

GOOD SHORT STORIES.

First Prayers.

William E. Chandler and Henry W. Blair, the New Hampshire statesmen, were bitter enemies for a time, but have become reconciled in a measure since the former's defeat for re-election to the United States senate, says the Philadelphia Times. Meeting recently, Chandler said to Blair: "I'm not feeling well this morning. Awful pain in my back—lumbago or something, I fear."
"Too bad!" said Blair, sympathetically. "When did it come on?"
"Last night," replied Chandler, "just as I knelt down to say my prayers."
"Too bad!" said Blair again. "Must be awful discouraging to have such a thing happen the first time you ever tried it."

No Doubt of Identity.

One morning a banker stepped into his office, says the New Yorker, and most effusively greeted his bookkeeper, who had entered his service just twenty-five years before, at the same time handing him a closed envelope with the remark:
"This is to serve you as a memento of the present occasion."
The grateful recipient did not venture at first to open the envelope, until encouraged to do so by a nod and a smile from his employer. And what do you think it contained? The banker's photograph—that, and nothing more. The bookkeeper was dumb for the moment.
"Well, what do you think of it?" his principal inquired.
"It's just like you," was the reply.

An English Joke.

London Answers prints the following, which may be accepted as a fair sample of English humor:
A Chapham young lady recently, on inspecting her drawing room, found the furniture and ornaments covered thickly with dust, and evidently they had not been touched that day.
"Mary!" she called the servant, "you haven't dusted the room this morning, have you?"
"No ma'am, I haven't; I am just decomposing."
"Decomposing! What on earth do

you mean?"
"Well, ma'am, I am just returning to dust."

Could Not See Them.

There is a citizen of New York, says an exchange, who decided to treat himself to a horse and a runabout. In every case he insisted upon knowing the attitude of the prospective purchase in relation to automobiles. "I don't want my neck broken daily," he would say.
There was a horse that suited him. "I can warrant him on the automobile question," said the Jersey farmer who owned him. "I will guarantee that he will pass a dozen an hour, all day long, and never look at one of them."
"Will you give me a written statement to that effect?"
"I will."
The sale was made. For once a Jersey farmer had told the truth in a horse trade. The horse was blind.

The Wrong Connection.

The bill clerk and the telephone girl were engaged. Sitting in front of the fireplace, they fell to talking about the happy time when they would be one.
From one little detail to another the talk finally drifted to the subject of fighting the fires in the morning. On this point the young man was decided. He stated it as his emphatic opinion that it was a wife's place to get up and start the fires, and let her poor, hard-working husband rest.
After this declaration there was silence for the space of about three-quarters of a second. Then the telephone girl thrust out the finger encircled by her engagement ring and murmured sweetly, but firmly; "Ring off, please. You have got connected with the wrong number."—Exchange.
Ohio State Journal:
"But, father," replied the erring son, "you know every young fellow has to sow his wild oats."
"Yes," answered the father, "but you ought to know when you have a big enough crop in."

The News of the Week.

(Continued from Page 13.)

August 7, says: The state department is advised by Minister Squires that the Cuban senate has authorized the executive to increase import duties to the following maximums: Shoes and boots, from 10 to 17 per cent; coal, 25 cents per 1,000 kilos; pine lumber, 40 per cent; stearine beef in cans, fresh beef, fresh mutton, salt beef, jerked beef, ham, herring, coffee, cider, beer, 50 per cent; hats, 60 per cent; butter, liquors, wine, 70 per cent; poultry, fresh pork, salt pork, bacon, lard, cheese, condensed milk, wheat flour, codfish, rice, alimentary preserves, eggs, beans and peas, onions, potatoes, olive oil, 100 per cent; common soap, 150 per cent; corn, 333 per cent.

A report from Wilkesbarre, Pa., of August 7, says: President Mitchell of the united mine workers, in an interview with a representative of the Associated press today, said with reference to the decision of Judge Goff in the habeas corpus proceedings against the miners in West Virginia: "The only thing to do now is to make an appeal to President Roosevelt for the pardon of the men in jail, and this will probably be done at once."

Major B. K. West of the commissary

department has written from Manila to General Wheaton, chief commissary, as follows: "I was in hopes that the closing up of the campaign in Batangas and Laguna would end the feeding of the natives, but such is not the case, although the camps have been broken up. The natives were left in a destitute condition, had been unable to plant new crops, all the old crops had been destroyed in the military operations and so the work has to go on. General Bell was in the city and I asked him about the number of natives he was feeding. He told me that in Batangas he was feeding approximately 250,000 people. In Laguna he could not give the exact number, but I judge from the quantity that we supply that there must be about half as many."

President Roosevelt has expressed his approval of the plan of connecting the United States and China by means of a cable across the Pacific ocean. As announced some time ago, the Pacific Commercial Cable company, whose president was the late Mr. Mackay, has made a proposition to the government as to laying this cable, and their proposal has been accepted, this government to fix charges and in times of war to have control of all lines.

Of the twenty-eight plants of the American Tin Plate company, operat-

ing 274 mills, fifteen plants, with a capacity of 129 mills, have been closed indefinitely. These suspensions have followed the refusal of the tin plate workers to accept a reduction in wages in order that export business to the amount of 1,500,000 boxes might be obtained.

The postponed coronation of King Edward of England took place on Saturday, August 9. A great deal of the original ceremony contemplated was omitted, and the number of visitors was greatly decreased.

A dispatch from Salt Lake City, Utah, dated August 8, says: A special to the Tribune from Helena says: "The Helena Independent, the oldest morning daily in Montana, has been sold to United States Senator W. A. Clark. The formal transfer will take place next Tuesday. It is understood that the purchase price was \$150,000, although this report cannot be confirmed. John S. M. Neill, who sold the paper today to ex-Governor Hauser, representing Senator Clark, gave a supper tonight to his old employees.

It is reported that a street railway consolidation will shortly take place in Omaha, when the Omaha Street Railway company will take charge of the three Omaha and Council Bluffs roads. A new power house is to be built and this, with other improvements, will cost about \$1,000,000.

Another important railroad merger has taken place by which the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway has combined with the Missouri Pacific. One of these railroads represents the Rockefeller interest and the other the great southwestern systems of the Goulds.

A cablegram from London, under date of August 8, says: Official announcement was made today that Austin Chamberlain, son of the colonial secretary, has been appointed postmaster general, vice the Marquis of Londonderry, resigned. The appointment of Sir William Hood Waldron to be chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster in place of Lord James of Hereford, resigned, because of ill health, also was officially announced today.

Recent reports from Rome say that the action of the Philippine friars in selling their lands to syndicates of laymen is disapproved at the vatican. The lands are considered to be church property, inalienable without the consent of Rome.

An Associated press cablegram from Berlin, under date of August 8, says: Prof. Uphues, the sculptor, by the emperor's direction, will go to Washington in October to personally superintend the erection of the statue of Frederick the Great. The execution of a bronze copy of Prof. Uphues' Potsdam statue of Frederick the Great has been begun and the sculptor also is having bronze statues of that work made for persons in America.

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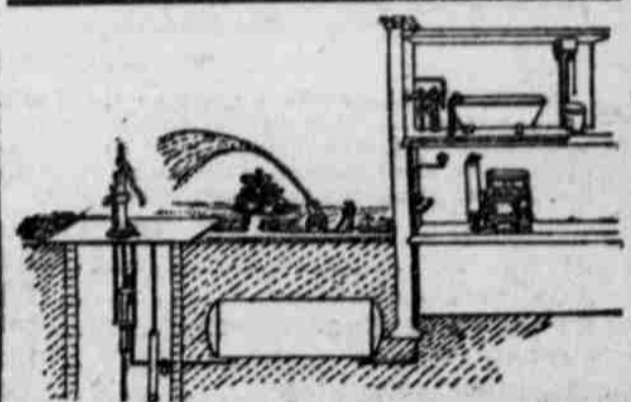
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