

THE FLAG

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1926.

DECORATION DAY

Originally established as a day for honoring the soldiers of the Civil War, the national Memorial Day has become an occasion for honoring the men who fought in all the wars. It has become an occasion for paying tribute to the spirit of sacrifice for a great cause.
The passions of the titanic struggle will finally enter upon the sleep of oblivion, and only its splendid accomplishments for the cause of human freedom and a united nation, stronger and richer in patriotism because of the great strife, will remain. As General James Longstreet, that great Confederate soldier who was one of the most distinguished generals of that conflict.
It is regrettable that, when the world looks back at the wars in which it has been engaged, it is apt to find that most of them were fought as the result of misapprehensions and misunderstandings. If the same issue had come up later, with more wisdom and experience to draw from, it would have been settled in some different way.
If the disputes of 1861 were to come up again now, the North would probably decide to buy out the slaves instead of freeing them by war, and the South would probably accept a settlement on that basis, rather than incur the terrible losses caused by such a strife.
Yet the glorious sacrifice of the soldiers remains just the same, even if the struggle in which they fought seems in the light of history to have been needless. They gave up everything for the cause, because what they regarded as honor and justice was higher than their personal comfort, safety and pleasure. That soldier spirit must exist among our citizenship in daily affairs, right here in the State of Michigan and in our village of Birmingham, if the American republic is to become a true democracy.

THE AGE OF RETIREMENT

Chauncey Depew had a 91st birthday recently, and the day before that occasion he met a lot of newspapermen at his desk at the office of the New York Central railroad, where he had been doing a regular day's work. Among various matters, he was asked his views as to what was the proper age of retirement.
"Never," was his prompt reply. "When you retire, you're through."
Mr. Depew's example shows how sentiment has changed among business men on the matter of retirement. It used to be a man's ideal to save up enough money so that he could quit when he got to about 60 years of age, and, as he supposed, enjoy himself for the rest of his days. But a lot of those that tried that plan found that they did not know what to do with themselves after they suddenly quit work. They found themselves absolutely lost without their former occupation, and they were far less happy than when they were digging at the job.
Some men of a philosophical temperament may be able to quit, and find enough pleasure in amusements and minor activities to keep their minds in a healthy condition. But the average American business man so formed the habit of depending on certain tasks that it is a risky thing for him to quit all at once. He is likely to grow old much faster than if he had kept hard at work, and had kept in touch with younger people by maintaining these activities.
The great majority of wage-earners and salaried men have to keep working as long as they can, feeling the need for all the money they can earn. Retirement is often forced upon them because their employers think they want younger workers. Those who are able to retain their jobs at an advanced age are probably happier than those who quit and depend upon relatives, even if the latter are well able to support them.

THE ART PRESERVATIVE

Printing has commonly been called "the art preservative." Perhaps some have not quite understood why such a term should be applied. They might get some suggestions by studying recent news from the excavators who are now finding such remarkable discoveries at the old Mesopotamian, illustrating the customs of the Sumerians about 5,000 years ago.
The relics of that time show a high state of civilization. It suggests that the people of those remote days were very much the same as those of present times, that relics are found of women's hand mirrors, vanity cases, manicure sets, etc.
In many respects it would be found that the manners of those times were equally advanced. How did it happen that a race which had acquired so much sophistication was blotted out until the memory of its days was almost obliterated?
The answer is simple: they did not have the arts of writing and printing. They made records in those days, consisting chiefly of marks on blocks of stone and other kinds of hard material. But such records are clumsy and inconvenient to handle. Civilization did not become permanent until the arts of writing and printing became common, by which people could record their achievements and ideas on something of the nature of paper, which could easily be handled and passed down from one generation to the next.
Printing is still the great art that preserves every form of human activity. If people in Birmingham form an organization to accomplish certain ends, it is the art of printing that tells the story about it, and keeps it going. Without the records spread by the art of printing through the newspapers, enthusiasm for public causes would soon disappear. And so would the records of uplift for the advancement and benefit of posterity.

WAITING ONE'S TURN

It is a quite common thing, when one is waiting in line before some ticket window or elsewhere, to see someone come up to a personal acquaintance pretty well up in that line, and ask such a one to buy the desired ticket for his late comers, or to take such a one to stand in a place at the foot of the line and wait his proper turn. But some folks always have a smart way of getting ahead of the general run of the public.
If a woman was hurrying home to look after a child or had some similar reason for haste, she could be excused for this cutting in. But a usual reason of uplift for no such reason. The people who thus take advantage give an impression of bad manners.
It is the mark of ladies and gentlemen that they would rather wait than show any trace of discourtesy. Those who are willing to take their regular turn, can get satisfaction at the thought that they possess better breeding. Of course, many people will do these pushing things as a result of mere thoughtlessness, and the suggestion to such that they are not manifesting perfect courtesy may lead them to avoid these ways in the future.

This placed o'er many a noble grave
When lies a soldier true and brave.
The flag we love so well.
How happy are they if they know
That over them its colors blow.
The flag for which they fell.
They fought for it in time of strife.
They loved it well through all their life.
The banner of the free.
And while they lie at peace and rest
Because they loved the flag the best,
It flies for you and me.

No matter what the years may bring.
The glory of our boys shall ring.
We'll honor them always.
Their graves will deck with lovely flow'rs
And pass with them the quiet hours
Of each Memorial Day.
—Beatrice McDonald.

SOME PURITAN CUT-UPS

Those who depend on the regular historical works of the school-book type no doubt have formed the idea that the Puritan fore-fathers (and fore-mothers, too) of New England were about as perfect as folks could be.
The iconoclasts have been at work again, however, and have dug up some old records which appear to show that human nature was about the same in the old days as it is at present. A recent writer quotes at length from the Massachusetts court docket of 1646, of which a few of the sample cases are given as follows:
Henry Walton fined for saying he would save leave hear a dog bark against his Reverend Colbeck preacher.
John Studley fined for stealing his master's ox and then selling it back to him.
Thomas Gray of Marblehead whipped for being over-keen in drink.
Philip Cromwell fined for not living with his wife.
Mrs. Griffith fined for swearing.
Sarah Parridge fined for wearing a silk hood.
Sarah Collins fined for railing at her husband and calling him a "pot-gutted devil."
Not so very different from some of the cases that are taken before Justice of the Peace Buck during the course of each year.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

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

Forty-three Years Ago.
Farmers are taking their road fences down. This is bad for the street cattle.
We will be obliged to also send all who kindly inform us of any local news in their vicinity.

Mrs. George Mitchell and Miss Maggie Crain visited relatives and friends at Sashabaw Plains last week.

Albert Kendall has recently opened a meat market in Royal Oak. A market is something the town has been needing for a long time.

Next Sunday, unless it rains, Dr. J. A. Chase of this place will deliver a free street corner sermon, "Robbing the Poor." The doctor is an earnest worker on the platform having spoken in all parts of the state with great success.

Mrs. P. C. Simons has our thanks for a bouquet of flowers and one-half acre of land in Birmingham Village.

Bourbon and rye whiskeys, wines and liquors of all kinds also pure Angelica wine, known for its medicinal properties—adv.

Edward White, Sr., fell from his cot-breaking gag one day last week and cut quite a cavity in his head, not picking up the reverence when he fell all right.

Dick Erwin, John Beddow and their ladies attended the circus at Pontiac last week.

Now Girls, look at the top buggy and see that it is not "Cloudy" before you start out.

The subject for debate by the B. H. S. Lyceum next Monday evening is "Resolved, that our protective tariff is the cause of the great monopolies. Chief disputants, H. T. Randall and E. R. Smith.

The following casualties occurred at the recent circus at Pontiac: E. M. Wooster, 180 dollars in notes stolen; Mr. Pearsall, father of Frank Pearsall, 15 dollars; Frank Jones, pocket in the eye. There were several other cases of loss.

Born to A. W. Campbell, a boy. Weight six and one-half pounds.

Twenty-five Years Ago.
Our marshal is blamed for not arresting drunken men for taking them off of the street. What is the man to do with them? Last week he was called up after the cars had stopped running to take a drunken man away from the center of town, then he was blamed for taking him to the edge of the village. Let the village provide a place to lock up those people that can do as they please in Birmingham.

People who have stone sidewalks are the only ones who are happy in our village just now.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a regular session of said court held at the Probate Office in the City of Detroit, Michigan, on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1926.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Wayne in Chancery. In the matter of the Estate of Susan C. Decker, deceased.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Wayne in Chancery. In the matter of the Estate of Luan H. Melroe, deceased.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Pontiac in and for the County of Oakland. At a regular session of said court held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, on the 5th day of May, A. D. 1926.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a regular session of said court held at the Probate Office in the City of Oakland, Michigan, on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1926.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
Notice is hereby given that a certain mortgage was made in the conditions of a certain mortgage in the County of Oakland, Michigan, by and for the use of Mrs. Adela B. Britton, his wife, of Royal Oak, Michigan, in favor of the First National Bank (now First State Bank of Royal Oak, Michigan). Our assignment of this mortgage was recorded in the office of the State of Michigan, on the seventeenth day of June, A. D. 1918, on which mortgage there is due the sum of Five Hundred and no cents (\$500.00) with interest at the rate of six per cent per annum.

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