SHE VISITED AMERICA

A LONDON GIRL LEARNS SOMETHING OF HISTORY AND OUR WAYS.

The Boston Tea Party Was News to Her. Slept on a Piano and Had Queer Dreams. The Shops and the Signs Interested Her, as Did the Baby Checking Annex.

When I engaged my "stateroom" in the comfortable steamship Catalonia, for Boston, I had never heard of the famous brew of tea in Boston harbor in seventeen hundred and something, but I have often thought since that it was perhaps a punishment for that shameful waste that America has never succeeded in brewing good tea, nor had I heard of Crispus Attucks, the martyred "colored gentleman," whose elegant statue stands in Boston park. Nor indeed did I know that in that free country "colored gentleman" is the American for African nigger. In fact, I did not, as the Yankees say, "know enough to come in when it rains."

On that memorable voyage I learned three things: 1. That you must not call the southerner a Yankee. 2. That you must not call the Canadian an American. 3. That the sooner I found out how I liked America the better.

It was night when I got to my "hall room," as the small room in a boarding house over the front door is called in America. I was dreadfully sleepy, and I supposed Mrs. G. noticed this, for she said kindly in her New England soprano:: "Why, my child, you look real tired. Won't you go right to bed?" Yes, indeed, I would, but I looked in vain for the bed. The entire furniture of the hall room was a beautiful birdseye maple piano—at least what I thought was a piano—a pretty writing bureau and a rocking chair.

"Let me fix your bed for you." And from the ledge of the supposed writing table she produced the magic wand, and in a trice "unwound my bed," spring mattress and all, but the piano had disappeared, likewise my writing table had revolved into a charming washstand, with a clear flow of water from the deep tank behind, which formed the solid looking upright of the bureau. The Irish "help" presently brought me in a large jug of "ice water" and some "crackers" and asked me if I would like some lunch. I thought she was a trifle previous, still I reflected that in this rapid land they might have adopted Alice in Wonderland's system of "breakfasting at afternoon tea and dining on the following day," but I afterward learned that any meal served after 10 p. m. is termed lunch. When I was left alone, I took off my walking boots and deposited them at the back of the door and proceeded to do my hair. Presently Mrs. G. came along and knocked at the door. "Excuse me, but would you mind taking in your boots. I can't be responsible for them out there." I explained that I wanted them brushed.

"Oh, my, but I'm afraid you'd wait awhile. My help wouldn't brush a pair of boots, not for the president himself. If you'll take my advice, you'll put these black leather boots away and wear a dress kid pair of half shoes with patent leather tips."

I soon fell asleep on the comfortable piano and dreamed that I was surrounded all over the bedclothes by little dishes of Boston beans, succotash and cream toast, and that I must not move or the piano would play "Home, Sweet Home." When I awoke, the first thing I did was to pull up the blinds and have a look out. The street was not a long one and quite straight. There was an "ice cream and drug store" right opposite, and in large black lettters on a white ground over the entire length of the building ran "Black eyes mended here." At the corner sat a colored gentleman, and his sign read thus: "Professor Monday. Shine, 5c.; varnish, 10c." He wore a tall pearl derby hat and a frock coat and was reading Town Topics, so he must have been a man of culture. I said that after lunch I would like to go out shopping. My companion at table d'hote offered to come with me and "show me around." As she had some commissions to do for "mumma," and as she could not come out till "ha'f p'st 3," she lent me the local paper to study, as she said there were wonderful "mark downs" going on.

When my friend had finished all her commissions for "mumma," and I had done my shopping, we went to the "drug department," and there, perched on high stools, we, along with hundreds of others, drank "ice cream soda" through a straw.

She declared that she had just the right change in her "pocketbook" and insisted that I should not pay for my first American drink. I was most amused when we took the "elevator" up to the boot and shoe department to buy "rubbers" to see the American men take off their hats in the elevator when ladies were present. It seemed almost absurd, as they retain them in the stores and "surface cars." The goods are displayed much more attractively in America than with us. Their enormous plate glass windows, which dwarf our largest, show off the rich brocades and "illuminated silks" to advantage. In a large store in New York they had as an advertisement at Christmas time the whole history of Columbus in life size tableaux in the windows. Inside the stores the "goods" are displayed on long low tables, with the prices distinctly marked. You can meet your friends and look "around" without being molested as to what you want by the "aisle manager"—shop walker. It is an excellent plan, for if you are left alone as you pass the "notion counter" you are sure to purchase some trifle. The American bric-a-brac is irresistible. There is another capital institution in a large "dry goods store up town." Mothers taking their babies there can have them checked on entering, along with their umbrellas and rubbers, and leave them in good hands in a large room arranged for the purpose. When the mothers have finished, on showing the number of the check the baby is produced. This pays well, as mothers are often driven out of a store by a crying baby.

On our way home—we walked, as I had put on my "rubbers"—I noticed that one bright sunny street was almost devoted to "candy stores," and they certainly were tempting. Fuller has many formidable rivals on the other side. Over these tempting stores almost every window showed a dentist's chair and his sign, and they seemed to do a roaring trade. A signboard in a restaurant caught my eye—"Meal, 25c.; square meal, 75c.; gorge, $1." And an undertaker's ran thus, "You kick the bucket; we do the rest."—Pall Mall Gazette.

In Black and White.

Rev. Sam Jones once preached to the colored people at Dyersburg, Ky. After the sermon a good old sister came to him and said: "Brother Jones, God bless you! You is the preacher for me. I understand every word you say. You preaches just like a nigger. You has a white skin but, thank God, you has a black heart."—Ram's Horn.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Continued from Page 4.

pen of the patriot, the will of the people was emblazoned in that sublime decree which fashioned a free empire from the province of a prince, and made an alien of a king.

For 118 years the old world in wonder and in awe has gazed on this stupendous experiment of self-government, this supreme test of the sovereignty of man. She has seen the heavens of history starred with the great names of the republic. She has beheld the exultation of patriot rulers to heights beyond the eminence of thrones. She has descried the hand of fame carve on her proud temples' loftiest domes in letters white as sun-kissed marble, the immortal names of Washington and Lincoln. Washington, "wearing the white flower of a blameless life before a thousand peering littlenesses in that fierce light which beats" upon the leader of a great people. Lincoln, with a heart so tender that every battle of the great rebellion was a personal crucifixion. The martyred president! Aye, a martyr long before the bullet sped which stilled his throbbing brain; for pity's quivering lips pressed close to his great heart had almost drained it of its blood. Majestic types of the republic these. Yet, pre-eminent and isolated as they stand, it is a splendid thought that these men were the product of the people from whose midst they sprang. The patriotism of Washington was but the reflection of that sentiment which warmed and inspired the humblest colonial heart. The serene fortitude of Lincoln during those dark days when the republic was rocked in the hot flames of civil war, was but the expression of 1,000,000 loyal hearts that beat in unison of hope, believing that the gathered darkness of the hour proclaimed the coming dawn.

The republic is no longer an experiment. Her granite walls are sentried by a spectral host. From Lexington to Appomatox their serried ranks extend. The silent soldiers of the state—our standing army of the dead!

You may exclaim; this is sentiment. So it is. Sentiment gives glory to the flag, and sparkles in the eye that looks with pride upon its tossing stars. Men bowed beneath that banner, and shed their blood that it might float unsullied in the sky, because to them it represented the republic which shall be; that ideal association of man with man, where the spirit of justice pervades all law, and every human relationship is instinct with its holy breath.

Sublime spirit of Justice! For ages thy luminous form was wrapped in a shadow, and man forgot thee in his prayers. Temples rose and vast cathedrals, the marble prisons of kings, who sought with gold to expiate their crimes. The fragrant incense of a thousand altars filled the skies, but thy name was voiceless on the lips of man. Kindle with sacred fire thy cold shrine, that we may worship in thy cloistered halls. From the gleaming heights descend and make the land of freedom thine abode; thy judgment seat of sovereignties and kings. In the white heat of thy perpetual presence crowns shall fall and thrones collapse, and all the nations of the earth shall bow the knee. God speed the day when every throne shall fall save one, thy thy throne, O Justice, eternal in the heavens!"

A New Marriage Law.

The wisest and strongest stroke that has been fearlessly hurled against the Roman priesthood since Victor Emanual closed the doors of the vatican, is the new marriage law in Hungary, which makes invalid any contract of marriage not performed by a civil magistrate, and imposes a $250 fine upon any priest who shall administer the marriage rites, unless the contract and ceremony shall have previously been consumated by a civil magistrate. The new Hungarian marriage law takes up all sides of the marriage and divorce question, and is worthy of consideration by all Americans. The Catholic church in this country ignores the civil law relative to marriage. Among other attitudes of defiance she does not hesitate to declare any marriage not solemnized by a priest adulterous, and in the sight of that church there is not a legitimate child of Protestant parentage in the United States today. The priests do not recognize our civil marriage law in the least, and in their usurpations of authority in this most important function of society, every one of them acts the part of a traitor, as much as Benedict Arnold ever did. If the people of Hungary, under the dominion of a king and a lineal inheritance of Roman Catholic teaching, can rise up and choke off the priest in the marriage ceremony, Americans ought certainly to throw off a similar yoke. Marriage is a civil contract, pure and simple, and should be consummated by the civil authority.—*Communication in American Tyler.*

HAVE you asked the newsdealer nearest you if he has on sale THE AMERICAN? If you have not already done so, ask him at your earliest convenience. But a few newsdealers apparently carry THE AMERICAN.

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Paps Connelly in the Pen.

DULUTH, Minn., Jan. 28, 1894.—Editor THE AMERICAN: The Rev. Fr. James E. Connelly was taken to Stillwater penitentiary on the 24th instant to serve his twenty years and three months sentence. Presto change: First priestly robes, then a jail bird's uniform.

Thus to justice one more crime is brought.
And a priest found guilty as we thought.
And although he was blessed by Rome,
A prison cell is now his home.

ZENITH.

STILLWATER, Minn., Jan. 27.—Father Connelly arrived here and commences his twenty years and three months sentence. Connelly goes to work in the binding twine factory

McNamara's Trial.

Bishop McNamara is being tried at Independence. There can be but one result if justice is done him, and that be an acquittal. He has been vilified and abused as no other man has been who has visited this city, and we hope Justice will cease being blind.

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Fifteenth Street Theatre.

Commencing with the matinee performance at the Fifteenth Street Theatre, Sunday afternoon, February 4, for an engagement of four nights and usual matinees, comes Gus Williams, America's funniest and most original German dialect comedian, in his last season's laughing success, entitled, "April Fool." Mr. Williams is at all times a welcome actor wherever he appears. As he is well known throughout the entire country, it is entirely superfluous to attempt to describe him further than to say that he is now the only German dialect comedian on the American stage. The supporting company is described as strong and capable, headed by the Midgleys—Sager and Fanny—a trio of very clever fun creators, for the past three seasons the hit of "Natural Gas."

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