

The Beacon



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NO. 48

AMERICA 1918
AS I sat pondering.
Thinking of the rights of men
And the Declaration of Independence,
And then of you, my country, as you
stand to-day—
Revered and honored now the world
over—
Your sons united, one in heart and pur-
pose—
Rivalries forgotten, party politics for-
gotten
In this the culminating fight for Democ-
racy—
Then suddenly I loved you, loved you, as
never before
You, my dear native land—America.

THE 'GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE'

WE should need to bring back the horrors of the first French Revolution to enable us to understand the wild delight with which Lord Howe's victory, in 1794, was regarded in England. A king, a queen, and a princess gillotined in France, a reign of terror, prevailing in that country, and a war threatening half the monarchs in Europe, had impressed the English with an intense desire to thwart the republicans. Our army was badly organized and badly generalised in those days; but the navy was in all its glory. In April 1794, Lord Howe, as Admiral-in-Chief of the Channel fleet, went out to look after the French fleet at Brest, and a great French convoy known to be expected from America and the West Indies. He had with him twenty-six sail of the line, and five frigates. For some weeks the fleet was in the Atlantic, baffled by foggy weather in the attempt to discover the enemy; but towards the close of May the two fleets sighted each other, and a great naval battle became imminent. The French admirals had often before avoided when possible a close contest with the English; but on this occasion Admiral Villaret Joyeuse, knowing that a convoy of enormous value was at stake, determined to meet his formidable opponent. The two fleets were about equal in the number of ships; but the French had the advantage in number of guns, weight of metal, and number of men. On the first of June, Howe achieved a great victory over Villaret Joyeuse, the details of which are given in all the histories of the period.

ANANSI THE SPIDER-MAN

THESE are stories about the Spider-Man, Anansi, which the African Grandfather tells to the children of the Gold Coast. Come, comrades, listen to a tale. Once upon a time there was a man named Anansi. He was a cunning and deceitful creature, who liked to get the better of his neighbours; but he was punished for his badness. Listen now to why SPIDERS LIVE IN DARK CORNERS.

WHY SPIDERS LIVE IN DARK CORNERS. There was a time when Anansi was a very industrious farmer. One year he and his wife and son planted a large farm, with yams, maize, and beans. The crops flourished. When the harvest came it was ten times greater than any Anansi had ever had before. And very well pleased he was, as you may believe, to have such a store of corn, beans, and yams for the winter. But the more he thought about all the nice vegetables, the less he wished to keep them for winter.

Now, Anansi was greedy and badhearted, and did not like to share anything with anybody, not even with his wife and son. So when he saw that the crops were quite ripe, he called his wife and son, and said to them: "We have worked hard raising our vegetables. They have repaid us well. Let us gather the harvest into our barn." So they gathered in the harvest. Then Anansi said: "Now we three need a rest. Go home to the village and have a good time for three weeks, while I go away on business. When I get back we'll come to the farm and have a great feast."

That is why to-day, whenever one lifts up a big stone, one finds so many small spiders under it. —Retold by Frances Jenkins Oleott in The New York Evening Post. Taken from "West African Folk Tales," by Barker and Sinclair.

Y. W. P. A. ENTERTAINMENT The programme of the G. W. P. A. vaudeville show held in Memorial Hall, Thursday evening, May 23, was as follows:— Selection, Miss Muriel Davis; Piano Solo, Stella Williams; Dance, Rose Beth Chase; Mary O'Neill; Indah Chase; Edith Finigan; Kathleen Howard; Phyllis Thompson, Lois Thompson, Marjorie Coakley, Rolland Dixon, Morton Thurber, Helen Williamson, Paul Gilman, Horace Hanson, Leonard Chase, Harold Simmet, William McMillan, Claud McLaran; Chorus, "Wait till the Cows Come Home," the duet taken by Miss Bessie Thompson and Mr. Roy Gilman.

NEWS OF THE SEA

—Halifax, N. S., May 21.—The Newfoundland coastal steamer Elsie which went ashore at Mistaken Point, seven miles west of Cape Race, last week, was refloated yesterday. The Elsie was hauled into deep water by the Dominion Government steamer Lady Laurier, and is proceeding to St. John's, Nfld., under her own steam, according to a wireless to the Marine and Fisheries Department here today from Captain Travers of the Lady Laurier.

—Washington, May 22.—Three men were lost in the sinking of the American oil tanker Wm. Rockefeller, of 7,157 tons, torpedoed in European waters, the Navy Department announced today. Eleven officers and sixty-one men were landed unharmed. One engineer and two men of the engineer force were killed.

—A Canadian Pacific Port, May 23.—A wireless message received late last night by the local agent of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line, owners of the Japanese freighter Burnah Maru, says that the vessel, which was reported on fire at sea, is returning to port under her own steam, the flames having been checked. The freighter Burnah Maru, of the same line, which stood by the burning vessel, and to which the crew of the Burnah Maru was being transferred, according to earlier reports, has proceeded on her way.

—London, May 24.—The British Admiralty announced in an official bulletin as follows: "The armed mercantile cruiser Moldavia, was torpedoed and sunk yesterday morning. There were no casualties among the crew, but of the American troops on board, fifty-six, up to the present, have not been accounted for. It is feared they were killed in one compartment by the explosion. The Moldavia was torpedoed without warning. It was a moonlight night and although a good lookout was kept the attacking submarine was not sighted before the torpedo struck. Most of the men aboard were in their hammocks when the explosion occurred amidships. The sailors and soldiers alike showed no panic. They fell calmly into line and awaited orders. When it was seen that the Moldavia was settling down all on board were taken off by the escorting ships. The men lost all their belongings, but were supplied with new clothing at the different naval ports where they were taken. The vessel was struck below the bridge. She steamed ahead for some time after being struck, and at first it was hoped that her watertight compartments would enable her to reach port."

—London, May 25.—The German submarine which torpedoed British steamer Inisicarra was sunk by an American destroyer shortly afterward, it was announced today. Prisoners from the submarine have been landed.

—Madrid, May 25.—Seventy-eight Spanish merchantmen have been sunk by German submarines, according to a list printed by the Epoca. In a discussion of what has suffered since the beginning of the U-boat campaign, the newspaper says the Taya company of Barcelona has been the heaviest individual loser.

—London, May 25.—The newspapers announce that the American steamer Neches was sunk on the night of May 14 off Start Point, in the Orkney Islands, as a result of a collision with another steamer. The crew of the Neches was saved while the other vessel sank immediately with the loss of all on board.

—London, May 25.—The British Admiralty announces: "The transport Leasowe Castle was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine, May 26, in the Mediterranean. "Thirteen military officers and seventy-nine of other ranks, and of the ship's company the captain, two wireless operators and six of other ratings are missing. It is presumed all were drowned."

—London, May 29.—The British Admiralty announces: "The transport Leasowe Castle, 9,737 tons gross, was built at Birkenhead, and was owned by the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company of London. "I make it a rule not to read what the newspapers say about me," remarked Senator Sorghum. "But some of the things are complimentary." "I don't have to read those. As a rule such articles are prepared and sent out under my own direction."—Washington Star.

—Ottawa, May 28.—It is officially announced, through the chief press censor's office that the troops arrived safely in England: Infantry—Central Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. Composite Battalion from Halifax. Railway Construction Battalion. Siege Artillery. Details.

—Amsterdam, May 27.—The Germans have seized and taken into Swine-muende the Dutch steamship Jantje and sailing vessels Maria, Jacoba, and Gerzine. This is in pursuance of their policy of not permitting Dutch vessels to sail without German safe conducts, pending arrangements of the transit question between Holland and Germany.

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—London, May 25.—Survivors agree that the steamship Moldavia was torpedoed and not mined. One seaman said: "We were proceeding up the channel bound for an English port early Thursday morning. The weather was fine and there was a bright moonlight. We felt an explosion amidship. The ship had been struck just below the bridge, but we could see no submarine. "There were some destroyers convoying us, and they at once scattered around in search of the submarine. Only one torpedo was fired. "When it was realized that we should have to abandon the vessel, the destroyers came along side to take off the troops."

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"HUMAN FLY" CLIMBS BEFORE VAST CROWD

Broadway from the Post Office to Fulton Street, Park Row, from Broadway to Printing House Square, Barclay, Vesey, and Fulton Streets, and St. Paul's Churchyard were jammed soon after noon to-day with one of the biggest crowds ever gathered in lower Manhattan; windows of all the buildings commanding a view of the Park Row and Broadway corner were filled also, and the crowd was held spell-bound for an hour and a half while Harry H. Gardiner, who has been nicknamed "The Human Fly," gave what he called "merely a demonstration of the power of mind over matter" by climbing up the front of the Park Row Building.

And while he climbed, several hundred Red Cross girls, working, by twos and threes, and in groups accompanied by soldiers and sailors, collected contributions for the Red Cross War Fund. Some of the girls passed collection plates borrowed from St. Paul's. Some had Red Cross boxes. Several of the convoyed groups bore horizontally large American flags into which the crowd was asked to toss its gifts.

Anything from a copper cent to a greenback, as large as one would, was accepted, and more than a barrelful of coins and bills was collected. The Park Row Building is twenty-nine stories high, towering 300 feet above the sidewalk. Gardiner scaled it to the top of the south tower, and then for good measure shinned up a sixty-foot flagpole atop of that; and from the dizzy height waved his greeting to the wildly cheering throng.

Clad in the white suit of a Red Cross worker, with a huge red cross on the back of his coat, Gardiner began his hair-raising climb at 12:30 o'clock. Starting from the ground with the agility of a monkey, he climbed the blank smooth wall by the aid of a sign, and soon was on corner blocks of the second floor, bowing to the crowd. When the fifth floor was reached a band in the street struck up the "Star-Spangled Banner," and like a good soldier, the climber drew off his hat and stood at attention.

The "stunts" performed by the climber on his nimble way brought cheer after cheer from the watchers below. First he would hang on by his feet and throw out his arms, then he would throw out his feet and hold on to the corner blocks with his hands. Several times he would move half-way across the front of the building, apparently looking for a better foothold or finger-hold for his progress, but always he returned to the southernmost corner and kept on going up and up.

While the thousands were straining their eyes watching him, there was a flutter in the crowd grouped against the Federal Building. A hasty survey of the old Post Office Building revealed the cause of the stir. People were scurrying away from the protection of the building so as to avoid, as were, being the victim of an amateur scaler.

Midway between the second and third floors of the Federal Building, between two pillars in the cornice, clinging monkey like by his finger tips was a postcard clerk struggling to reach the ledge above. As his body swayed to and fro gasps went up from the crowd. The postcard clerk performed a feat which would baffle many a steeplejack. He actually climbed head backwards up and around a protruding ledge.

"Stop that fool! Stop him! He'll kill himself!" was shouted through the crowd. But with a grin he looked down at the crowd, and then slowly turned his gaze toward Gardiner, far above in the heights of the Park Row Building.—New York Evening Post, May 27.

RECOGNIZE WORK OF CAPT. BARTLETT

London, May 28.—At last night's meeting of the Royal Geographical Society a grant awarded to Captain R. A. Bartlett, well-known to Canadians. The President of the Society said Capt. Bartlett commanded the steamer Karuk in the Stefansson expedition in 1915 to the Arctic on behalf of the Canadian Government, and the award was made chiefly in recognition of his splendid leadership of the expedition after his vessel had been lost.

CANADIAN TROOPS CROSS

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