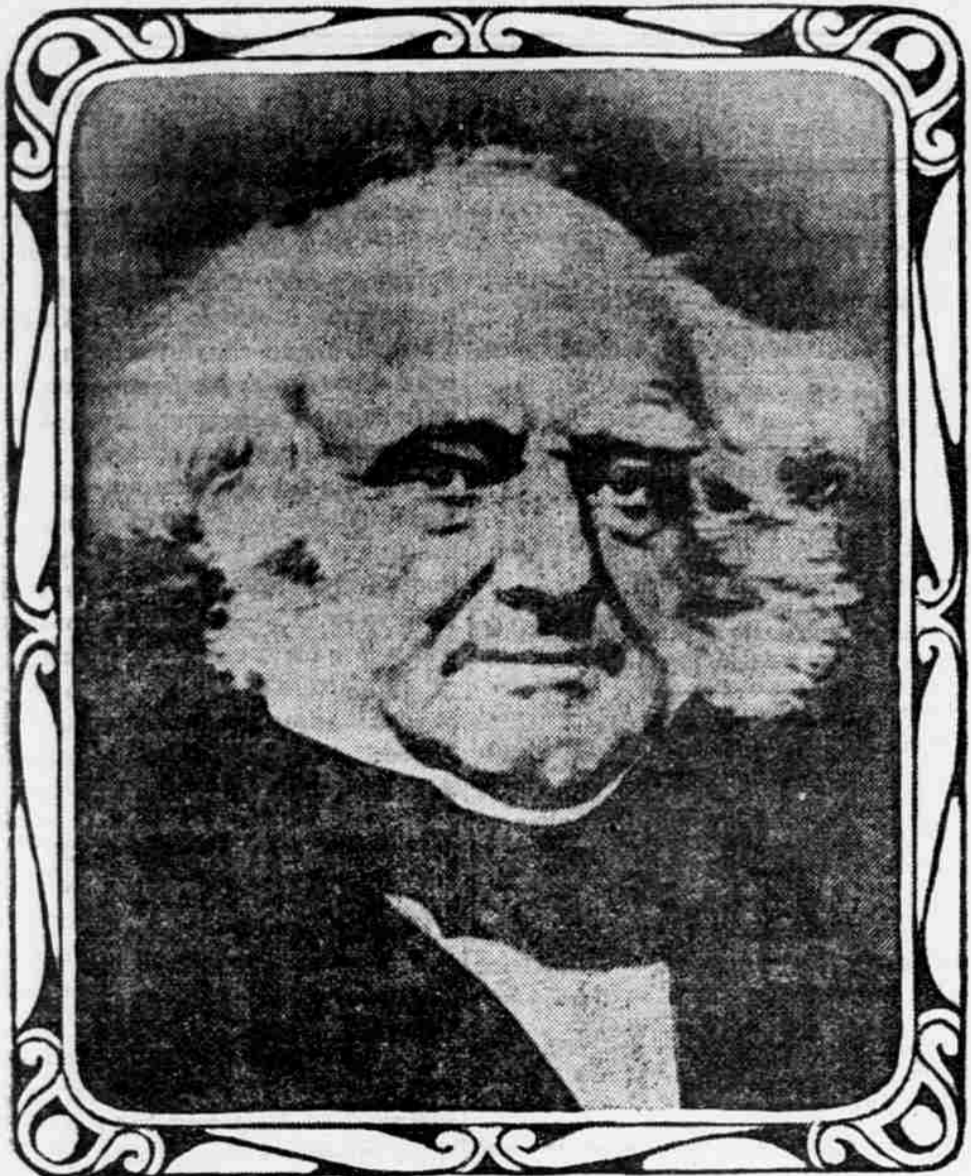


# OUR PRESIDENTS



MARTIN VAN BUREN.

The eighth president of the United States was a native of Kinderhook, N. Y. He became president in 1837 at the age of fifty-five and died at Kinderhook in 1862. Like his great predecessor, Jackson, he was a Democrat. He was secretary of state under Jackson for a time and was vice president during Jackson's second term. His administration was distinguished chiefly by the establishment of the independent treasury system for the care and disbursement of public moneys. Van Buren was a candidate for president at three succeeding elections, but suffered defeat each time.

## CHESSE CLOCKS.

There Are Specially Constructed Ones Used in the Game.

Hourglasses, or sandglasses, were formerly used for the purpose of measuring time at chess matches, but now specially constructed clocks are in general use for this purpose. These clocks consist of two clocks mounted on a common base, which moves on a pivot, the two clocks therefore being on the arms of a sort of seesaw. The beam, or base, is so constructed that when one clock is elevated it stands perfectly perpendicular, while the depressed clock lies over at an angle, but as the mechanism of each clock is so constructed that it only moves when the clock is perfectly perpendicular it follows that when the upright clock is going the depressed clock is at rest.

Another and more modern variety has the two clocks fixed on the same level, but with a small brass arm reaching from the top of one to the top of the other. This arm acts on a pivot and can be brought down into actual contact with one clock at a time by a touch of the finger. When it is thus in contact by an ingenious device the clock is stopped and the desired result is attained. The working of the clock during a match is simplicity itself. At the commencement of the match the hands of each clock point to 12. Then at the call of "time to commence play" the clock of the first player is started; then as soon as he makes his first move he stops his own clock either by depressing it or by touching the arm referred to, the same motion starting his opponent's clock. So it goes on during the entire course of the game, each move being marked by the stopping of one clock and the starting of the other.

## COUNTERFEIT BILLS.

The Check Letter Test on United States Currency.

The United States government prints its currency and numbers its bills in a series of four, so that every piece of paper money turned out bears one of the check letters—A, B, C, D. One of these letters is always found in two places on a United States bill, in the upper left hand corner and in the lower right hand corner. The placing of the letter on the bill is not determined by the number of the bill. The rule is to divide the last two figures on the note by four. Should the remainder be one, the check letter must be A; should it be two, the check letter is B; three, the check letter is C, and nothing, the letter D.

For example, I have before me a five dollar certificate. Its number is 81489730. The terminal number is 30. Divide by four. The result is seven with two over. The check letter is B.

Here is a yellow back gold certificate with twenty-three as its terminal number. Divide this by four, and we have five with three over. C is the check letter.

Should this rule of four fail to work on any United States currency note you may bet all you have that the money is bad. Some counterfeit bills are right to their check letters, but a great many are not so if the rule of four works. The bill may be still bad, but if it doesn't it is surely bad. This rule applies only to United States currency and not to national bank notes.—Minneapolis Journal.

## Spain's Buried Wealth.

The Carthaginians and the Tyrians regarded Spain as El Dorado. It is but a poor country today, but potential wealth lies in its rock bound hills, just

as in the days of the ancients. When those acquisitive mariners, the Phoenicians, first set foot in the country they exchanged their commodities, could neither contain nor sustain the load, though they used it for ballast and made their anchors and other implements of silver." So rich in silver was the country then that the people are said to have made their commonest domestic utensils of the metal and even their mangers. The Romans found that their greedy forerunners had sadly drained the precious store, yet enough was left to satisfy not a few proconsuls.

## The Truthful Woman.

It is no exaggeration to say that a more or less truthful woman is looked upon with grave suspicion. What is more, nobody believes her. If she quite truthfully pronounces her age to be twenty-nine everybody at once says then she must be at least thirty-five, while if she should ever be cajoled into admitting the number of proposals she had in her youth it will only confirm the popular impression that she had been very lucky to catch a husband at all.—London Ladies' Field.

## Force of Habit.

Redd—I see that man Finn has got an automobile.  
Greene—And it was quite amusing to see him the first week he had it.  
"How so?"  
"Why, every time he'd blow his horn he'd stop and look around. He used to peddle fish, you know!"—Yonkers Statesman.

## In Automobiledom.

Scientist—Light travels at the rate of about 187,000 miles a second. Chauffeur—Gee, that's goin' some! Auto Enthusiast (slightly deaf)—Pardon me, sir. But what make machine was it you just mentioned?—Bohemian.

## Her Cleverness.

She—Mary Graham is certainly a very clever woman, yet she has little to say. He—That's where her cleverness comes in. She leads a man to believe that she thinks he is worth listening to.—Pick-Me-Up.

## Adam and Methuselah.

A faithful student of Genesis for many years insists that Adam's age was not 930 years, but 930 moons, and, counting thirteen moons to the year, he died at a little over seventy-one years. By the same calculation Methuselah (969) was only seventy-four. "Otherwise," says the sage, "they would have required eighteen or twenty sets of teeth during their lifetime."—New York Press.

## A Breaker.

Mistress—Jane, have you cemented the handle on to the water jug which you dropped yesterday. Jane—I started to, mum, but, most unfortunately, I dropped the cement bottle.—Punch.

## Lame.

"The railroad wants to dig a cut right through our suburb."  
"And do they offer no excuse?"  
"Oh, they say divided outskirts will be more modish."—Washington Herald.

It is because it is always impossible to know how a woman will act, to grasp the workings of her mind, to pierce the veil that hides the innermost recesses of her soul, that she has held such complete sway over man. He can never definitely rely upon her.—London World.

## Reade's Eccentric English.

Reade's use of the English language, too, was eccentric, not to say ludicrous. In "A Simpleton," when he wished to signify that two people turned their backs on each other in a fit of temper, he wrote, "They showed napes." Describing the complexion of the New Haven fishwives in "Christie Johnstone," he says, "It is a race of women that the northern sun peachifies instead of rosewoodizing." In "Readiana" he describes a gentleman giving a lunch to two ladies at a railway restaurant as follows: "He souped them, he tough chickened them, he brandled and cochinealed one, and he brandled and burnt sugared the other (brandy and cochineal and brandy and burnt sugar being Reade's euphemisms for port and sherry respectively). While he was preparing his series of articles on Old Testament characters he read what he had written to John Coleman on one occasion and came to this startling passage in his argument: "Having now arrived at this conclusion, we must go the whole hog or none."

Coleman objected to this phrase. "You don't like the hog, I see," said Reade. "Well, it's a strong figure of speech, and it's understood of the people, but—yes, you are right. It's scarcely Scriptural, so out it goes."—Gentleman's Magazine.

## Bass Are Real Cute.

It is related for a fact that the reason bass jump—and it is common practice of the fish—is because they wish to acquire grace and strength in testing their ability against that of fishermen.

Several men who say they know what they are talking about point out that bass do most of their jumping during the spring and are especially active just before the open season begins.

At this time they may be seen doing long distance jumps, somersaults and side stepping.

One bass expert goes so far as to say that he spent an entire afternoon watching a three pound bass dragging a long willow sapling through the water and acting as if it were caught on a hook.

Leaping into the air, it would turn in a half circle as if to disgorge the barb, and then it would swim backward in an endeavor to snap the branch.

This fisherman asserts that what jumping the bass do during the summer is merely to keep in practice and not get stale.—Philadelphia North American.

## Improving Nature.

To "paint the lily; to gild refined gold," when taken in a literal sense, seem processes too absurd for serious deliberation. Flowers of unnatural hues, however, bloom in florists' windows, and the color green as applied to the carnation is no longer confined to the title of a book. But the Persians do even worse things in the name of beauty. They dress up their flowers, according to Mr. Willis in "The Land of Lion and Sun."

Persia is not a land of flowers. Zinnias, convolvulus, asters, balsams, wall-flowers, chrysanthemums, marigolds and roses are the principal blooms of the country.

The Persians, not content with the plain flower, cut rings of colored paper, cloth or velvet and ornament the bloom, placing the circles of divers hues between the first and second rows of petals.

The effect is strange. One, at first glance, supposes he sees a bouquet of curious and bizarre flowers of entirely new varieties.

## The Boomerang and Its Inventors.

The boomerang is a puzzle. One might think that the highest laws of mathematics had been laid under contribution in the perfecting of it. The convexity on one side, the flatness on the other and the sharp, knife-like edge on the inside of the convexity have the air of having been carefully thought out. Yet the people who invented this singular weapon cannot count higher than five and are destitute of all the arts and amenities of life. Theirs is perhaps the lowest plane of human life. Some people have assumed that the boomerang was the creation of an older and higher civilization, but for this there is no evidence. It must be the product of an age long empirical use of throwing weapons.—London Spectator.

## Sandy's Criticism.

A young Scotchman went to a London school of music, where he learned to play the violinello fairly well. On his return to his native village he gathered his friends together to hear his new instrument. When he had played one or two times, he looked up expectantly. After a slight pause his old grandfather spoke. "Eh, maun," he said, "it's a mairty there 'a snell w' it!"—Liverpool Mercury.

## He Knew.

Lady Customer—I wish to tell you how these shoes of mine are to be made. Shoemaker—Oh, I know that well enough—large inside and small outside.—Megendorfer Blatter.

## Pretty Bad.

Wife—Aren't you going to smoke those cigars I gave you? Husband—No; I'm keeping them till Tommy begins to want to smoke. They'll settle it!—Illustrated Bits.

## Authoritative.

"So you are going to leave your studio?"  
"Leave? No. Who told you so?"  
"Your landlord."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Self conquest is the greatest victory.—Plato.

## SPEECH OF PARROTS.

Do These Birds Understand What They Talk About?

Those of us who possess talking parrots are often asked the question, "Do you think they really understand what they say?" Sometimes I have been inclined to say "Yes," so striking has been the fitness of the birds' remarks; at other times, "No." When a bird has been carefully taught or has learned from his own observation a considerable number of set phrases and sentences, there are certain to arise occasions when one or another of his exclamations fits in happily with the conversation or circumstances of the moment. Some few instances of such coincidences (for every one of which I can vouch) may interest your circle of readers. Some years we were presented with a young green parrot. The bird must have been only a few months old, as she gave no sign of her red tail. This, however, quickly appeared, and Polly soon gave evidences that she was listening to sounds and learning to reproduce them. We now began to give her talking lessons by continually repeating over and over again set words or phrases and were soon repaid for our pains. Polly began to talk and quickly mastered a good many of her lessons. She added a good many self acquired accomplishments, such as cab calls, milkmen's and paper boys' cries and the cawing of rooks. Her piercing whistle would often cause the milkman to stop and look around, thinking the call was for him. Polly also learned to imitate the song of the canary. She would look up at her little yellow mate in her cage above and call her "Sweet, sweet, pretty little Dick; pretty little Dick."

On one occasion the dressmaker was ushered into the dining room and was startled by the bird exclaiming: "Hello! What's your name? What do you want?" She surprised a lady visitor on one occasion with the rather unusual inquiry, "Are you nice?" About this time I was suffering from a very painful complaint, and it would almost seem as if my suffering drew out the bird's sympathy, for on one occasion she said to me: "Hello! What's the matter with you? Are you quite well?" I replied, "No, not quite well, Polly," whereupon she replied, "Not quite well." She was once in the room where a member of the family was practicing singing and presently made the remark, emphasizing the last word, "What's the matter with you?" When signs of going out for a walk are apparent we are invariably and repeatedly bidden "Goodby, goodby," with the accompaniment of many kisses. Upon our return Polly inquires, "Where have you been?" and upon being informed usually replies, "Glad to see you back."

During last winter my wife was one morning putting up an old stove for Polly's benefit near her cage. On the half landing the bird watched her with great interest and presently said, "Do you feel cold?" "Count your blessings" was a phrase Polly found great difficulty in mastering, "Count your blessings" being all she succeeded in uttering and soon dropping this as too troublesome. However, after a time we tried her again. Now she drops out the "bless" and solemnly exhorts us to "Count your, count your—sins." A few weeks ago a servant was engaged in polishing brasswork near Polly's cage, and the bird immediately started talking to her. "Hello, Polly! What do you want? What's the matter with you? Are you quite well? Do you feel cold? Where have you been?" and much more. Eliciting no reply, she shouted out, "Why don't you talk?" and drew the retort from the woman, "Because I am too busy, Polly." Polly replied, "How shocking!"—H. Damm in London Spectator.

## The Gray Horse.

You may change a farmer's religion or politics, make him think he is rich and handsome or sell him a dog, but you will never make him think a gray horse is not a jewel. I read somewhere recently that gray horses were not up to the standard, or words to that effect. I never was so astonished in my life. I have always thought, and do now, that gray or white horses were the handsomest, toughest breed on the planet.

The celebrated Arabian horses are white or dapple gray. Famous generals in all wars have ridden white or iron gray chargers. Circus men select gray horses to draw the band wagons in street parades. A great packing company always selects Percheron horses, not so much for the color, but because their feet will stand traveling on the pavement better than any draft breed. It is said that Joan of Arc rode a milk white horse, and St. John the revelator saw a white horse in heaven (Revelation vi, 2). Half of the draft horses in Aroostook are white or gray, and another decade will see 90 per cent of them of that color.

## Value of a Cheap Acid.

In a vessel of platinum lined with gold some sulphuric acid hissed. "The vessel is costly, but the contents are hardly worth 2 cents a quart," said the chemist. "Yet you have no idea what a public benefactor sulphuric acid is. Without it, for instance, we could have none of the finer sorts of Fourth of July fireworks, and neither could we have any more war, for gun cotton, nitroglycerin, lyddite, dynamite—in fact, all the high explosives—could not be made without sulphuric acid. Without it we could have no coal tar dyes. It is this acid that releases the lovely colors locked in coal tar's black slime. Without it the farmers would have none of the wonderful superphosphate fertilizers. It is sulphuric acid that, poured on worthless old bones, turns them into a marvelous soil stimulant. Yes, this, the cheapest of all acids, is admitted to be the most valuable of all acids as well."—Exchange.

# The Only Big Show

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A million dollar menagerie, 3 big rings, elevated stages and quarter mile hippodrome track. The greatest amusement organization of modern times. A herd of big elephants; Daisy, the cutest baby elephant ever born to life; a sacred white camel; the only living black hippopotamus in all creation; a man-destroying Vlack Vark.

500 People. 10 Kinds of Music. 300 Horses.

## The Mighty Spectacle, "The Queen's Birthday."

With a monster ballet of 100 dancing girls. The cleanest and most honorably conducted show in the world. Every afternoon at 10 o'clock absolutely the greatest panoramic view of the largest free street procession ever brought together in an open air demonstration. Seven open dens of wild beasts, golden steam calliope and ten other kinds of music—free for everybody. Doors open at 1 and 7 o'clock for inspection of the menagerie; performances one hour later. Will exhibit at

McCook, Monday, Sept. 16. Excursion on R. R.

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We want boys and girls who want to earn money to solicit subscriptions to the Kansas City Weekly Star. Don't hesitate because you are young, as you can do the work as readily as an older person and we will pay you just the same. The Kansas City Weekly Star is the best known weekly newspaper in the west, and your spare time spent working for it will pay you handsomely, not in toys, watches or other small wares, but in cash. Write today for terms and full information.

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## LAMP CLOCKS.

They Were Quite Common in the Seventeenth Century.

Of the various examples that have been given of early specimens of the clockmaker's art not the least interesting are the several types of lamp clocks. One of these was of a kind quite common in the seventeenth century and consisted of a lamp burner placed at the base of a glass oil receptacle mounted vertically on a suitable standard. The oil reservoir had attached to it a scale facing the burner and showing the hours, beginning at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the lamp was to be lighted in winter, and ending at 7 o'clock in the morning. The lamp being lighted, the gradually descending level of the oil as combustion proceeded marked the hours.

The other device, of later origin, dating back to the beginning of the last century, utilized the same principle. It consisted of two communicating oil chambers, superposed by a clock dial. In one of the chambers was placed a night lamp to illuminate this dial, and in the other was suspended a float from a cord which passed around a small pulley. The latter was mounted on a horizontal axis ending in the center of the dial. The float of course descended as the oil was consumed and carried the index hand along with it, thus marking the hours precisely as in the case already cited.—Pearson's Weekly.

## His Wife Won.

A Georgia man who was unpopular in his community insured his life for \$2,000. He took the policy home to his wife and said: "Maria, here's a life insurance document for \$2,000."  
"Thank you, dear," said his wife. "How are you feeling today?"  
"Not well," he replied, "and I don't think I am long for this world, and when I die it is my wish that you devote \$1,000 of the money to defraying my funeral expenses."  
"Mercy on me!" exclaimed the wife. "Why do you want such an expensive funeral?"

"I'll explain. I'm well satisfied that nobody will attend my funeral, and I want to hire people to go at so much a head. I'm going out today and see what arrangements I can make for attendants on that melancholy occasion. If they won't come gratis, why, I'll hire 'em and give 'em an order on you for the money."  
He went forth and at nightfall returned with a dejected look.  
"Maria," he said, "it's no use. You can have the whole \$2,000. Just go to my funeral yourself."—Atlanta Constitution.

Daughter—But he is so full of absurd ideas. Mother—Never mind that, dear. Your father was the same before I married him.—Town and Country.

## H. P. SUTTON

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Rates: Daily during September and October to the Pacific coast and far west points at about half rates.

To the East: The low rate James-town Exposition tickets can be used for your autumn trip to New York, Boston and other eastern cities. These are the last cheap rates of the season.

## Late Autumn Trips West:

Low rate excursion tickets to Colorado, the Rockies and Big Horn mountains will remain on sale during September; the low rate round trip tickets to Pacific coast will not be on sale after September 15th.

## Homeseekers' Excursions:

See the west with its 1907 crops. Western farm lands, including irrigated lands, are constantly advancing in value, better locate now.

## Big Horn Basin and Billings District:

We run personally conducted cheap rate homeseekers' excursions to help you locate on irrigated lands at the lowest prices; they will double in value in five years. Join me on these excursions. No charge for services. Write D. Clem Deaver, Agent Burlington Landseekers Bureau, Omaha.

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