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People who manage Chattanooga, fair and the like, of course want to engage such speakers as will draw the biggest crowds, but there should be a line drawn on such men as Pitchfork Tillman of South Carolina. People who know him say he is honest, and he may be sincere, but he certainly talks like a ruffian and bully, favoring lynch law in the south. For the good of the south and the whole country, the less we hear of such men as Tillman the better.

The death of Samuel Spencer of the Southern railway again brings before the public the possibilities open to the American youth. Here was a case of an obscure clerk rising to a position which placed him at the head of some of the largest railway systems in the south. And he reached the goal by hard work and strict attention to business. President Spencer was recognized as one of the leading railroad men of this day, and he was also one of the staunch supporters of President Roosevelt in his fight for railroad regulation, both of his course would go a long way toward settling many of the difficult transportation problems.

John Sharp Williams, democratic leader on the floor of the house of representatives, calls this an era of "fictitious prosperity," but we in Nebraska know that never as a people have we been as prosperous as we are now. During democratic rule we always figured that when crops were good prices would be poor, but with proper republican regulation of the tariff laws, prices on farm products of every kind have never been more satisfactory than now. Our Nebraska farmers never accumulated as much wealth as they do now. Skilled labor was never paid as well, bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, all earn higher wages. Our merchants are doing an increased business, and we think figure on better profits. The only class of people not benefitted by the present era of prosperity are the men and women working for a fixed salary. Of course it is easier to get positions. Many railroad companies are raising the salaries of their employees. Living expenses are higher, and it is right the should. Congress at this coming election should raise the wages of such employees as postal and postoffice clerks, rural carriers, firemen, postmasters, department clerks and others. The present schedule of wages was established many years ago, and our government should set an example in dealing fairly with its employees.

Generally speaking the train service in and out of Omaha is excellent. The daylight arrangements could hardly be better than they are, but an improvement can be made in the service at night. One of the things especially needed is trains that will allow people from the interior of the state to spend the evening in Omaha and return to their homes after the theater. The Burlington now has such a train and people can spend the evening in Omaha attending the theater, or otherwise, and reach home as far as Lincoln in good season. The Missouri Pacific has a train which takes care of its patrons in the south, and these people appreciate the condition and reward the company by their patronage. A few years ago the Union Pacific had a similar train which was very popular, but it was abandoned because the eastern connections of the Union Pacific were slow and its train schedule was arranged to suit the convenience of the Iowa roads. For several months there has been a clamor for a restoration of this train. It would be of immense value to people as far west as Grand Island. The matter has been presented to the Union Pacific authorities, and by each department is pronounced "a good thing," but as yet no steps have been taken to re-establish the service. A midnight train out of Omaha on the Union Pacific just at present would be one of the most popular moves that railroad could make.—Omaha Bee.

## FICTION IN HISTORY

AMERICAN RECORDS IN PARTICULAR ABOUND IN ERRORS.

Two instances, 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 the world is false is perhaps known to few people. That American history particularly abounds in errors, blunders and stereotyped fables 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 16, 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 breast works 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.

Frequently 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 vaticum, "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 stronger side," or, as it has been corrupted, "God is on the side with the heaviest artillery," which has been attributed to Napoleon, originally 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 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 nature to insects—as yet it appears undoubted—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 bottle and the willow.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.  
Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing between C. F. Bennett and M. H. Helwig, by mutual consent, dissolved, and M. H. Helwig will continue the business alone. Settlement on all claims due or owing to the firm must be made with M. H. Helwig.  
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\$1,000,000 given for any substance injurious to health found in Calumet.

REFERRERS' SALE  
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to an order of the District Court of Platte County, Nebraska, duly made and entered of record on the 15th day of November, 1923, in a certain case, to-wit: In re: the estate of John Stroppe, deceased, the undersigned, being the executor of the last will and testament of the said John Stroppe, do hereby offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder, the following described real property situated in the county of Platte and state of Nebraska, to-wit: Lot Three (3) containing 21 acres in Section 16, Township 25 North, Range 10 West, of the 6th Principal Meridian, situated in Platte County, Nebraska. Terms of sale, cash, on hand, November 15, 1923.  
CHRISTIAN M. GRODINSKY, Executor.  
Dated, Nov. 15, 1923.

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Painful cleanses wounds, itches, itchy antiseptic, unequalled for cracked hands. Good for cuts. Sold by 20th Century Drug Store, Platte Center, Neb.

The Study of Medicine.  
The study of medicine is the study of man and of his relations to his environment. It is the broadest and most useful of all the professions. A skillful physician can find opportunity for the employment of his highest skill in a hotel as well as in a palace. He is alike welcomed by the king and by the peasant. The exactions of the physician's calling are more severe than those of any other profession. He must be content to hold all his personal plans for pleasure, profit or recreation subject to the exigencies of many others as well as of his own, so that his life must be less regular than that of other men. He belongs to the social fire department. He must often imperil his health, even his life, to save the health and lives of others. He must be content with a short life. But all these disadvantages are inducements to the man who desires to live up to the highest and noblest ideals.—From "Starting in Life," by N. C. Fowler, Jr.

The Finest English Odes.  
Among the many fine odes in the English language Macaulay has characterized Dryden's "Alexander's Feast" as the noblest, and Dr. Richard Garnett agreed with him in thinking it the finest ode we have. The full title is "Alexander's Feast; or, The Power of Music—an Ode For St. Cecilia's Day." Spenser's "Epithalamium," Milton's "Ode on the Nativity," Keats' odes "To a Nightingale" and "On a Grecian Urn" and Shelley's "To a Skylark" are all notable instances of this class of poem, and to them must be added, though their form is irregular, Wordsworth's magnificent "Intimations of Immortality" and Tennyson's "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington."

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## SMOKELESS POWDER.

Continuation of the Explosive That Has Conquered War and Peace.

What is this smokeless powder? It is the modern high explosive which has superseded the old style black powder, even as electricity has superseded gas, and which is used not only in the field for sporting purposes, but is used exclusively for the shoulder arms of the army and the navy as well as for the machine gun, the rapid fire gun and the huge rifles on the decks of our battleships and within the works of our fortifications. Practically it is nothing but a mixture of gun cotton and alcohol and ether, or acetone, or else acetone with gun cotton and nitroglycerine—the two strongest explosives known—and blended into a new compound which is at least double as strong as the common black powder, explodes without giving off smoke, and, once finished, not merely loses the dangerous characteristics of its dreaded ingredients, but is so safe that you might give a handful of the powder to a baby to play with. He might pound it with a hammer to his heart's content, or you yourself might place it on an anvil and bring a forty pound sledge down on it. It would merely squish like so much soap or putty. So commission proof is this powder that you might drop a house on a heap of fifty tons of it and it would not explode. So proof is it against explosion by fire that you might place a stick of cannon powder on a saucer in your bedroom, light it with a match and go to bed by a flickering, smoldering light, as if given off by burning fat. In short, you simply cannot explode this powder unless you go to the trouble of confining it, and even then you can explode it only by using a fulminate of mercury detonator.

The quickest way to picture smokeless powder is to dismiss all ideas of the ordinary black gunpowder so familiar to every one. The color of the modern powder is not black at all, but has the shade of dark amber. In the sense of a powder being finely divided solid, smokeless powder is no powder at all. It consists of a waxlike composition, the size of the "grains" varying according to the caliber of the guns for which they are designed. For use in revolvers, rifles and sporting guns the grains resemble the tiny perforated glass beads, of the sort used in old time needlework. For the machine gun, the rapid fire gun, the heavy rifles of battleships and forts the grains are cylindrical in shape, varying in size from a third of an inch to three-fourths of an inch in length to three-fourths of an inch in diameter and about two inches in length, each grain, in order to increase the area exposed to ignition, being perforated equidistantly and longitudinally with from one to six holes, big as knitting needles, depending upon the size of the grain.—A. W. Rolker in Apptopics.

A Mazy Judgment.  
He sat sunning himself at the door of his curio shop. A crumpled evening paper lay on his knee, and he peered fiercely at it through thick horn spectacles of a kind usually seen in pictures of village pedagogues. A thin young man with a flushed face shambled across the street and stood before him. "Could yer give" said the thin young man. Down fell the paper, and the old fellow began to lecture the appealing young man. "You've come to the wrong shop," he said. "Why, you oughter give me summat, instead of me you. 'Ere I sits all day, and sometimes I don't take a copper before I put the shutters up. But it's allus the same in this world—'im as 'as a shillin' gets it taken from 'im, and 'e who 'as a sovereign gets another sovereign from 'im. 'I 'aven't lived seventy year for nothin'." "Yes, but," "Oh, know! Why, there's dozens along 'ere bet' 'em more than customers, you bet!" "You won't let me get a word?" "I've told yer my opinion. Go to the church army. If there's anything in yer they'll let summat for you. Or try the unemployed camp. They seem to do fairly well there. Why, I'm forty years older than you, and I don't find things easy—out 'er pocket often on my job. 'Ere, waving the paper, 'who'd do wot for me? I know y'er've only a copper left—'ere I before, I'd be borrowin' an' 'alfpenny for this paper." Here he paused for breath. "I were goin'," said the young man, "to ask yer for a light."—Manchester Guardian.

Diplomatic Silence.  
When Franklin arrived in France he was somewhat astonished at the luxury, noise and bustle of the court of Versailles. The courtiers, who are by nature effervescent and volatile, made much ado over him. He was himself inclined to be taciturn. Vergennes, the French minister of foreign affairs, also was of a reserved, circumspect, uncommunicative nature.

The introducer, having presented Franklin, withdrew. The two statesmen, left alone, bowed to each other. Vergennes, with a gesture, invited Franklin to be seated and then waited. Franklin, however, said not a word. Possibly he wished to put his companion's gravity to the test—the French had always been pictured to him as so loquacious.

The French minister felt that he was on the verge of oversteering the rules of courtesy and hospitality. He therefore took out his snuffbox and invited Franklin to take a pinch of snuff.

Franklin complied, reflected an instant and took his snuff in silence. Vergennes, on his part, did the same, and then the compliment was returned. After a brief flash of silence Franklin rose; so did Vergennes, whereupon, after a farewell obeisance, they parted. This was the entire sum and substance of their first interview, which happily was to be followed by others of a more fruitful character.—Address of Frederic R. Coudert.

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I have just received a car load of fine California Wines and Brandies, consisting of the well known brands: Angelica, Ports, Sherry, Tokay, Riesling and Zinfandel—Also choice California Grape Brandy—The best know brand of Kentucky Whiskey.  
We guarantee all our goods to be absolutely pure.  
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As the Holidays are drawing near one naturally looks about for the best to be had for that season of the year. At our store you will not be disappointed as we are prepared to give the very best and purest goods that money can buy.  
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