

A DANGEROUS GAME

Written for The Ontario by Chas. M. Bice, Lawyer, Denver, Colorado.

The Lodge reservations, as they now stand, cannot be made a part of the resolution of ratification, and they should not be. Their effect would be to destroy the possibility of a real American participation in the League of Nations, and so, actually, to destroy the league itself. This the American people do not want, for they are in favor of the League of Nations; they will be quick to see through, and to condemn emphatically, the effort of these opponents of the league, who have failed to kill it with amendments to achieve the same end through so-called reservation.

Youngest Soldier in the War

A PEASANT SCHOOL-BOY OF BRITAIN. Enlisting at Fifteen, Fought Three Years For France.

Throughout France, from Paris to the humblest village, the eyes and hearts of a grateful people are turned at this time towards the tablets whereon are graven the names of heroes fallen in the field of honor. At such a time the splendor of glory lights up the humble house where was born the youngest soldier of the great war.

It stands in the village of Faouet in Brittany, among the gold and purple of heather and briar, not far from the Gulf of Morbihan, where the fishers of the place and their fellows from Senec, Triscoat and Arzdon spread their pink sails to the breeze as they set out for the sardine catch. Travellers are many in the Breton country these days, and they may not fail to visit the humble cottage where was born Jean-Corantin Carro, who volunteered at the age of fifteen and who died for France three years later.

His age made the lad a member of the class of 1920, and he could have awaited the calling up of the conscript to-day. But as soon as the war was declared he asked his parents to let him volunteer. They gave their permission, for his reasons were their reasons, too. They were Breton peasants they had already given two sons to the army, and they had not need of long deliberation before consenting to this new sacrifice.

The Motto Of His Life. The school teacher of Faouet, Monsieur Mahébeze, had one day said, "Life in itself is nothing if it is not richly filled," and this simple maxim wherein all mortality is ashured, struck young Jean-Corantin with the force of a revelation at a time when he was one of the best boys of the village school. He made of it his device, his rule of conduct, and his gratitude toward the teacher who had thus made clear to him the meaning of human existence, was infinite.

Origin of Some Modern Customs

REMOVING HATS AND GLOVES. Most of These Customs Date From the Days of Armor.

In polite society a man may under no circumstances shake the head of a woman unless his own be bare. This custom like many others, dates from the days of armor, when men wore iron gauntlets, which were removed before shaking hands not on account of any conventional idea, but for the best of reasons—that of avoiding do injury to an unarmed hand. And it is on this account that we see men struggling with their hats and gloves in these days, as if they were lived four or five centuries ago and not in a age when the cause for this unnecessary ceremony has been non-existence for generations.

Using Blank Cartridges

A third custom which comes to us from those days is that of firing "artillery salutes." When guns were used in the days before gunpowder was given up it was considered an act of great courtesy to any great personage who happened to arrive at your castle if you loaded all your guns with blank cartridges and fired them off as he approached. Your reason was the same as for removing your helmet—to show how perfectly you trusted your visitor by emptying your guns of their deadly contents.

On His Country's Altar

Alas, Jean-Corantin Carro was never again to see his Faouet. The best of masters had revealed to him the true meaning of human life. Feats of bravery at which his officer marvelled brought him promotion to sergeant and then to adjutant. But the epic beauty of this bravery he alone seemed not to realize and after two years with the infantry he held that he had not done enough for the more than the common soldier of Britain. He was troubled, more over, by a scruple. This adjutant of seventeen commanded fifty men, some of whom were double his age.

WOULD YOU LIVE LONG?

Then Follow the Example of Luigi Corvaro, the Venetian. Do you want to live past the century mark? If so, there are many systems which pretend to offer to their adherents the boon of long life, but the one which has best stood the test of time and experience is that of Luigi Corvaro, a sixteenth century Venetian who has been the inspiration of thousands of men and women. Perhaps the most distinguished of Corvaro's twentieth century disciples is Thomas A. Edison, who has repeatedly stated that he expects to live to be a hundred as a reward for his adherence to the regimen of the famous Italian. "If community should stop short and follow the teachings of Corvaro," said Edison on one occasion, "there is no reason why the life of the coming people should not reach 150 years."

It was 453 years ago that Luigi Corvaro died at his home in Padua, Italy. He was only 102 years old at the time of his death, but in a treatise written shortly before his taking off he explained that, while he did not expect to live long after passing the century mark, his untimely end would be due to the fact that he was born with a "poor constitution" and had not lived correctly in the first forty years of his life. Corvaro's wife, who survived him a short time, was well past the century mark when she died. Their only child, a daughter, was born with a constitution as good as her father's, and she lived to see her mother's seven children. Several of Corvaro's descendants adopted his doctrines, and lived to be very old, and most easily digested of foods, and to take these only in small quantities. At the end of a year he was rid of the ailments which had threatened his life. After that he began to experiment with various foods and quickly discovered that the palate is a poor guide. Many foods which tasted good were resented by his stomach. Gradually he eliminated from his diet everything that disagreed with him. He chewed his food thoroughly and always made it a point to leave the table before his appetite was quite satisfied. Fresh air and mild exercise were important features in his system. He avoided extremes of heat and cold, never permitting himself to perspire or freeze nor to become excessively fatigued, and he had his regular hours for sleep.

In reply to those who scoffed at his theories and who stood for "a short life and a merry one," Corvaro said simply and convincingly, "I never realized the world was so beautiful until I reached old age."

FROM THE MAN WHO TILLS

Written for The Ontario by Chas. M. Bice, Lawyer, Denver, Colorado.

The Farmer's National Congress has been in existence almost forty years in this country. It is made up of farmers—men who exclusively work on farms, who know the business thoroughly and who make a livelihood from tilling the soil. It has had a wide influence on national legislation. It is chiefly responsible for rural free delivery of mails, for railroad legislation that abolished open freight discriminations, for postal savings banks and farm loan banks and for parcel post. When this body asks for a legislative measure there is sure to be something practical contained in the request.

The Wearing Of Socks

If there is one thing presumably certain on this earth, in the opinion of most of us, it is that socks are essentially feminine, and that the special feature of masculine attire is a bifurcated garment. But nothing is further from the truth. To this day the majority of the male element of the human race, so far as it wears clothes at all, is skirted. And in past times not so very long ago, a gown down to the feet was the correct wear of respectable gentlemen. An anecdote told of St. Louis, King of France illustrates this well. That monarch was the stoutest of warriors, a man whom no one knowing anything about him would dream of assuming to be effeminate, but on one occasion he seriously offered to exchange costumes with a richly dressed female relative who had blamed him for wearing the imprudent garment. He usually attended to his duties in a suit, but she thought his gown was to plain for her, so declined the offer. Now it is impossible to imagine a man like Louis ever suggesting such a thing. He was the best of men and women had not been practically identical, except for war and hunting. And from this eminently practical custom our present ideas on the subject have evolved. The military salute constitutes what some soldiers call "going through the motions" and the meaning of it is that you would be ready to unpin out of politeness if the exigencies of the moment did not forbid you doing so then.

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SHE WHO LIVES FOR ROMANCE

Should you discover that your sweetheart has "fingers of medium length tapering gradually toward a narrow tip, with medium thumb, you have found one who lives for romance. The girl seldom cares how much your income is, but only "Do you love her?"

THE "Clinging Vine"

Finally, there is the tiny handed girl with a small thumb—a little piece of softness that makes your heart go pitter-pat when you hold it. It is hard to tell, but there is an old saying that a small thumb woman cannot keep a secret, and she will never shoulder burdens—the true and rightful "clinging vine" sort. Who ever saw a large handed woman demanding homage? It has always been the small hand that has been kissed with headed knees—for the simple reason that the large and long-handed woman "wouldn't stand for it." She would laugh, and that would spoil the tableau.

Sahara Desert is Not Dry

It is one of the widest beliefs that the Sahara is perfectly dry. As a matter of fact it rains there, animals and plants live there, and it is inhabited by close on half a million people. It is certainly a very dry region, but throughout the Sahara Desert there are wells and oases which supply plenty of water.

A Woman's Character Is Shown by Her Hands

The third type is something like the first, but there is quite a difference when it is carefully studied. Should she have square tipped fingers rather long but the knuckles rather prominent, with a good sized thumb that is flattened at the top—be careful how you speak. Common sense is the watchword of this woman, and her word of honor the second.

As this woman loves good taste, she will at all times prefer to hear what you have in mind, in a manner showing your respect for her mentality. Her own mind is evenly balanced, thoroughly developed, and at all times strictly conventional. To interest this woman you will have to tell her your business, your prospects and your hopes for future success. Sometimes she is called cold, hard hearted, unloving, and unsympathetic. But this is not so. She simply commands her own emotions, making them subject to her will, and even when she lives devotedly, seldom allows the reins to fall from her practical hands. Constant, practical, sensible and homelike, this woman proves her worth in the end. If her hand is exceedingly long and supple, she will work and slave

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Schemes are on foot, in fact, to cut a road right across the desert, enlarge these wells and oases, and generally cultivate a region which has really got its bad name because it had been allowed to run wild for centuries. Round the wells grow fig trees, apricots, peaches, grapes and date palms, which, with very little care, would bring a wonderful profit.

One of the greatest troubles, however, the French, who have a protective over the Sahara, have to face is the people who live there. Like the country, they are wild and absolutely unscrupulous not hesitating to rob and murder any traveller who attempts to cross the desert.

To the writer of sonnets there is a secret satisfaction about being anonymous that is far sweeter than fame.

Chas. N. SULMAN

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