

# Washington Letter

# On the Edge of the Cliff

# ELEPHANT AT THE TELEPHONE

Some Things of Interest from the National Capital—Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock Stops System of Fining Postal Employees as Means of Enforcing Discipline in Department.

By George Hamilton  
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UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA PRAISES PE-RI-NA.

WASHINGTON—Fining of employees as a means of enforcing discipline in the postal service—a system that has been in operation for many years, to be abandoned by the assistant postmaster general, Hitchcock, who has jurisdiction of all post office employees, after a year's observation has revealed that it is only a matter of time before it will be abandoned.

You may see today in any church portal in Spain the somber dignity of Velasquez; the stunner cast of countenance of El Greco; the intense and proud bearing of a Roman centurion, says the Nineteenth Century.

So perfectly is this elephant broken that he works by cues imperceptible to the audience. The leather raises his shoulders and the young bull strikes toward the telephone box, the receiver, ringing the bell, picks up the receiver, and long trunks holds it to his great, gap ear. Then he hangs it up with the suddenness of a flash.

The practice of subjecting 250,000 or more employees to the liability of being fined for making errors in handling mail or for misreading letters believed by Mr. Hitchcock to be a type of punishment rightly applied humiliating and degrading. As there is no definite schedule of fines applicable to specific cases of dereliction, the amount is left to the discretion of the postmaster general. A wide variety inevitably occurred in the relative amount of fines imposed by different officers. The system frequently led to mistreatment of the part concerned for fines.

It was on my way back from a temple walk, during which I had watched the sun sink into a bed of crimson jaspers, and the moon rise to find herself welcomed by every living creature that I came upon the crocheting girl, and heard her cry.

For something like two minutes this performance lasts. Yet it required a month of steady, hard work to break the elephant into this simple, address cue. More than 2,000 times, actual count, Barlow had to grasp Top's trunk, apply it to the receiver, and teach the circular motion of ringing the bell, by leading the trunk just as you might lead the hand of a young child when teaching it to read a simple text. More than 1,000 times the trainer had to lead the tip of the big receiver of the telephone to touch the hole to hold it to the receiver, and how accurately had to be on its mark. And when these details were mastered, it took more than 500 times the success of a young child when the crank and listening before you understood and knew enough to twist the crank without breaking it.

## NO DIVORCE SCANDALS TO BE PUBLISHED.

The report about the boys or young men sent out by the United States census bureau to collect statistics on divorce cases through the circuit of Pittsburg, Newport, New York and South Dakota. It was at once surmised that this meant taking the boys and scandal in every divorce case. Protest was heard by the census officials. The acting director of the bureau, Mr. Rooster, cut called upon to say:

I gathered that the man she was speaking to was for some purpose or other, on one of the ledges of the cliff, on 10 or 12 feet down. There were a few white, very thin, and a few of the cliff, wide enough, and a few of them, to take three or four people standing close. I gave no further thought to the matter.

## EX-SENATOR M. C. BUTLER.

Dyspepsia Is Often Caused by Catarrh of the Stomach—Persons Suffering with Catarrh of the Stomach and Peptic Ulcers Can Find Relief by Pe-ri-na.

Hon. M. C. Butler, Ex-Senator from South Carolina for two terms, in a letter from Washington, D. C., writes to the Perina Magazine, Co. as follows:

## INDORSERS PHONETIC SPELLING.

Charles A. Stillings, public printer for the United States government, has been notified of President Roosevelt's adoption of the phonetic or simplified style of orthography urged by Andrew Carnegie and the League of Educators and Literary Men, has enthusiastically endorsed the phonetic decision. In a letter to the president Mr. Stillings said that he recently had appointed a commission to revise the public printing office style.

## Training Dog Police.

The training of the young Newfoundland dogs by the New York police staff is one of the sights of the city. It takes place in the headquarters of the police on the quayside not far from the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Dogs and men enter into the exercise with zest, and it is usually a great sight to see the dog and his master.

## Mrs. Craigie's Address.

An amusing story of the late Mrs. Craigie, the noted novelist, was told the other day at the Author's club in New York. "When Mrs. Craigie was in America last year," said the editor, "she was invited to give the address at a certain meeting. She accepted the invitation, but her name, through some oversight, was put far down on the program, and she had to wait for an hour before she was called upon to speak."

## TO SEEK QUIET OF CLOISTER.

History will be repeating itself if the reports which reach here about Countess Marguerite Cascaia have any foundation in fact. It is alleged that the beautiful chainette of the Russian embassy is now retired from the city and has taken up her abode in a quiet cloister. At whose conveyance she was removed in the Catholic church some time ago.

## "Darling, I Would Come to You If I Could Jump."

was putting up at a cottage some doors from mine, and I looked at her almost silently, and then he flung out his working hand with a wide gesture, removing his cap at the beginning of it.

## TERRIBLE SCALP HUMOR.

Daily Affected with Sores and Crusts—Attended Down Behind the Ears—Another Cure by Cuticura.

## RELATES A QUEER EXPERIENCE.

A few days after Chester I. Long, of Kansas, had been elected to the senate, he returned to his seat in the house. He was talking to some members in one of the cloak-rooms, and after while the conversation switched to palmistry.

## "Was But a Harvard Rooming."

"Jim Wray, the Harvard rooming boy, was sailing with the Harvard crew in England. "I take no stock in your words. Your words remind me of that beautiful chainette of the Russian embassy, who was removed in the Catholic church some time ago."

## Will Return to America.

Will return to America, who lives in England with his well-expatriated father, has been visiting in Kentucky, and it is rumored that he is going to return to his country place in the blue grass state. Mr. Astor was accompanied by his wife, a daughter of Danby Langhorne of Charlottesville, Va.

## Gandhi Confession.

Mr. Gandhi, at dinner at Lenox said of a certain unkind action: "It was a logical action. There was no need for it. But it was not logical and reasonable in our treatment of others is not enough. A certain amount of kindness, or unselfishness, is thrown in as a concession we are cruel."

## Judge Gave Thieves a Tip.

The court does not want to know what you are doing, but it does want to know what you are doing in the morning, but as a matter of fact, it had left it on my dressing room table, and I was sure it was there.

## Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury.

Mercury is a powerful poison, and its use in ointments for the treatment of catarrh of the eye is a dangerous practice. It is a well-known fact that mercury is a powerful poison, and its use in ointments for the treatment of catarrh of the eye is a dangerous practice.

## Encourage you.

"Encourage you" cried the young man to the young woman. "Encourage you?" "The entire summer," he replied, "you accepted all my invitations to go automobile."

## Work for Woman Suffrage.

Mr. Arthur T. Workman, a prominent labor leader, has been elected to the office of the United States senator from New York. He is a strong supporter of woman suffrage.

## Monkey's Bite Fatal.

Though bitten twice by a monkey and nearly killed, the wife of a man, Mrs. Powell, of Bath, England, refused to part with the animal. She was bitten again, blood poisoning set in, and death from her fatal bite.

## Woman Confederate Officer.

An inmate of the Home for Needy Children in Richmond, Va. is Capt. Sally I. Tompkins, the only woman who received a commission from President Davis, of the confederate army. She was a captain in the 13th Virginia Infantry.

Did you ever hear of a man falling in love with a woman's intellect?