FICTION IN HISTORY

AMERICAN RECORDS IN PARTICULAR ABOUND IN ERRORS.

For Instance, There Were No Cotton Bales at the Battle of New Orleans, and Cornwallis Did Not Hand His Sword to Washington at Yorktown.

The fact that a large proportion of all the history of all the world is false is perhaps known to few people. That American history particularly abounds in errors, blunders and stereotyped falsities is known to even a smaller number. Walpole, wishing to amuse his father after an unusually wearisome day, proposed reading to him from a book of history. "Anything but history," said the old man, "for history must be false."

When it is considered that historians in every period of the world have been narrowed and biased by personal opinion and surrounding circumstances the wisdom of this remark is perceived. The worst part of it all is that when once a mistake has been made it has rarely been rectified, each succeeding historian being content to accept as facts the work of those who went before him. The ultimate result of this was that the mistakes were believed by those who read them, and events in history that never happened or were false were accepted by the world and ever after known as the markers of important epochs.

For instance, the battle of Lexington, which occurred April 19, 1775, is known as the first battle between the colonists and the British. But this was not so, for the records of Orange county, N. C., show that on the road from Hillsboro to Salisbury on May 18, 1771, an engagement between a squad of British troops and a body of colonists took place, in which thirty-six men were killed and several wounded. The trouble was caused by the resentment of the colonists over the illegal taxes imposed by the British clerk of the county court.

Historians persist in saying and people persist in believing that the breastworks thrown up by General Jackson at New Orleans were made of cotton bales covered with earth. As a matter of fact there was not a pound of cotton on the ground, and this fact has been verified by Major Chotard, General Jackson's assistant adjutant general, who was himself a participant in the battle.

A well known engraving that nearly always appears in modern school histories is that of General Cornwallis handing his sword to General Washington at the surrender of Yorktown, and this in spite of the fact that, to spare Cornwallis the humiliation, General O'Hara gave his sword to General Lincoln in token of surrender.

Possibly in the course of time the battle of Bunker Hill will be rightly called the battle of Breed's Hill, and, to return to ancient history, the marvelous chronicles of Herodotus will be discredited. It is told in history that Hannibal cut his way across the Alps with iron, fire and vinegar, but the question still remains as to how he applied the vinegar. The conflicting accounts of the life of Napoleon go to illustrate the discrepancies of many historical writers.

All have heard the words, "All is lost but honor," attributed to King Francis I. in a letter to a woman, yet when this letter was referred to for the phrase it was not to be found there.

And, again, when Louis XVI. laid his head beneath the guillotine his confessor, Abbe Edgeworth, dismissed him from the world, so history tells, with the beautiful viaticum, "Son of St. Louis, ascend to heaven." Yet in reality he said nothing of the sort.

The brave defiance, "The guard dies, but never surrenders," attributed to Cambronne when at Waterloo the imperial guard were ordered to throw down their arms, has been shown to have been the fanciful creation of some historian's mind, and the saying, "Providence favors the longer side," or, as it has been corrupted, "God is on the side with the heaviest artillery," which has been attributed to Napoleon, really originated with writers of antiquity. Cicero alludes to it as an "old proverb."

It would take volumes to contain all the blunders, small, large and indifferent, that historians have made, and the lamentable part of it is that the old blunders are constantly being made over again, so that, with the errors that are bound to occur in the history of the present and the mistakes that our forefathers made and which we are still making, history in time will become little more than a long though extremely interesting work of fiction.—Sunday Magazine.

What We Owe to Insects.

Professor Darwin said that if it had not been for insects we should never have had any more imposing or attractive flowers than those of the elm, the hop and the nettle. Lord Avebury compares the work of the insect to that of the florist. He considers that just as the florist has by selection produced the elegant blossoms of the garden, so the insects by selecting the largest and brightest blossoms for fertilization have produced the gay flowers of the field. Professor Plateau of Ghent has carried out a series of remarkable experiments on the ways of insects visiting flowers. He considers that they are guided by scent rather than by color, and in this contention he is at variance with certain British naturalists. Whatever may be the attractions in flowers to insects—as yet it appears undefined—it is certain that the latter visit freely all blossoms alike, making no distinction between the large, bright colored ones and the less conspicuous blooms like those of the currant, the lime, the plane tree, the nettle and the willow.

THUNDER.

Old Beliefs That Used to Exist In Days of Old.

Thunder, just because it is a noise for which there is no visible cause, has always excited the imagination of the unscientific, so it is natural that the most outrageous superstitions about storms should date back to the time when everybody, more or less, was unscientific. One old writer explains the belief of his day that "a storm is said to follow presently when a company of hogges runne crying home," on the ground that "a hogge is most dull and of a melancholy nature and so by reason doth foresee the raine that cometh." Leonard Digges, in his "Prognostication Everlasting" (1556), mentions that "thunder in the morning signifies wind; about noon, rain, and in the evening, a great tempest."

The same writer goes on to say, "Some write (but their ground I see not) that Sunday's thunder should bring the death of learned men, judges and others; Monday's, the death of women; Tuesday's, plenty of grain; Wednesday's, bloodshed; Thursday's, plenty of sheep and corn; Friday's, the slaughter of a great man and other horrible murders; Saturday's, a general pestilent plague and great dearth." After this the gay and lightsome manner shown by Lord Northampton toward these grave matters in his "Defensative" is most cheering. "It chanceth sometimes," he writes, "to thunder about that time and season of the years when swannes hatch their young, and yet no doubt it is a paradox of simple men to think that a swanne cannot hatch without a crackle of thunder."—London Chronicle.

A STUDY IN MILEAGE.

Almost Every Country Has a Standard of Its Own.

English speaking countries have four different miles—the ordinary mile of 5,280 feet and the geographical or nautical mile of 6,085, making a difference of about one-seventh between the two; then there is the Scotch mile of 5,928 feet and the Irish mile of 6,720 feet—four various miles, every one of which is still in use.

Then almost every country has its own standard mile. The Romans had their mille passuum, 1,000 paces, which must have been about 3,000 feet in length unless we ascribe to Caesar's legionaries great stepping capacity. The German mile of today is 24,318 feet in length, more than four and a half times as long as our mile.

The Dutch, the Danes and the Prussians enjoy a mile that is 18,440 feet long, three and a half times the length of ours, and the Swiss get more exercise in walking one of their miles than we get in walking five miles, for their mile is 9,153 yards long, while ours is only 1,760 yards. The Italian mile is only a few feet longer than ours; the Roman mile is shorter, while the Tuscan and the Turkish miles are 150 yards longer. The Swedish mile is six and a half times and the Vienna post mile is four and a half times the length of the English mile.—Pearson's Weekly.

Wonderful Monastery.

At Solovetsk, in the Russian government of Archangel, is the most remarkable monastery in the world. The monastery of Solovetsk is inclosed on every side by a wall of granite bowlders which measures nearly a mile in circumference. The monastery itself is very strongly fortified, being supported by round and square towers about thirty feet in height, with walls twenty feet in thickness. The monastery consists in reality of six churches, which are completely filled with statues of all kinds and precious stones. Upon the walls and the towers surrounding these churches are mounted huge guns, which in the time of the Crimean war were directed against the British White sea squadron.

Too Energetic.

"Last Saturday," said the flat dweller, "I went out into the hall and saw a woman on her knees scrubbing the marble very well, making it a beautiful dead white. I thought to myself, 'This is a good scrubwoman; I'll ask her to scrub my kitchen and clean my windows.' I did. She scrubbed all the paint off the floor of my kitchen and washed the panes of two windows entirely out.

"I was glad I didn't ask her to wash my face," she finished.—New York Press.

When Honeymoon Ends.

"How," said the young man who had been in the matrimonial game for nearly a week, "can I tell when the honeymoon is over?"

"It will be over," answered the man who had been married three times, "when your wife stops telling things and begins to ask questions."—Chicago News.

Social Danger.

So long as we have at the bottom of our social fabric an army of vagabonds, hand to mouth livers and slum dwellers, half starved, dirty, foul mouthed, so long are we in imminent danger. And it is want of work which makes recruits for this army.—Mirror.

Tart Retort.

"Young man, you are better fed than taught," said the professor angrily.

"Quite right, sir. My father feeds me," answered the student.—London Tit-Bits.

Generous.

"You said that when we were married you would refuse me nothing."

"I'll be still more generous. I'll not even refuse you nothing. I'll give it to you."

The first English work on anatomy was by Thomas Vicary, in 1548.

Commissioners' Proceedings.

McCook, Nebraska, February 7, 1907.

The board of county commissioners met pursuant to adjournment, present C. B. Gray, F. S. Lofton and S. Premer, commissioners, and E. J. Wilcox, clerk.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

On motion Geo. Wheeler was appointed overseer road district No. 20.

On motion the compromise in the matter of the personal taxes of the First National Bank of the city of McCook was accepted and the treasurer instructed to receive the taxes less the interest.

On motion the special levy of sewer improvements in the city of McCook was ordered prepared in a special book.

On motion the treasurer was instructed to take up and hold any registered city warrants that may be outstanding with any sinking fund he may have on hand belonging to the city of McCook.

The following deputy assessors were appointed to fill vacancies by the county assessor and confirmed by the board: W. M. Roxell, Coleman precinct; Wm. Vogt, Gerver precinct; L. A. Sheldon, Tyrone precinct.

The annual statement of the institute fund was examined and on motion approved.

The clerk having advertised that sealed bids would be received by the board for printing the delinquent tax list, commissioners' proceedings and legal notices for the ensuing year, the board proceeded to open and examine bids on file and after due consideration the contract for the same was awarded to the McCook Republican.

On motion the salary of Flora B. Quick, county superintendent, was fixed at $1,000.00 for the ensuing year.

The following claims were audited and allowed and on motion clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the county general fund in payment thereof as follows:

R. W. Devoe, 4th quarter salary	$ 50 00
McCook El. Lt. Co., lights for Jan	18 70
Howe Smith, salary for janitor	30 00
State Journal Co., supplies	79 00
Hammond and Stephons Co., supplies	50
L. A. Fitch and Co., livery	2 00
Burroughs Adding Mch. Co., adding machine	375 00
School Dist. No. 42, use of building for election	3 00
H. J. Arbogast, viewing body	10 00
L. W. McConnell, supplies	83 40
McCook Republican, printing	37 62
H. J. Arbogast, registrar	2 25
Phillip Gliem "	4 25
W. H. Smith, "	4 25
W. A. Middleton, "	10 75
E. G. Caine and Co., coal for Mrs. Morgan and Vandervoort, paupers	21 00
Barnett Lumber Co., coal for Mrs. Tuttle, pauper	4 00
W. C. Bullard, coal for Mrs. Tuttle, pauper	4 00
N. J. Urling, mdse. for Mrs. Vandervoore, pauper	92 02
N. J. Uerling, mdse. for Mrs. Morgan, pauper	16 50
C. B. Gray, services as county comm.,	12 00
F. S. Lofton, " " " "	13 60
S. Premer, " " " "	14 50

And on the bridge fund levy of 1906 as follows:

Barnett Lbr. Co., lumber	4 35
W. C. Bullard, "	8 00
L. B. Elmer, bridge work	4 50

And on the county road fund levy of 1906 as follows:

E. J. Record, road work	3 00
E. B. Nelson, " "	7 00
Joseph Junker, " "	6 00

Annual settlement of Edgar Couse, road overseer of district No. 15, was examined and on motion clerk was instructed to draw a certificate on the road district for $30.00.

The following official bonds were examined and on motion approved:

David Deveny, overseer road district No.	8
J. F. Black, " " " "	27
E. B. Nelson, " " " "	30
Henry Hall, " " " "	32
William Nicholson, " " " "	36

On motion board adjourned to meet Febuary 21, 1907.

Attest: E. J. WILCOX, County Clerk. C. B. GRAY, Chairman.

Real Estate Transfers.

The following real estate filings have been made in the county clerk's office since our last report:

James W. Hatfield and wife to the public, pat Hatfield park n 2 ne 4 and n 2 nw 4 and lots 2-3-4 in 34-3-29	
United States to David Boyd pat, nw 4-14-4-29	
United State to Henry L. Goodenberger pat, sw 4 21-2-29	
George A. Davis and wife to G. A. Richard wd ½ int e 2 se 4 34 and w 2 sw 4 35 in 3-26	$ 1,000 00
Guy A. Richard and wife to George A. Davis and wife wd, ne 4 3-2-26	1,000 00
James W. Hatfield and wife to Olive A. Green wd, blk 17 Hatfield park	400 00
Chris F. Bock and wife to S. L. Dalton wd, nw 4 24-2-26	5,000 00
United States to Amelia H. Finch pat, nw 4 14-3-26	
McCook Coop. B'dg. and Saving Assn. to Owen Murphy wd, 19-20 in 16 McCook	400 00
Hiram C. Rider and wife to E. E. Rogers wd, 18 in 18 Riverview cemetery, McCook	20 00
John F. Mahoney and wife to Taylor Ginther wd, blk 6 in Springdale park Bartley	1,400 00
Taylor Ginther to Eliza J. Ginther wd, blk 6 in Springdale park Bartley	1,500 00
James E. Ryran and wife to Frank H. Emrich qcd, ne 4 blk 8 Indianola	150 00
Leonard H. Roach to A. H. Rait wd, n 2 sw 4 and s 2 nw 4 12-4-30	1 00
Albert C. Elbert and wife to Ella M. Campbell wd, n 2 lt 5 in 22 1st McCook	300 00
James W. Dolan and wife to James Malleck wd, e 2 e 2 32-3-27	2,000 00
William P. Burns and wife to William Uerlings wd, e 2 sw 4 and w 2 se 4 4-2-28	4,033 00
Dennis St. German and wife to W. H. Ferguson wd, lt 4 in 5-2-29	1 00
Minnie B. Finity to Howard M. Finity wd, 12 in 21 1st McCook	1 00
Smith Bros. L. and T. Co. to Austin W. Dutcher wd, sw 4 6-1-30	800 00
Louis Fleischman and wife to John Real wd, 7 and 8 in 24 1st McCook	750 00
John Roelfs and wife to Regina Maisel wd, se 4 19 and e 2 and lots 3 and 4 of sw 4 19-4-27	4,400 00
William H. Cooper and wife to Herman Bohling wd, s 2 13-1-29	6,400 00
John Joy Robinson and wife to Mary J. Seymour wd, e 2 nw 4 and w 2 ne 4 7-1-30	1,600 00
United States to Silas N. Welch pat, w 2 ne 4 and w 2 se 4 29-2-30	
United States to Emily Lewis pat, w 2 sw 4 28 and e 2 se 4 29 in 2-30	
United states to Joseph B Armentrout pat, w 2 nw 4 28 and e 2 ne 4 29 in 2-30	
Fred S. Perine and wife to Carr S. Prime wd, ne 4 11-3-27	4,000 00
A. C. Ebert and wife to Wm. P. Burns wd, 10 in 25 2nd McCork	1,400 00
Richard Daily and wife to William Moran wd, w 2 ne 4 and e 4 nw 2 22-3-29	4,500 00
John Kummer and wife to Chas. Osterman wd, sw 4 13-3-29	4,500 00
William L. Zint and wife Sam'l D. McClain and wife to David Diamond wd e 50 ft of 13-14-15 in 21 McCook	2,000 00

CITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CHRISTIAN—Sunday school at 10 a.m., preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Rev. C. P. Evans will preach.

CATHOLIC—Order of services: Mass, 8 a. m. Mass and sermon, 10:00 a. m. Evening service at 8 o'clock. Sunday school, 2:30 p. m. Every Sunday.
J. J. LOUGHRAN, Pastor.

METHODIST—Sunday school at 10:00 a. m. Preaching by Presiding Elder C. C. Wilson at 11:00. The Lord's supper at 12:00. Junior League at 4:00. Epworth League at 7:00. Sermon by pastor at 8:00. Reception of new members at both services. Prayer meeting svery Wednesday night at 8:00. 110 present, February 20th. Second quarterly conference, Saturday night, at the church at 8:00 o'clock, February 53rd.
M. B. CARMAN, Pastor.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE—Services at Zint & McClain bldg, Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m., Wednesday at 8 o'clock p. m. Subject: "Mind." Reading room at same place open daily, where Christian Science literature may be had.

EPISCOPAL—Services on Sunday at 11 a. m.; Holy communion and sermon on third Sunday in each month; at 7:30 p.m. prayers and sermon. Sunday-school at 10 a. m. The rector will officiate. All are welcome to these services.
E. R. EARLE, Rector.

BAPTIST—Sunday school at 10:00 a. m. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Young people's meeting at 7 p. m.
A. F. GREEN, Pastor.

CONGREGATIONAL—Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m., by pastor. Christian Endeavor at 7 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday at 8 p.m. Sunday, reception of members in morning; lecture by Dr. Boyajian of Armenia on Armenia and her martyrs. All are cordially invited.
GEO. B. HAWKES, Pastor.

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER AGISTER'S LIEN.

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an agister's lien for pasturing and keeping of one bay mare about 9 years old and one brown mare with blaze face and one white hind foot about 9 years old, from the 11th day of November, 1903, until this date, under a contract with one John Hawkins, owner of said stock, on which there is now due the sum of $116.00, an affidavit setting forth the description of said stock and the amount due for the pasturing and keeping of said stock having been filed in the office of the county clerk of this county, being the county where said stock was fed and kept, on the 18th day of October, 1906, I will sell the property above described at public auction in front of the Citizens Bank in McCook, Red Willow county, Nebraska, on the 18th day of February, 1907, at two o'clock, p. m. Said sale will be for cash in hand. Dated this 30th day of January, 1907.

Witness to mark: H. H. BERRY. CHARLES ╳ T. HARRIS. His Mark. 2-1-3t.

NOTICE FOR BIDS.

Sealed proposals for the construction of a $10,000.00 brick library building, accompanied by $100.00 certified check, will be received up to 8:00 p. m. central time, March 8th, 1907, and opened immediately thereafter, by the secretary of the library board of McCook, Neb.—2-8-3t.
Address G. E. THOMPSON, Secretary.