

## WHY THEY DID NOT GO

### REASONS MEN GAVE FOR STAYING AWAY FROM CHURCH.

**One Had a Grievance Against a Member and the Other Was Surfeited When He Was Young—Observations of a Country Minister.**

He was a young minister whose charge is in the country, and he was talking about the decline in church attendance.

"It is we preachers in the rural districts," said he, "who have a chance to get at the real reasons why people stay away. Of course, we have no data that would help solve the problem as it presents itself in the cities, but, being privileged in the country to talk to one and all, we get reasons at first hand. Some of them are interesting and when analyzed they are more likely than not to resolve themselves into personal dislike to churchgoing or to some one in the church."

"There was an old farmer in one district where I preached who had the reputation of never going to church. He was a peculiar old fellow who seldom had much to say, but one day I went to see him, and in the course of the conversation asked why he never came to hear my sermons."

"He was silent for a minute, and then said: 'I did go to church once, and I wasn't treated right, and I ain't been there since. It was when they was havin' revival up in the white schoolhouse, and things were getting pretty warm. I went there one night and sat next the window. After awhile they got to the shoutin' part, and one old woman got to rummin' up and down the aisle, shoutin' and askin' everybody to come up and pray."

"I sat there and looked on till I saw she was makin' for me, and then I looked for a way out. The window was open, and the first thing I knowed I was goin' out of it. As I struck the ground I heard old Elder Abbadusky, that sat right across the aisle from me, shout, 'There goes the devil out of the window.' Now I don't consider that a respectful way for one man to speak of another, and I never went back again, and I don't intend to till old Abbadusky goes to glory."

"One day I went to see another man who was a very good man, but never went to church. He was a Scotchman and when I asked him why he did not attend he said: 'Young man, if you keep on going to church the way you do now all your life, and if you live to be 100 you will not have been to church as much as I have.'"

"I asked what he meant."

"My father was a Scotch covenanter," he said, "and when I was a little shaver we used to go to church in the morning and stay all day. I would sit on those hard benches and listen to sermons that I didn't understand. My legs would dangle over the floor till they ached."

"If I went to sleep there was always a deacon or some one else to poke me in the ribs and whisperingly inquire if I wanted to go straight to hell. That was on Sunday."

"Then there were prayer-meetings during the week and one or two extras of different sorts between. There was always more church and more sermons when I would have given my boots to be out hunting."

"That thing went on from the time I was big enough to remember until I was 21. I made up my mind long before I reached the latter age that when it came there would be no more church for me, and there wasn't. I haven't been since. Now, really, dominie, do you wonder at it?"

"And," concluded the dominie, according to the New York Times, "I can't say that I did."

### PASSING OF THE CASCO.

**Ancient Filipino Craft that Lighters Will Soon Supplant.**

"The march of progress is undoubtedly going to be a great thing for the Filipino one of these days," said a man who got back from the islands not long ago, to a New York Sun reporter. "But one of the prices he's got to pay for it is the gradual wiping out of picturesque customs and traditions of many centuries' standing. A good example is the passing of the Filipino casco before the improved and wholly unbecoming lighter of western commerce."

"The casco is a craft for coast and river commerce, and at the same time the permanent home of its crew and commander, or patron, the former living forward and the latter aft. It is a long, crude-looking structure, hooded or covered with bamboo, and under the manipulations of expert boatmen is capable of rather surprising agility. Manila is not a city of good wharves, nor is Manila bay a deepwater harbor, hence when big ships arrive their cargoes must be lightered ashore, and this has been the casco's work for ages."

The larger cascos have a tonnage of from 20 to 100 tons and the smaller ones, or casquitos, of from 8 to 20 tons, and they range from 20 to 90 feet in length with a 12-foot extreme beam, and when loaded draw only 2½ feet of water. They are built of a light, tough wood grown in the province of Batang, which resembles teak and will last for centuries on land or water.

"Cascos are usually propelled by a bamboo pole eighteen or twenty feet long, in the hands of the husky Filipino river men. The poles are spiked and padded so the crews may place them against their shoulders to give force to their pushes. The crews number from five to ten men, and they and their families live almost wholly on

rice, fish, oysters, clams and shrimps. Their pay is a peso a day, about 50 cents. At night the bow is cleared and the deck spread with palm mats, and on these men, women and children lie down like sardines in a box."

### HOT WATER FOR HEATING.

**House Kept at a Uniform Temperature During Cold Weather.**

The supply of hot water for public heating systems from a central station is growing in favor in smaller towns and it would seem to be the ideal and most economical method of heating, even in large cities. The hot water is returned to the central station after passing through the radiators of the consumers, with a comparatively small loss in temperature.

One occasion in an Ohio town, with over two miles of mains, finds that the loss in temperature is only 35 degrees when water is sent out at a temperature of 190 degrees.

The temperature of the water circulated is modified to suit the weather conditions. When it is very cold the temperature of the water sent out from the central station is made higher, and the pumps which force it through the mains are made to work faster. In this manner a uniform temperature is maintained at all times, despite marked changes in the weather. The company guarantees to maintain a given temperature within 2 per cent.

Of course the freedom from dirt, ashes and other fire troubles are also desirable features. As the water is used over and over again the central company, particularly if the system is conducted as an adjunct of a power station, can furnish the service at a comparatively moderate price. In the latter case, says the Philadelphia Record, the exhaust steam furnishes nearly if not all of the heat required.

### LITTLE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO.

**Feats that Seem Easy that Cannot Be Accomplished.**

A man cannot rise from a chair without bending forward or putting his feet under the chair or outside of it. Many a man will back himself to give another a start of fifty yards in a race of 100, provided the man having the start hops all the way. But no runner, however swift, can give that amount of start to an ordinary man. For the first five yards they go at practically the same pace.

Therefore, the runner, to go ninety-five yards, would have to run more than twice as fast, and it would be a weak man who could not hop forty-five yards at a pace equal to twenty seconds for 100 yards and that would mean that the runner, in order to win, would have to beat all previous records.

If a man boasts that his penknife is particularly sharp, ask him to cut with one stroke of the blade one of those yellow ribbons, mostly of silk, which are around bundles of cigars. In 993 cases out of 1,000 the knife is not sharp enough to do this. It will cut through all the ribbon except the last strand and that will pull out long and the more he tries to cut it the longer it will pull out.

No one except a blind man, says the New York Herald, can stand without support of any kind for five minutes at a stretch, if he is thoroughly blindfolded, without moving his feet. If he does not move his feet he is pretty sure to topple over in about a minute.

### WAS ALMOST A HERO.

**Didn't Rescue Anybody, but Nearly Broke His Neck.**

"I know how it feels to be almost a hero," said a young man with a black eye, an arm in a sling and a patch of court plaster adorning his features. "I live near the Barrett residence at 40th and Pine streets, which was burned out the other day. I happened to know that Mrs. Barrett was ill in bed, but I did not know that she had been quietly removed by the back way to a neighbor's house before I arrived on the scene."

"When I got there a colored servant girl was out in the street pointing frantically to the upper part of the house, shouting unintelligibly and generally acting like a crazy person. The interior of the house was already in flames and I immediately jumped to the conclusion that her mistress was in danger of losing her life. Without waiting to question the girl I rushed into the house and in groping my way through the smoke succeeded in pitching headlong down the back stairs. I had satisfied myself, however, that every one had gotten safely out of the house."

"When I reached the street again, choking for breath and pretty well battered up," continued the young man, according to the Philadelphia Record, "the servant girl was still wringing her hands and screaming at the top of her lungs. I asked her what she was carrying on that way for. Pointing to a window on the top floor she wailed: 'See dat room up dere? Dat's my room, an' my two weeks' wages is in my trunk up dere burnin' up.'"

"Fatality." "When I began business," said the plutocrat, wearily, "I made a vow that whenever I had earned an even million I would quit."

"Why, you've done that many times over, long ago," said the other man, "yet you are still accumulating."

"That's the curse of it. Whenever I think I've made the even million I find on figuring it up it's either a little more or a little less, and I've got to renew the struggle."

People often wonder why a girl marries the most undesirable man of her acquaintance. If they knew he was the only one to propose they would no longer wonder.

## MINISTER TAKEN TO JAIL

**REV. MR. BENBROOK MUST ANSWER FOR SHOOTING.**

Wymore, Neb., May 16—Rev. S. C. Benbrook, who last night fired five shots at Dr. W. H. Johnson, was today taken to the county jail at Beatrice.

Rev. Mr. Benbrook talked freely of the affair with the officers after his arrest. He admitted that he was induced to take this action because of slanderous reports he believed had been circulated by Dr. Johnson concerning a young lady in the case, together with insinuations as to his, the minister's, own character in the same connection. Rev. Mr. Benbrook has been pastor of the Christian church here for the last six months, having come from Memphis, Tenn. Dr. Johnson is a member of the same church, being secretary and treasurer of the board of trustees. The minister took an active part in the saloon license question this spring and embittered a number of people. He was of a peculiar disposition, emphatic in his likes and dislikes and just as emphatic and impulsive in everything he said.

Mr. Benbrook is a native Mississippian, thirty-eight years of age. He is a widower with two children living, both of whom are in the south, their exact address being unknown. Dr. Johnson has resided in Wymore for a number of years and is an honored and respected citizen.

### FIND A MAN IN THEIR ROOM.

**Girl Students at Fremont Normal Given a Bad Scare.**

Fremont, Neb., May 16.—Two lady students at the Fremont normal school, Misses Kate and Maggie Laughlin of Axtell, Neb., received a fright on Tuesday night by having a man enter their room at the dormitory while they were asleep. When Kate Laughlin happened to rouse herself from slumber she stretched out her hand and it touched the face of a man with several days' growth of beard. The fellow warned her not to make a noise of any kind or he would kill her, but in spite of his command she emitted a loud scream. Her sister at once awoke and a night watchman hurried to the door. The mid-night intruder lost no time in jumping out through a window.

Yesterday afternoon a pair of bloodhounds were put on the trail, but they could not follow it with certainty. The rain had washed away the scent so that it was impossible for them to pursue it closely. It is still unknown whether the man who invaded the young ladies' room lives in the city or not. In order to make sure that no one rooming at the dormitory was responsible for the affair, every room was searched and all the students found to be where they belonged. The opinion is held by some that the guilty person was familiar with the dormitory building.

### ACCUSED OF HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

**Trial of Frank Keating Begins at Red Cloud.**

RED CLOUD, Neb., May 16.—The most important criminal case that has been in court here for some time was called yesterday, being that of the State of Nebraska vs. Frank Keating. This is a case of alleged highway robbery, in which John C. Rose, a highly respected citizen living in the north part of this county, was knocked down on a dark night last December and robbed of thirty dollars, after which the criminal was pursued for some time and finally made his escape. Shortly after this Frank Keating was arrested in Dakota county, charged with the crime and was brought here for a preliminary hearing and lodged in the county jail, where he has been confined ever since. The defendant will attempt to prove an alibi and has some fifteen witnesses in his behalf while the state has subpoenaed fifty-two. Warden E. D. Davis arrived here yesterday noon in charge of convict Thomas C. Shirley to give evidence. County Attorney Overman secured this witness by a habeas corpus proceeding and he testified to a confession by the defendant to himself of his being the guilty man. The defense is represented by Attorney John Potter of this place and has five or six witnesses from Dakota county. This is a distance of three hundred and twenty miles from here and it will be a heavy expense to bring them here to testify.

The jury in the district court here yesterday returned a verdict in the case of First National Bank of Omaha, against the State Bank of Blue Hill, this county, in favor of the plaintiff in the sum of \$919.39.

### Child Swallows Safety Pin

Fremont, Neb., May 16.—For some time past the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. C. Christensen, who live in Saunders county has been showing unfavorable symptoms but the cause could not be learned. The attending physician treated the case two weeks without results. Finally it was found that the child had swallowed a safety pin, which lodged in the throat passage. The pin has been taken out and the baby is getting better.

## IN A SEA OF FIRE

**SERIES OF FATAL EXPLOSION AT PITTSBURG SUBURB.**

### CARS OF NAPHTHA IGNITED

**TWO OR THREE HUNDRED THOUGHT TO BE INJURED.**

### TWENTY-FIVE KNOWN DEAD

**First Explosion Followed by Gathering Crowd, When a Second Envelopes Them in the Fiery Mass.**

Pittsburg Pa., May 13.—Word is just received of a terrific explosion of oil cars in the Sheraden yards of the Pan Handle railroad. The exploding cars took fire, communicating to other oil cars in the yard. The yard is reported a veritable sea of burning oil, tying up the entire Pan Handle system.

A second explosion occurred after a large crowd had gathered, the result being that between two hundred and three hundred people were caught by the explosion and flames, and all were badly burned. Many have died and the injuries of many others are expected to result fatally.

### AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE DEAD.

Sheraden, Pa., May 13.—A remarkable series of explosions between 4 and 7 o'clock this evening has caused the death of at least twenty-five persons, the burning and injuring of two or three hundred others, and a property loss that will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The explosion occurred in the yards of the Pan Handle railroad and at 8:30 o'clock tonight the yards are a fiery furnace of burning cars, naphtha oil and merchandise.

The cause of the disaster, from the meager reports at hand, was the explosion of a naphtha car, brought about by a leak in the car which communicated to a switchlight nearby. This explosion occurred about 3:50 p. m. Thousands of people, men, women and children, quickly gathered to look at the fire and were lined about the yard on the hillsides.

When all danger had apparently passed a second explosion of naphtha followed, far worse than the first.

The flames from the second car were thrown 500 feet into the air, completely enveloping the on-lookers. In an instant the scene was one beyond description. The air was superheated to a degree impossible for human life to exist in. Those nearest the exploded cars were caught and fell to the ground.

The clothing of those farther away was soon afire, and the victims ran frantically about, tearing their burning garments from their bodies and screaming for help.

### ENTIRE YARD ABLAZE.

In the meantime the fire had spread to other cars and in an incredibly short time the entire yard was ablaze. Several cars were quickly burned and the flames rapidly spread to scores of other cars.

The heat was so intense that firemen were unable to get anywhere near the scene.

The burning oil entered what is known as Cork Run sewer, and came out one and one-half miles below, where another fire started.

The burning oil was carried through the sewers to distant parts of the district, one of the results being an explosion in a pool room at McKee's Rocks, where hundreds of men were gathered. Four men were reported killed at this point.

At the scene of the explosion hundreds are lying around on the ground in all conditions of injury and death.

All the ambulances from Pittsburg and Allegheny, together with many physicians, was quickly started for the scene, and at the earliest possible moment the victims were taken to Pittsburg.

At Pittsburg all the hospitals are crowded with writhing patients and the morgue is full to overflowing.

### HORSE AND BUGGY STOLEN.

Wymore, Neb.—A horse and buggy owned by Lufe Pearl, was stolen from where it was hitched on the streets Saturday. Postal cards have been circulating offering a liberal reward for the arrest of the thief and the return of the property.

### THREATENS THE OFFICER.

Schuyler, Neb., May 13.—Ed Lackey, a mail carrier from this point to Wells, a country post office, was arrested in this city charged with carrying concealed weapons. After being placed behind the bars he made several desperate attempts to escape and, it is alleged, threatened several times at his weapon was taken from him to blow the officers head off after he was released from jail.

## ALMOST PARBOILED HIM

**OFFICER OF THE RORAIMA TELLS OF MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.**

New York, May 14.—James Taylor who was one of the officers of the Roraima, the Quebec line steamship which was destroyed in the harbor of St. Pierre, gives a graphic story of the tragedy of last Thursday.

"We experienced the greatest difficulty in getting into port," said he. "Appalling sounds were issuing from the town which was shrouded in darkness. All the passengers were up and some were trying to obtain photographs."

"Suddenly I heard a tremendous explosion. Ashes began to fall thick upon the deck, and I could see a black cloud sweeping down upon us. I dived, below and dragging with me Samuel Thomas, a gangway man and fellow countryman, sprang into a room, shutting the door to keep out the heat that was already unbearable.

"The ship rocked, and I expected every moment that it would sink. Outside I heard a voice pleading for the door to be opened. It was Scott, the first officer, and I opened the door and dragged him into the room."

"It soon became unbearably hot and I went on deck. All about were lying the dead and dying. Little children were moaning for water. I did what I could for them. I obtained water, but when it was held to their swollen lips they were unable to swallow because of the ashes which clogged their throats. One little chap took water in this method and rinsed out the ashes, but even then could not swallow, so badly was his throat burned. He sank back unconscious and a few minutes later was dead. All aft the ship was afire, and from the land came drafts of terrible heat. At last, when I could stand it no longer, I sprang overboard. The water was almost hot enough to parboil me, but a wave soon swept in from the ocean bringing with it cool water."

### CARRIED OUT TO SEA.

"I was caught in the receding wave, which was of tidal velocity, and was carried out to sea. Then, on the second return of the wave, I washed against an upturned sloop, to which I clung. A few minutes later I was joined by another man whom I learned was Captain Muggah of the Roraima. He was in dreadful agony and kept begging piteously to be put on board his ship."

"Picking up some wreckage and a tool chest, with five others who joined me, we succeeded in forming a rude raft, on which we placed the captain. Seeing an upturned boat I asked one of the five to swim out to it and bring it over so that Captain Muggah might have an opportunity to live. The man succeeded in getting the boat righted, but instead of returning he picked up two of his countrymen and went away in the direction of Fort de France."

"Seeing the Roraima, which had arrived in port soon after we anchored, making for the Roraima, I said goodbye to Captain Muggah and swam to the Roraima. Before I could reach it it burst into flames and put out to sea. I finally reached the Roraima about 2:30 in the afternoon and later was taken off by the cruiser Suchet."

Samuel Thomas, the gangway man whose life was saved by Taylor, describes a woman who was burned to death while she held her baby in her arms, protecting it with her own body from the fire that filled the air. The child was alive long after its mother had ceased to suffer.

### GIRL SAVES MINERS' LIVES.

**Warns Them in Time to Escape From an Explosion.**

Norristown, Pa., May 14.—The presence of mind of Miss Katie Henderson saved the lives of thirty men employed in the quarries at West Conshohocken from death or injury.

Miss Henderson resides a short distance from the quarry and as she looked from a window she saw that the roof of the powder magazine was blazing. The men at work in the quarry were not aware of their danger until she ran to the quarry and warned them, not a second too soon.

While the men and Miss Henderson were fleeing for their lives there was a terrible explosion and the air was filled with splinters, stone and dirt, which fell upon their heads.

### CONFESSION OF A MURDER.

**Springfield, Ill., Man Admits He Killed a Companion.**

Springfield, Ill., May 14.—John Polet, aged 22, of Granite City, Ill., today confessed to Deputy Sheriff Ryan that he murdered Charles Isaksson of Grafton, a fellow countryman and companion whose mutilated remains were found along the Chicago & Alton tracks at Springfield two weeks ago. Polet waived a jury trial and pleaded guilty. He was indicted today.

### GERMAN STEAMER IS LOST.

Va'paraiso, Chile, May 14.—The German steamer, Sakkarah, Captain Piening, has become a total loss at Huamblin island, off the coast of Chile. The fate of the Sakkarah's and passengers is not known. The cargo of the Sakkarah included \$1,500,000 in gold specie which was being remitted by the Chilean government. The Sakkarah left here April 24 for Hamburg.

## NEBRASKA NOTES.

**Beatrice is to have a golf club.**

An association of 125 farmers have bought and will operate a grain elevator at Blue Springs.

A bronze statue of the late J. Sterling Morton will be erected in Morton park, Lincoln.

Gov. Savage and staff will attend the launching of the battle ship Nebraska at Seattle July 4.

A hundred candidates were recently initiated at a meeting of the A. O. U. W. lodge at Lincoln.

The monument in memory of the Madison local soldier dead was unveiled Friday, May 16.

The Filley Baptist church was totally destroyed by fire which resulted from a stroke of lightning in the spire.

The Wymore High school has been advanced half a point in its ratings at the state university. The rating last year was 27½ points. This year it is 28.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jacobson and 14 months old daughter were burned to death in a fire which broke out in the Jacobson mill at Laurel. The Jacobsons lived over the mill.

A traveling representative of the Nebraska Telephone company had been at Brainard perfecting arrangements for a direct telephone communication between Brainard and David City.

Two new banks will be started in Lincoln in the near future. One of them with a capital of \$50,000 will be run by Lincoln citizens. Illinois capital will manage the other.

At the normal school of Peru the commencement exercises will be earlier this year than usual. The regular classes finish May 19 and the summer school begins May 26.

During a recent storm at Schuyler, lightning struck the Platte river wye on bridge, demolishing a pier and letting the end of a span into the river and starting a fire that burned three spans.

The railroad company has commenced the erection of a dipping vat for cattle at the stock yards at Long Pine, which will be the largest and most complete in this part of the state. It will be thirty-six feet long by seven feet wide and will be a boon to the cattlemen in this vicinity.

The Shelton cornet band which was organized last fall with a membership of sixteen, and all new nickel instruments has recently been uniformed with fine tailored suits. A band wagon is about complete and the organization will fill some prominent engagements.

Superintendent W. J. O'Brien and Assistant Chief Game Warden George Carter, arrived in Sydney Tuesday with a carload of fish which they planted in the river there. They also secured a large supply of Japanese gold fish from the Oberfelder lake at Lodge Pole which they took to the state hatcheries.

Rev. S. P. Benbrooke, pastor of the Christian church at Wymore, went into the office of Dr. W. H. Johnson and fired five shots at him without effect. Mrs. Johnson, who was in the office, grasped the preacher's arm and diverted his aim until her husband got away. Benbrooke was arrested and is in jail. Both men are prominent and the affair has caused a great sensation. The cause of the assault is not known.

Walter Lesh and Fred Hall have been expelled from the Lincoln school for attempting to delay the principal's letter that was written to the manager of an athletic contest in St. Joe, informing him that Lesh was deficient in his studies there and should not take part in the contest. Lesh learned of the letter and stopped its passage, took part in the contest for the Lincoln High school and won two events.

William Schmidt has brought suit against the city of Fremont to recover the sum of \$1,000 damages which he alleges was sustained by falling on a defective crosswalk in November last. His son, William Schmidt, jr., has brought a similar suit for \$5,000. He alleges that he was injured at the same time and place that his father was hurt and that his injuries are of a permanent nature.

The Omaha and Council Bluffs street railways are to be consolidated. The first step in the process being the addition of \$1,000,000 to the capital stock of the Omaha company, the total being \$6,000,000.

H. A. Mulliken of Fremont has returned from a trip around the world. He left home October 14. The principal points in Europe, Egypt, China and the Philippines were visited.