

BARONE'S TALISMAN

(By George T. Bates.)

Turning up the smoky lamp to its utmost in a vain endeavor to make it fulfil the office of lighting the ten-by-twelve room, Jim Barone proceeded to examine the package which he had picked up in the street. The removal of the inner wrapping of white tissue paper disclosed a diary elaborately bound in embossed leather, covered with a delicate tracery of gold. The fly leaf bore the inscription, "From Ethel to Jim."

dent. Killed he might be, but drink he would not. In the past he drank because he chose, but to yield now would be to acknowledge himself a slave to the habit. His old comrades naturally resented his desertion, but he put them off with a "Wait till the year is over, boys," in a tone that promised great things. And they concluded that something worth the effort was at stake and left him alone.

wish to hide the thought until the proper moment for denunciation. Standing with the unconscious grace of one entirely forgetful of self, the girl began in clear, level tones, slowly, as one who chooses words with care: "Ladies and gentlemen, it is with pleasure I rise to propose as a toast the man that has the courage of his convictions—the man who, when reason dictates, does not hesitate to cut new paths for himself and to walk in them, regardless of criticism. Such men the country needs, and when one is found, the highest gift in the hands of the people is not too great for him."

A Tribute From a Protestant.

Mr. F. R. Guernsey, Mexican correspondent of the Boston Herald, is not a Catholic, but he is a broad-minded, logical man, who knows the country he writes of and has the courage of his convictions. There is still too much "missionary" literature about the Latin-American countries, penned by strangers ignorant alike of religion, the language and the home life of the peoples whom they are fain to make subjects of their unnecessary and unwelcome ministrations. We rejoice at the antidotes which an honest man of the world is furnishing. In a recent letter he says: "Don't believe people who tell you that the women of Mexico are all tamely submissive, that they are slaves to their husbands. There are plenty of women here who dominate their husbands by sheer force of character. The hope of Mexico lies in her women; they are untainted by vice, their hearts are pure, and they reign as queens of home, and when circumstances force them into the new, modern business life of the country they command respect and it is shown them. The Mexican woman is not literary, a club woman, a debater and all that; but the women here make themselves felt, as they are doing to-day, in high politics, in large affairs."

Surprise Soap advertisement featuring an illustration of a woman and text: "Surprise is stamped on every cake of Surprise Soap. It's there so you can't be deceived. There is only one Surprise. See to it that your soap bears that word— Surprise A pure hard soap."

ANCIENT JUSTICE.

The physician or surgeon who charges little for his skill when he treats a poor man has excellent authority for his practice. The newly discovered laws of ancient Babylon made it not only proper, but obligatory. The first King of "Greater Babylon," as it would be called to-day, was Hammurabi, referred to in the fourteenth chapter of Genesis as Amraphel. He was noted for the justice of the laws he established in his kingdom. Two years ago, on a broken monument in the ruins of Susa, nearly the whole code of Hammurabi was found. A translation of it has just been made by a professor in the University of Chicago.

"If a physician operate on a gentleman for a severe wound with a lancet," reads one section of these revised statutes of Babylon, "and save the man's life, or if he open an abscess in a gentleman's eye and save the eye, he shall receive ten shekels of silver. If he operate on a freeman he shall receive five shekels. But if it be a man's slave he operates on," reads the next section, "the owner of the slave shall give two shekels to the physician." Similarly graded were the physician's penalties—for in those days doctoring was a give-and-take affair in which the unsuccessful practitioner was made to pay for his failure.

Teaching His Children Good Habits

A few days ago I entered one of the city banks. As I stood awaiting my turn at one of the ledger keepers' departments, I noticed a man with two little boys, one about five years and the other seven years. The man passed his account book to the ledger-keeper, handing him at the same time a large wad of money. After doing this he turned around, and took a parcel from each of the little boys. Both had their savings banks, and having handed the banks to the official, both boys sat down to hear the result of their savings. During the interval I conversed with the father, and having congratulated him on teaching his children such a good habit, he said: "Yes, they save every cent, and I hope they will profit by such work." This example might be read and followed with profit by hundreds of boys much older than the two who have started young in life a habit which, before many years more, will prove a source of joy and pleasure to them.

IRISH DISTRESS.

The Pall Mall Gazette publishes the following from its correspondent in Dublin: I have just returned from a tour in the West of Ireland, and can vouch for the fact that the outlook there for the coming winter is extremely black. Almost all over the province, the potato crop has been a failure, and the peasants are face to face with a famine. In some districts the crop has been so deplorably bad that the farmers are inclined to let the tubers remain in the ground; and in the localities that have come off best the yield of edible potatoes is only about one-third of the average. Spraying improved matters in some places, but the use of the spray was largely neglected in the country, and this fact, coupled with the moist summer and the deterioration of the Champion seed, which is almost universally sown, accounts for the present position. Unless something is done for the peasants they will in many localities be almost as badly off as were their ancestors in the historical famine year in the last 'forties. Relief works, are suggested, but the local bodies have no power to carry out such schemes as would ease the situation, and it is extremely probable that State help in the way of food and seed will be demanded before the spring. Close observation in the districts affected proves that the impending distress is very real and that the cry is not raised for political or other purposes. The Castle authorities do not appear to be alive to the situation, and there seems to be much truth in Mr. Healey's recent statement that there is nobody connected with the Irish Executive whose duty it is to take account of such matters as impending famine, and that they only waken up when the sight of a few score famine corpses is brought before their eyes. Strangely enough, while one of the worst potato crops on record has fallen to the lot of Connaught, the yield of the tuber in Leinster has been one of the best within memory.

Noneonformists on War Path

The English Noneonformists are still on the warpath, and as active as ever, their leading section, the Welsh brethren, rejecting every idea of compromise. "Every day," says the London Daily Mail, "makes it clearer that the Noneonformists of Wales are fixed in their determination to crush out of existence, if possible, the voluntary schools. Mr. Lloyd Morgan, M.P., is one of the few Welsh Radical M.P.'s who will not put himself in line with his colleagues. He fought the bill tooth and nail in Parliament, but as soon as it became law he declared himself in favor of administering it, but in such a manner that the voluntary schools should get as little from the rates as possible."

Has Relative in Quebec.

It may be interesting news to many Quebecers and the many friends of Mr. Edmund Roche Alleyne, of Quebec, who is Clerk of Journals of the Legislative Assembly, to learn that he is a second cousin of Mr. Burke Roche, the dashing Irish ex-member of Parliament, who, on a wager, as reported in London cables, ran a British built torpedo boat disguised as a yacht from the Thames to Libau, Russia. Mr. Roche is none other than the Hon. James Burke Roche, brother and heir of Lord Fermoy, of the Irish peerage.

ANDRE AND COMBES.

The following is the text of General Andre's letter to the President tendering his resignation: My Dear Premier,—The recent incident in the Chamber shows that the enemies of the Republic are more than ever determined to deliver assaults on the Government which has withstood them with so much energy and success. It seems that the part I have taken in this work, to which I have devoted five years of ceaseless labor, marked me out particularly as the object of these attacks. You will do me the justice of supposing that such a prospect would not dismay me, but I have too much self-respect, too much pride in my work, and too much love for my country and the Republic, to accept even for a moment the suspicion that I could be the cause of disunion in the Republican majority. It has been by the union of that majority that M. Waldeck-Rousseau's Ministry and the Combes Ministry have saved the Republic from the perils through which it has passed, and it will be due to that union that the Republican Party will carry to completion the task to which I have been happy to devote my efforts.

RESPECT FOR THE BIBLE.

(From the Sacred Heart Review.) The growing ignorance of, or disrespect for, the Bible among the "un-church'd masses" is the theme of much bawling on the part of some Protestant ministers. But are not the "church'd classes" somewhat to blame for this? A report from Bellefontaine, Ohio, says that the Bible study class of the Y.M.C.A. at that place have invented a new class yell. It is formed of the first syllables of the names of the minor prophets of the Old Testament. The yell, which is shot forth, we are told, with extreme unction upon the slightest provocation is as follows: "Ho, Jo, Am, Ob, Jo, Mi, Na, Ha, Ze, Ha, Ze, Ma. Bible Study! Bible Study! Y.M.C.A.—Ah-h-h-h!" Isn't this a lovely way for the Bible study class to show its knowledge of the Hebrew prophets?

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, including fragments of advertisements and notices.