

HOW TO BOOM A PAPER.

THE BOSTON "STANDARD" AND HOW IT WAS STARTED.

The Biggest Record on its First Issue of any Newspaper in the World—The Meeting That Gained it Circulation—A Bonus for Cranks.

Boston, April 2.—Dr. S. F. Smith is a retired clergyman, 86 years of age, and he lives at Newton. Some years ago, he wrote a hymn and set it to the tune of God Save the Queen, and by some strange chance it became the national anthem of the United States.

Mr. Smith had no idea that it would attain such widespread popularity, and that it would be accepted by the people as a national anthem never entered his mind. A great many others think he had good reasons for his opinions at that time, for I do not suppose that there ever was a national anthem which so many would like to have consigned to oblivion. The fact that it is set to the British national air has a good deal to do with this feeling, but there are a great many who think the words are not particularly inspiring.

But it would be as well perhaps to say right here that what these people think or do not think does not count, for the old man has innumerable admirers without them, and tomorrow will be honored as few men have been.

The afternoon and evening will be giving over entirely to exercises of a patriotic nature in Music Hall, and Mr. Smith will be the lion of the occasion. The governor, ex-governors, state and civic dignitaries will be there to do him honor and talk patriotism, and Mr. Smith himself will tell how he happened to write the hymn. He has told this story more times than I would care to estimate. I have heard him tell it on at least a dozen different occasions, and I do not hold the record by any means. But no matter, his story is always received with great enthusiasm and the venerable author is always considerable of a card at any patriotic meetings.

There was a patriotic meeting a few evenings ago at which there were present the authors of at least three national airs, and it is generally believed in Boston that if some of them had known what the real purpose of meeting was they would not have been there.

A new daily paper was to come out next morning, as the organ of a class which, no matter what else may be said of it, is very numerous in this part of the world. And it is generally supposed to be composed for the most part of provincialists. I refer to the American Protective Association, or as it is popularly known, the A. P. A. The Boston branch of this association holds meetings in People's Temple every Sunday afternoon, and when I say that Father Chiquity is one of the most popular speakers you will be able to form some opinion as to their character. The organization is a secret one, and while there are many people who say without hesitation that they agree with the announced principles of the organization, it would be mighty hard to find anybody who would admit being a member. This great secrecy has been one of the principal objections offered by those who are not members, and everybody admits that the secrecy of the order has been up to the present secrecy of the most secret kind.

The meeting to which I have referred was held in conjunction with about fifty other meetings in as many parts of the state for the purpose of giving the new paper a big boom at the start. There was nothing on the tickets or in the announcement that would give any indication of this, and some of those who were present now say that if they had had any idea of it they would not have been there.

As it was, the gathering on the platform was a remarkable one. Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, one of the most respected women in the country, was announced as the principal speaker. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe was also there. She is the author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. These, with Dr. Smith and Major Calhoun, the author of Marching Through Georgia, and Elijah Morse, the Congressman and author of Rising Sun Stove Polish, made a very notable party indeed. A great army post was also there in uniform. Mrs. Livermore tired an audience for the first time in her life, and it all happened because the audience expected something more exciting than what she gave it.

This incident has caused a heap of trouble, and more than anything else brought out the fact that the meeting was not what some people including the grand army men expected it would be.

But, no matter. It was a rousing affair, just as the fifty or more meetings were, and as a result the paper made the biggest record on its first issue of any paper since papers were first printed. It sold 95,000 copies and now claims to be selling 110,000 every day.

There is a good deal of curiosity in regard to the future of the paper. Although it started with big capital behind it there is no saying how long it will last. So far it has not been as aggressive as was generally expected, and the editor has already found it necessary to engage a houncer to take care of the cranks who call to tell him what he should and what he should not do.

The bearing of the bouncer on the future of the paper may have more significance than is apparent at first sight.

R. G. LARSEN.

"PROGRESS" PREDICTIONS O. K.

The Candidates Suggested by This Paper met with Public Approval.

HALIFAX, March 28.—It is noticeable how many of Progress' nominees for public positions are successful. This paper first named G. H. Fielding as stipendiary magistrate for the city of Halifax, and, after many days, he got it. When it came to the judgeship of probate Progress was able to state that a popular candidate would not get the plum, and true enough he did not, while Progress' likely man captured the judgeship. The last evidence of foresightedness was in regard to the office of "medical examiner" of Halifax and Dartmouth. A week before the appointment was made this paper stated that there was no doubt that Dr. W. D. Finn would be the man for the place. This prediction was made in the face of rumors that an older physician would be selected and that all Dr. Finn need expect would be a sort of deputy examiner. Premier Fielding knew what he was about, however, and now that the coroners have gone Dr. Finn steps on the scene armed with his commission of medical examiner for Halifax and Dartmouth.

W. D. Finn, M. D., is twenty-seven years of age, and already he has worked up a respectable practice in this city, where there are so many half-starving doctors of medicine. Four years ago he was made a coroner, and while others, and one in particular, were disgracing the office by inquest-hunting and fee grabbing Finn invariably did the right thing and made himself an ornament to the ancient office of coroner. Now he gets his reward contemporaneously with the exit of his old comrades of the "coroner's court." Medical Examiner Finn will hold his new office just as long as he desires to keep it, which is as safe a prediction as any others Progress has made.

A SEARCH FOR A PASTOR.

Two Suggestions Which may Help St. Andrew's Church.

HALIFAX, March 28.—St. Andrew's Presbyterian church of this city is in earnest search for a pastor to fill the pulpit vacated by Rev. D. M. Gordon, who was appointed to a Pine Hill professorship. They find that too many good men from whom to choose leaves them in as difficult a position as it there were but few. St. Andrew's is determined to accomplish one thing, and that is to secure a pastor as popular and as able as he who occupies the pulpit of an adjoining Presbyterian church. Seeing that that preacher enjoys the reputation of being the most popular pulpit orator in Halifax the task the people of St. Andrew's have set themselves is not an easy one. It is nearly five months, now, since St. Andrew's started out in their search for a minister and the prize seems to be no more in sight than it was when they began; yet it may be found quickly at the last. Here's a word of advice: appoint a good representative committee with full powers to act, and it will likely be found that the vacancy will be soon satisfactorily filled. Here's a suggestion better still: Let St. Andrew's and Fort Massey churches amalgamate, for there is no need of two Presbyterian churches within a stone's throw of each other. Two such churches as those, so close together means expenditure of energy and money which might be more advantageously directed in other quarters every one admits this. If union were striven for as earnestly as is the securing of a pastor it would be found no more difficult of attainment than the obtaining of a minister of the stamp required.

PASTOR AND FLOCK DISAGREE.

A Truro Congregation Expresses Dissatisfaction With Their Leading Elder.

TRURO, March 28.—There is much of interest going on in one of the Presbyterian churches of this town. The relations between pastor and people have become much strained within the last couple of months. A large section of the congregation express strong dissatisfaction with their "teaching elder." They even go so far as to say that a change would be conducive to the best interests of the church, and that it must come and that quickly. The pastor, on the other hand, thinks that in the meantime there should be no change, and he is quite decided that there shall be none. The congregation is one of the best in the synod of the maritime provinces, and it is a pity that its continued success should be impaired, as it threatens to be, if there is not a "change," as the liberal political writers have recently been describing what they professed to believe would follow a general election. Progress has no desire to aggravate this pastoral-congregational embroglio, and therefore will not give further particulars just now or even name the church concerned. But the sooner pastor, kirk session and people came to an amicable and reasonable understanding the better for the cause of Presbyterianism in this church and in the town of Truro as well.

The Persecuted Moors.

The lives lived by the Moors are, without perhaps any exception, the most precarious and miserable that can be imagined. The poor man is thrown into prison for sums he never possessed and can never pay; the rich to be squeezed of all he possesses, while those only can hope to escape who are members of families sufficiently powerful to arouse the fears of the local governor

should be attempt extortion, and not sufficiently powerful to stir up the jealousy and aversion of the Sultan. It is said that even the governors of the provinces suffer for themselves as they make others suffer, for just as they squeeze the agriculturist and the peasant, so they are in turn squeezed by the Sultan and his viziers, and should they fail by constant presents to maintain a good opinion at the court, they can expect only imprisonment and often death.

A WONDERFUL DERELICT.

The Whistling Buoy of Cape Canso, and its Remarkable Wanderings.

The United States, one of whose ingenious inventors was responsible for the greatest of all sources of derelicts—the Joggins and Shuee lumber-rats—is doing service in a line where efficient service was urgently required—the destruction of obstructions to navigation. The United States dynamite gunboat "Vesuvius" supplies the force that is ridding the ocean-path of commerce derelicts which are doubtless responsible for many of the vessels of which the old song says: "We only know they sailed away, and were never heard of more."

Now that the "Vesuvius" is hunting the derelicts of the North Atlantic ocean, will be in order to describe the most weird of them all, with the exception of the mysterious ship that was wrecked off Fire Island Point—one of the whistling buoys that are drifting and, now that their usefulness is gone, and they have become an enemy instead of a friend of the mariner, are still whistling.

There are several whistling buoys that have broken loose from their moorings now on the Atlantic, drifting wherever the fancy of the current makes them go, whose uncanny voices are silenced forever. But, as already intimated, there are two which still give weird whistles while they pursue their futil journey. This history of the most notable of all these derelict buoys is thus told by a reliable authority:

It was originally anchored by a heavy chain cable at Cape Canso, Nova Scotia. The buoy has two whistles which have been blowing ever since December, 1893. It has many times caused mariners who came near it in the dark or the fog to think themselves out of their reckoning, and to be fearful for the vessels under their charge. This whistling buoy of Cape Canso was torn from its moorings by heavy ice that drifted down with the Arctic current in December, 1893. It followed the current for over a month, and was first seen by a passing craft on January 22, 1894. It took a south-westerly course, and drifted in that direction until Feb. 9, when it came within the influence of the Gulf Stream and north-westerly gales and started off to the southeast, crossing the steamship track and getting about one hundred and eighty miles southwest of it. It then drifted in a northeasterly direction and struck into the path of the steamship again late in April. It followed the line for more than seven hundred miles, and on July 5, 1894, it took an east-southeast course. Currents and storms sent it flying northward on August 10, and it went completely across the steamship track again. It was seen in Nov. 13, up in lat. 51, when it came within the influence of the European side of the steamship track; then it was driven diagonally across the track once more, presumably by strong nor-westerly, and was last sighted on February 9 by the British steamship Mab. It is now probably with a cluster of derelicts, knocked out by the February hurricane, within four hundred miles of the Irish coast. The captain of the Mab reported that the buoy was heavily freighted with barnacles and was very rusty, but was hoarsely blowing as well as when it drifted away from Cape Canso. The sign on its side, "Cape Canso" was not in the last affected by the weather.

The track of this most remarkable drifter is longer than that of some famous derelicts. It is considered of so much consequence that will be dotted in red on some of the new charts. It has been seen at least fourteen times by the ocean-crossing vessels, and probably many times more.

Cutting the Top-Knot.

"The coming of age" of every Siamese child, in any family pretending to fashion is celebrated with a quaint and picturesque custom—the cutting of the top-knot. This top-knot is nothing more than a round patch of hair allowed to grow on the crown of the head, while the rest of the head is closely shaved. The jet-black locks, still fine and glossy, are wound round into a coil, fastened by a large pin with a gold head, and surrounded on festive occasions by a tiny chaplet of sweet-scented white flowers. It is worn until the time comes when the child, it boy, is to be emancipated from the harem and withdrawn from female control; or in the case of girls, till their marriageable age begins to draw near. Convenience or fancy, or the family superstition, fix this date variously at nine, eleven, or thirteen years; but the even numbers are avoided as less propitious. Come when it may, however, the day of the top-knot cutting is a great and gay ceremony.

A Modern Solomon.

A famous Chicago lawyer once had a singular case to settle. A doctor came to him in great distress. Two sisters living in the same house had babies of equal age who so resembled each other that their own mothers were unable to distinguish them when they were together; and it happened that by the carelessness of the nurses the children had become mixed. How were the mothers to make sure that they received back their own infants? "But perhaps," suggested the lawyer, "the children weren't changed at all." "Oh, but there's no doubt that they were changed!" said the doctor. "Are you sure of it?" "Perfectly!" "Well, if that's so, why don't you change them back again? I don't see any difficulty in the case."

THREE THOUSAND MORE VOTES.

The Halifax Mayoralty Contest Will be a Hot One.

HALIFAX, March 28.—The contest for the mayoralty is becoming daily more interesting. The legislature in its closing hours repeated the law making it necessary that in order to qualify for a rate tax should be paid within thirty days of polling. This adds 3,000 names to the electoral list and gives candidates and canvassers proportionally more work. The fight will be a red-hot one. An inside history of the campaign, so far, would prove interesting reading. James C. McIntosh and David McPherson are good fighters and the backers of each are determined men. Alderman Mosher was a surprised man last week, when he found that, after all, he was to have opposition in his candidacy for ward 6. James Adams, manager of street railway, is to contest the word with Alderman Mosher, who, however, has the chances much in his favor. It looks now as if the only ward in which there will be no contest is Ward 1 where George Musgrave is in sole possession of the field. Mr. Musgrave defeated a year ago by Alderman Geldert.

Frederick Humphreys, M. D.

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