

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1924

"I AM READY—"

At a few minutes after eleven o'clock last Sunday morning, while thousands of people uttered fervent prayers for the health of one of their kind, God, in His infinite wisdom, whispered through the aeons of space:

"Come, my son, to Me. Long have you labored in My name for the peace and happiness of your brothers. No longer shall you remain on a bed of pain and anguish in your earthly home—so come to Me; I have reserved a place for you in My House, that Mansion not made by earthly hands, eternal in the Heavens."

To be born; to live and then to die—what more could any mortal wish for than this? To be great is to be misunderstood; and upon the Street of Death all men meet in common, and differences of opinion are forgotten in a reverent humbleness to the mystery of all life.

Thomas Woodrow Wilson, twenty-eighth president of the United States, acclaimed as one of the greatest educators and statesmen of this century, has gone to join Abraham Lincoln in the Great Beyond. His memory will linger with Lincoln's in the heart and mind of America. His soul has found the peace that he longed to establish among the nations of the earth; many of the simple tenets of his policy to create a Brotherhood of Man will someday be a reality.

"I Am Ready—" said the ex-president several days before his death. Truly, William Cullen Bryant, in his "Thanatopsis," clearly depicted the last days of Woodrow Wilson:

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

WE CAN AVOID DEATH.

The hand that once held within its grasp a pen and signed a document that sent a million men and boys to battle, is cold and lifeless, incapable of even twitching; the brain that once guided a hundred and ten millions of people and left its impress upon the whole world, can no longer think; the face that, but a few days back, looked out over a busy world and smiled or frowned, is stilled.

Death is king. It claims alike Wilsons, Lincolns, Smiths and Joneses.

Ah, but death can be frustrated! God has decreed that the thoughts and acts of men and women shall live even after the grave has claimed its own. Memory is an heritage of the Universe! To love and be loved; to live and, while living, fight for the righteous—these mortal attributes make human beings immortal!

It is not given to all of us to become Presidents; yet, over the length and breadth of the earth, whether we live in White House or hotel, mansion, or farm house, still we have the power to love and be loved; to be kind and to fight for the right.

"So much to do—so little time in which to do it." While we live we can express the beatitudes of life; we can prepare for our immortality. We can avoid death by living in the hearts of those who scan the heavens after we have gone.

THE TOWNSHIP PRIMARY.

The institution of the primary system in staging nominating elections for Bloomfield township has been heralded by many as a splendid thing. That it will bring out a more far-reaching voice of the people than the old caucus system did is merely conjectural. The period between opening and closing the polls, as compared between the primary and caucus methods, is in favor of the former; more people ought to express their views on any question through the primary system—whether or not they will, depends upon themselves.

History has proved that when one is really interested in a thing one will be sure to take an active part in it. Everybody in Bloomfield township should be vitally interested in the affairs of administering good government within its confines. The present township officials are to be congratulated for instituting the primary voting system.

A LOCAL PLACE OF HONOR.

As this is being written no one has announced his or her candidacy for an office on the Village Commission. You will remember that the terms of President McBride and Commissioner Bell expire March 19, when the annual village election will be held.

It has been said, and truthfully we believe, that Birmingham is far above the average community in collective intelligence. This means that THINKING people live here; could there be shown better evidence that Birmingham can properly conduct its municipal destinies than by the fact that INTELLIGENCE abides here?

The past two years have seen a decided absence of "mud-slinging" in affairs of Birmingham. This is a splendid thing. It remains for the new Commission to continue this policy of peaceful activity. An office on the Village Commission is one of honor and trust; it ought to attract the best citizens we have.

To be a member of the Village Commission, the highest honor that Birmingham may confer upon any local resident. Once elected, it remains up to the individual to

do his best; much good has been accomplished in the past by village officials, a great deal of good can be accomplished in the future.

The intelligence existing in the minds of our residents, if properly directed, can make Birmingham the best governed and finest community in the world. At such a state of comfort should we strive to attain—and we CAN if we WILL!

STIDGERITIS: A NEW WORD.

The Rev. William L. Stidger, a Detroit preacher, has aroused the antipathy of various and sundry politicians in his city because he has accused them of laxity of duty. Stidger's chief trouble seems to be in enforcing the Volstead Act. We wonder just how many of Stidger's own congregation do not drink. Personally, if we wanted to hear a tirade of remarks against present inadequate law enforcement, we'd probably attend Stidger's church; on the other hand, if we wanted a little real spiritual food we would undoubtedly put our contribution into the collection basket of a quieter clergyman's parish.

The treasures of the world are housed in art institutes and museums, where everything is quiet and assists in intelligent thinking; side-show barkers are never the ushers. Stidger thinks it all right to damn his fellow-preachers. Stidger may be on the right track, but, personally, we think that his actions call for a new word in the dictionary; therefore, we suggest that something like this be added:

Stidgeritis: a queer malady, originating in Detroit. Synonymous with conceit, egotism.

Muriel F. (Doc) DeFoe, editor of the Charlotte Republican, can never be seen without a red carnation in the lapel of his coat. When recently questioned about it, he replied: "It is merely a habit and, compared to the habits ascribed, or rather granted to most men, wearing a carnation is cheaper than the others, minus most of the ill effects." Right, "Doc." We, too, would rather have a bit of red on our coat lapel than at the end of our nose; nowadays, you know, putting the red on the nose often brings forth more than one carnation at a time—with the wearer entirely dead to the fact.

A good deal has been said and written about the problem of taxation. Perhaps the briefest clear solution to this perplexity can be attributed to Senator Royal S. Copeland, of New York, who declared "I favor reducing taxes for everybody—poor and rich; the way to reduce them is to stop wasting public money." Simple, isn't it folks? Just like an individual—if one would be prosperous he must save, not waste. Villages, cities, states, nations and even the world can be likened to mere individuals when taxation and thrift problems are discussed.

Albert B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, stands in apparent disgrace before his countrymen for the part he took in the alleged oil scandal. We wonder how many millions it would take to restore his boyhood mental wholeness. The treasury vaults of the world do not hold enough.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—
of Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up the Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

43 Years Ago.
July Bundel shipped about 600 sheep to Buffalo this week.

Miss Mamie Utter accompanied Miss Mary Ervin to the night and reports having had a most delightful visit.

Married at Mr. Clemens, Tuesday, February 8, Mr. John Allen and Miss Sue Rayner of this place. Good luck to the new pair.

School District No. 7 of Troy is out of debt and owns, perhaps, as handsome a country school building as you will see anywhere.

The Brownell Band have postponed their social and oyster supper until tonight (Friday) when it will be held at J. A. Bigelow's, the Masonic Hall for social chatting.

Frank Blankenside decidedly objects to furnishing his neighbors with wood without money or price. As he knows the party who is helping him, he is daily waiting an explosion that will destroy our peaceful citizens and hatch trouble in one of the British Isles.

Died on Tuesday, February 1, of old age and general debility, Flora, beloved home of Mrs. J. B. Rainey, aged 24 years.

It is "perfectly killing" to hear little "Gene Farman" spout Shakespeare.

Wednesday evening a large party of the young people tripped the light fantastic at H. G. Wheeler's.

Wm C. Reynolds, our local checker player, played several games by telegraph lately with Wm. H. Ray, train dispatcher of the D. G. H. and M. R. Y. at Detroit, in which our William lost two, won one and one was a draw. Next he played five games with Wm. Kane at the G. T. Junction, in which some talent won four games out of the five.

Miss McNeill, a lady who recently returned from Japan where she has labored as a missionary for the past four years, delivered a very interesting lecture at the M. E. Church last Sunday evening.

A petition with a hundred names has been sent to Sheriff Lewis soliciting the appointment of Humphrey Hickey as deputy sheriff.

Mrs. Lucy Gould is still confined to the house but father and mother are proud of the young Hiram, so named in honor of Mr. Bayley.

John Allen of Troy had a slight

IF I LAD WERE STANDING BY

By CHARLES S. KINNISON of Birmingham
IF I LAD WERE STANDING BY
If that day ever comes when I
Shall let my finer conscience die,
When I no longer feel the hurt
Of conscience, when with sin I flirt—
I've only but to look at Lad.
And realize that I'm his Dad,
To realize, once more, that he
With open eyes, is watching me.

Before I'd cheat to win the pelf,
I've only but to ask myself
Would I be willing for my boy
This kind of methods to employ,
When he becomes a man—and then,
I feel I'd turn to right again.
For I have dreams some day that he
A better man than I will be.

He Lad were always standing by,
I can't believe, I'd cheat or lie—
And should I pause ere I begin
To yield to what I know is sin,
And ask myself: "Would I be glad
This act of mine to tell to Lad—
Would I be glad to have him know?"
I can't believe far wrong I'd go.

I'd like to think that when I'm gone
My son could then look back upon
My record, as a thing that he
Could follow, with a conscience free.
Some day, that record shall be writ,
And I'd have him live by it.
Then I should build it now with care,
With all that's worthy, strong, and fair.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 15th day of January, A. D. 1924.

Present: Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate.
In the matter of the Estate of Thomas C. DeFoe, Deceased.
W. W. Master, administrator de bono non of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition, praying for license to continue in private sale the interest of said estate, in certain real estate, as described in the foregoing, it is ordered that the 15th day of February, A. D. 1924, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said Court at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate should not be granted.
It is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in five Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County, and in the ROSS STOCKWELL, Judge of Probate.
A true copy.
DAN MCGAFFEY, Register of Probate.

MORTGAGE SALE—Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made from Frank W. Wess and Mary Wess, his wife, of the Township of Troy, Oakland County, Michigan, to the First National Bank of Birmingham, Michigan, which said mortgage dated the 4th day of October, A. D. 1919, and is recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for the County of Oakland on the 9th day of October, 1919, in Book 12, Page 12, and is subject to the following conditions:

Mortgages on page 172 on which mortgage of \$10,000.00 was made to the said bank, and on date hereof for principal and interest, twenty-four months, and on the 1st day of January, 1924, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1925, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1926, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1927, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1928, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1929, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1930, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1931, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1932, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1933, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1934, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1935, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1936, the sum of \$10,000.00, and on the 1st day of January, 1937, the sum of 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