and Japan.
Mr. Taylor had no very exalted opinion of the commercial integrity of the Japanese, especially when compared with that of the Chinese.
"It has been the experience," said he, "of all good sound banks in the far east and most, particularly of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, that in all their dealings with Chinese merchants for many years they never lost a dollar, while with the Japanese they lost thousands. During the time I was in Japan eight banks failed. The Japanese government is in financial difficulty, largely the result of undertaking the building of its own ships, the establishment of steel foundries, and the expenses of war with China. Unless there are early reductions of expenditures, Japan will soon be bankrupt. But in the matter of enterprise the Japanese are the Yankees of the east."
—New York Times.

How He Worked It.

"I don't see why they call you the star boarder," complained the fellow who always got the wing.
"That's easy," replied the other, in his copyrighted superior style. "I just twinkle-twinkle, and the landlady doesn't know what I am and lets me stay on blind faith."
Wanted to Be Prepared.
"Lady," said Meandering Mike, "would you give a starvin' man something to eat."
"Perhaps. But you are not starvin'."
"I know it, lady. But an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, ain't it?"
"Cyclists and Hens" Warned.
The church in Becken, a German village of about 1,000 inhabitants, has a notice board which bears the following legend in large letters: "Cyclists and hens are forbidden to wander around the churchyard."
A Nation of Fish Eaters.
The Japanese eat more fish than any other people in the world. In their meat-eating is a foreign innovation, confined to the rich, or rather to those rich people who prefer it to the national diet.
Knew What He Meant.
Teacher—What do you mean by saying that heat expands?
Pupil—I mean that when I am full of hot turkey and plum pudding I am bigger.
The world is always suspicious of fat philosphers.

PRINCE ALBERT, HEIR TO BELGIAN THRONE, WHO REFUSED TO LEAVE A POST OF DANGER



Prince Albert, heir presumptive to the Belgian throne, who visited the United States in 1898, and was entertained at the White House by President McKinley, is a nephew of King Leopold, and follows his father, the Count of Flanders, in the line of succession.

Justice Took No Chances.
The Goodland (Kan.) News publishes a story which has the essence of the bully west in every line. A lawsuit was being heard before Justice Robinson of Goodland. A point of law was raised, and for an hour the lawyers debated hot and heavy.
When they had finished the justice said: "Mr. Constable, I want you to search the plaintiff in this case and see if he has any weapons about him. I am ready to decide this point, but I won't have any shooting."
The constable made the search and then the court decided against the plaintiff.
Manufacture of Rifle Bullets.
The machine which cuts rifle bullets from rods of lead stamps them into shape by means of steel dies and drops them, finished, into a box at the rate of seven thousand an hour.
A Left-Handed Compliment.
Lord Amptill, governor of Madras, India, who is a big man physically, was paid a somewhat left-handed compliment the other day by the good people of a locality in southern India which rejoices in the name of Kumbakonam. At the railway station on his arrival a jail-made carpet was spread for him to alight upon which bore the figure of an elephant and under it the legend "Good morning, Jumbo," woven into the fabric.
Long Record of Army Service.
The Austrian army has an active general who is 95 years old. This is Field Marshal Lieutenant Baron Schwartz-Meiller, who has been an officer seventy-four years and fifty years a general. He is one of five officers still alive who marched with their luggage on their backs from Lemberg to Naples.

RUSSIAN GRAND DUCHESS, NIECE OF THE CZAR, SAID TO HAVE FIGURED IN AN ELOPEMENT



The Neue Zeitung, a sensational newspaper published at Vienna, states that the Czar's niece, the Grand Duchess Helena, who is twenty years old, recently eloped from St. Petersburg with a plebeian student.
The couple were on their way abroad, according to the paper, when they were captured at Warsaw.

Old Heated Terms.
The heat of 1783 was accompanied by some "horrible phenomena," including alarming meteors and a peculiar haze that prevailed over Europe from June 23 to July 20. The last half of June and the first half of July, 1806, exceeded anything remembered by the oldest inhabitants of England. The thermometer rose to 98 degrees in the shade. One Wednesday, July 13, was marked by so great a heat that it was known as the "hot Wednesday," the thermometer varying in places at noon from 90 to 101 degrees in the shade.
The Cheese Fly.
The common cheese fly is only a tenth of an inch long. It deposits about 250 eggs in the cracks of cheese, though, if not able to find this substance, it readily selects another.
Warsaw Has Largest Dome.
The largest dome in the world is that of the Lutheran church at Warsaw. Its interior diameter is 209 feet. That of the British Museum Library is 130 feet.
Honor Brave American Scientist.
The committee of the medical school of the Johns Hopkins university appointed to erect a memorial to the late Jesse William Lazear, who lost his life as the result of an experiment on the transmission of yellow fever, reports that sufficient money has been subscribed to erect a memorial tablet and to establish a library fund for the purchase of works relating to tropical diseases.
Holds Secret Society Record.
Col. Ernest C. Stahl of Trenton, N. J., is known to secret society people all over the land. He belongs to twenty-eight different organizations and has traveled from one end of the country to the other on business connected with one or the other of them. The colonel owns a prosperous newspaper published in the state capital of New Jersey.
Town of Many Inventions.
New Britain (Conn.) holds the record for inventiveness. Over 1,400 patents have been issued to 344 of its citizens.