NEWS NOTES FROM NORFOLK

Capt. Simpson, A. S. C., Has Adventurous Journey Home to Simcoe

Change of address, News items or requests for insertion of names on subscription list, should be sent to Courier Agency, Box 311, Simcoe, or phone 356-3. The Courier is delivered for 25 cents a month, strictly in advance, or may be obtained at Jackson's Drug Store at 2 cents a copy.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Simcoe, Feb. 14—The Patriotic Association received yesterday a request from headquarters to send to the Soldiers' Aid Commmission, the names of all returned soldiers who were not already engaged in suitable occupations.

Pte. French's case has been considered by Postmaster Lawson and he will be given an opportunity to try a clerkship in the Post Office here.

Word has been officially received that Rev. Orton will not entertain the call extended by the congregation of St. Paul's here. Rev. Jno. McLachlan of Toronto will be the preacher of the day next Sunday.

Messrs West, Booth and Roberts, three young men in the employ of the Simcoe Litho. Plant, as feeders, have located with Stone Limited, Toronto. Mr. A. N. West returned last night after seeing the boys settled at work.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Chadwick, nee Charlotte Rushing, who died, aged 78, in Woodhouse, will be held this afternoon form the residence of her son, John L. to St. John's cemetery.

A Nerve Wrecking Voyage

Captain Simpson reached home quietly yesterday afternoon by 3 o'clock trolley. Some few weeks ago he left to rejoin his unit in the Imperial Army Service Corps in France but on reaching England was ordered to Canada on two months special leave. And he had a very special trip. Leaving Britain on one of eleven ships to sail from the same port on the same day, it was his fortune to take passage aboard one of the only two to escape the launching of the Hun U-boat blockade. Three boats were torpedoed and sunk in full view of Captain Simpson and his fellow passengers. One captain, game to the last, signalled warning to others to get clear as he had been struck and was sinking. No less than twenty-two S. O. S. signals came to them aboard the ship but they had orders to make speed as destroyers were at hand to go to the rescue. Their own boat received orders to make the best of it and the engines were put to the test and the hull creaked as the steamer went at top speed into a heavy sea. The rest we are forced to leave to the imagination of the reader, as Captain Simpson has put us on our honor to use the soft pedal. He thinks that the Admiralty already have the situation well in control and that before his return matters will have returned to normal.

Y. M. C. A. Campaign

Capt. C. W. Bishop, Judge Hardy of Brantford and the 215th Battalion Band will be at a mass meeting at St. James Church to-morrow, in the interests of the Y. M. C. A. campaign. The committee aims at $4,000.

CONFERENCE OF GIRLS TO BE HELD

The Instructive Program Which Will be Observed in This City

Some idea of the educational value as well as the pleasure that will accrue to those attending the Older Girls' Conference to be held in this city soon, may be gleaned from the following copy of the program for the conference:

2.30—Registration of delegates.

3.00—Song service led by Miss Agnes Heath, Alexandra church. Bible reading, Mrs. G. A. Woodside, Zion church. Prayer, Mrs. D. McClintock, Alexandra church. Appointment of Nominating Committee. Solo, Miss Elsie Senn, St. Judes' church

3.30—Address of Welcome. (a) Rev. L. Brown, First Baptist church. (b) Miss S. Allan, Zion church. Response, Miss B. Longstreet, Brant Ave. Church.

3.45—Election and introduction of Conference Officers.

4.00—Paper, "Am I my Sister's Keeper," Miss Elsie Wilmot, First Baptist church. Hymn.

4.15—Address, "Class Organizations," Rev. E. W. Halpenny, General Secretary, Ontario S. S. Assoc.

4.35—Paper, "Class Activities," Miss Maud Agnew, Wesley church. Hymn. Paper, "The Four-Fold Development," Miss C. Walton, Colborne St. church.

5.00—Group Conferences. (a) Teachers and Workers, Rev. E. W. Halpenny. (b) Members of Organized Classes, Mrs. W. E. Bowyer. (c) Members of Unorganized Classes, Miss M. Best.

5.30—Get acquainted period.

6.00 p.m.—Banquet, under auspices of the Y. W. C. A. Directorate. (a) Conference songs and class yells. (b) Toasts. (1) "The King," proposed by Miss Morrison, Balfour church. Response, "God Save the King." (2) "Our Boys in Khaki," proposed by Miss M. Lacey, Shenstone Memorial church. Response, Miss M. Whittaker, Farringdon church. (c) Story, "In an old fashioned Garden," Mrs. Fenton B. McIntyre.

Evening Session

7.15—Hymn. Report of Registration Convenor.

7.30—Address, "Packing," Miss L. Taggart, Toronto. Solo, Miss Dorothy Baird, Park Baptist Church.

8.00—Address, "Fellow Travellers," Mrs. Fenton B. McIntyre.

8.30.—Adjournment.

Zion Presbyterian Church Sunday Morning

Rev. G. A. Woodside will speak to the Conference girls (reserved seats in the centre) at the regular service hour. Subject "The Rediscovery of Woman." Special music by ladies' choir. Mr. D. L. Wright, director.

Sunday Afternoon, Zion Presbyterian Church

4.15—"The Cross Roads," Mrs. Fenton B. McIntyre.

All girls between the ages of 14 and 25, Teachers of girls' Sunday school classes and leaders of girls are privileged and invited to attend.

Silver collection will be taken.

VALENTINE DAY IS HERE TODAY

A History of the Celebration Which Bears a Name To Which It Has No Right

St. Valentine, who suffered martyrdom in 270 A.D., would doubtless be greatly surprised, could he know of the honor paid to him by the people of all countries in succeeding ages, by setting aside one day, the fourteenth of February, out of each year, on which to celebrate certain customs connected with the interchange of love tokens between amorous youths and maidens, for in reality there was not according to history any direct connection with the Saint, and the customs observed on the day devoted to his memory. The practice of conveying to the object of their desire, by means of verses, pictures, etc., now so arduously followed by the young people of today, originated by St. Francois de Sales, an early member of the Christian church, of an austere character, writing on slips of paper called "valentines." Incongruous as it may seem, he was the means of perpetuating the name of St. Valentine, as connected inseparably with the anniversary of love and merriment.

Valentine was a priest of early Rome, and suffered martyrdom in the third century by losing his head, while throughout the intervening ages, his ardent devotees have experienced pangs equally severe, but as the consequence of losing both head and heart over an affinity, decidedly not the patron saint himself.

In ancient Rome, during the month of February, it was the practice to celebrate the Lupercalia. These were feasts in honor of Pan and Juno. Amid a variety of ceremonies during this time the names of young women were put in a box and the young men drew a name out as chance directed. The early church tried to eradicate some of the pagan superstitions of this kind and interfered in the game of placing the names of women in boxes by substituting the names of particular saints instead. As the festival of the Lupercalia had begun about the middle of February, they appear to have chosen St. Valentine's Day for celebrating the new feast.

We find that Shakespeare alludes to St. Valentine's Day, and so does Chaucer, and in a series of essays, published in 1754-6, a young maiden writes the following incident in her diary: "Last Friday was Valentine's Day, and the night before I got five bay leaves and pinned four of them to the four corners of my pillow, and the fifth to the middle; and then if I dreamt of a sweetheart, Betty said, we should be married before the year was out. But to make it more sure, I boiled an egg hard, and took out the yoke, and filled it with salt; and when I went to bed ate it, shell and all, without speaking or drinking after it. We also wrote our lovers' names upon bits of paper and rolled them up in clay and put them into water; and the first that rose up was to be our valentine."

This gives us some idea of the extravagant notions people had in regard to the day.

There are many traditions, beautiful and grotesque, growing out of the observance of this day in the past. It was the belief among country people that on this day, the birds selected their mates and among them the young people were accustomed to go out before daybreak on that morning, and endeavour to catch an owl and two sparrows in the nest, and if successful, it was regarded as a promising omen, and they were rewarded by the villagers with gifts. Another custom sometimes adhered to, was to write the valentine, attach it to an apple, orange, or some other fruit, then steal quietly up to the house of the "one and only" in the evening, silently open the door, and roll in the message on the floor.

The modern valentine is sometimes a work of beauty, often times a caricature, but in a general rule is accepted in the spirit of fun and reciprocation.

How many did you receive today?

AT ONCE! STOPS STOMACH MISERY AND INDIGESTION

"Pape's Diapepsin" Makes Sick, Sour, Gassy Stomachs Feel Fine.

Do some foods you eat hit back—taste good but work badly; ferment into stubborn lumps and cause a sick, sour, gassy stomach? Now Mr. or Mrs. Dyspeptic, jot this down: Pape's Diapepsin digests everything, leaving nothing to sour or upset you. There never was anything so safely quick, so certainly effective. No difference how badly your stomach is disordered you will get happy relief in five minutes, but what pleases you most is that it strengthens and regulates your stomach so you can eat your favorite foods without fear.

Most remedies give you relief sometimes— they are slow but not sure. "Pape's Diapepsin" is quick, positive, and puts your stomach in a healthy condition so the misery won't come back.

You feel different as soon as "Pape's Diapepsin" comes in contact with the stomach—distress just vanishes—your stomach gets sweet, no gases, no belching, no eructations of undigested food, your head clears and you feel fine.

Go now, make the best investment you ever made by getting a large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin from any drug store. You realize in five minutes how needless it is to suffer from indigestion, dyspepsia or any stomach disorder.

BLACKBEARD CASTLE ON SALE

Three Danish Islands Which U. S. Wants Said to Contain Buried Gold

OLD CASTLES THERE

Are Sentinels of the Buccaneer Days on the Spanish Main

When the sun has shot down into the sea and the heavy iron shutters have been put up, the negro inhabitants of St. Thomas crouch in the darkness of their huts, crooning songs and weaving tales of the days when Bluebeard and Blackbeard made merry on the isle, says the Kansas City Star.

St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John are the three Danish West Indies which the United States may own soon. These mere specks in the sea are only three of about 50 wee dots of land which make the Lesser Antillies, the nest about which pirates swarmed like hornets in the golden years of treasure chests.

The ruined castles of Bluebeard and Blackbeard still stand, round towers with thick stone walls, on the side of a hill back of Charlotte Amelie, frowning down upon the harbor. Blackbeard's castle is the taller and has three encircling rows of little windows, through which guns were trained. At the bottom of each is a roomy stone house, in which the pirates counted their pieces of eight.

Blackbeard a Popular Hero

The natives avoid the vine-covered ruins of Bluebeard's stronghold. And there were others of these swarthy, bewhiskered, mustached pirates who tradition says, murdered the beautiful women captives they had imprisoned in their castles when they grew weary of them or needed room for new favorites. Great discolorations on the walls and floors of the castle are pointed out as blood stains.

But Blackbeard is more of a popular hero. He was quite a ladies' man and diverted himself while ashore with flirtations without number. Finally he married the prettiest senorita on the island. He installed her in his tower and before departing on a buccaneering tour gave her all the keys of the palace, including one to a secret chamber. He told her not to open this cabinet if she valued her happiness.

Curiosity became too strong during her lord's absence, Mrs. Blackbeard opened the cabinet. Instead of grinning skeletons she found a dozen packets of dainty letters from the prettiest girls of the town to her husband, which were written before she married him. She was a pirate's wife, so she invited the writers of the letters to a dinner and poisoned them.

The inhabitants proclaimed her a witch and were about to burn her alive when Blackbeard's ship appeared unexpectedly in the harbor. With a band of his fierces followers he rowed ashore, fought his way to the spot where the execution was about to take place, and carried his wife back to the ship in his arms.

Lazy Race of Beggars.

Much gold is said to be buried on the islands. But the indolent, gaudily turbaned negroes would rather lounge beneath cocoanut trees than search for it. Earthquakes and hurricanes are the only breaks in the monotony. The tropical sun beats down upon the red tile roofs of the various tinted stuccoed houses. Soft breezes stir the heavy tropical vegetation which clings to crumbling walls, rustles the leaves of the wild banana and carries on its breath the odor of jasmine. Scantily clothed negro women, wrapped in gaudy shawls with large gold hoops in their ears, sell gayly colored fruits and the brilliant red, blue and yellow tropical fish from trays balanced on their heads. Men and boys beg for a penny or the clothes upon one's back. It is a race of beggars.

When Columbus found the isles they were peopled by Caribs, hunters, basket-makers, gentle savages with light brown skins. The buccaneers of various nations, with their powder and lead, their rum and smallpox, made short work of the gentle Caribs. Spanish, British, French, Dutch and Danish flags have floated over one or more of the islands at different times. Tobacco, sugar and coffee were raised until slavery was abolished. The plantations now are ruins. Poultry, which runs wild in the streets of the towns, filling the air with a constant cackling, quacking and gobbling, is now the main industry of the inhabitants.

As An Unarmed Gibraltar.

But the importance of St. Thomas hardly can be overestimated. With its port of Charlotte Amelie fortified, it would rival Gibraltar. Rocky abutments, one thousand feet high, guard each side of the entrance to the harbor, which is deep enough to float the largest ships. It would command the commerce to South and Central America and increase the effectiveness of our naval ships manifold in case of war.

St. John and St. Croix would have to be bought with St. Thomas. In 1867 the United States offered 7 1-2 million dollars for the 138 square miles these islands contain—$300,000 more than was paid to Russia in the same year for Alaska, which is more than four thousand times as large. The sale was not consummated because the Senate failed to ratify the treaty.

Fourteen years ago 5 million dollars was offered, but this time the Danish Parliament refused to sanction the sale.

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For Infants and Children
In Use For Over 30 Years
Always bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

Wondertul Values in Real Irish Linens

Great February Sale of LINENS

Buy Your Linens NOW

In calling your attention to this sale of Linens we wish to state that we are not reducing the price on our entire stock of linens, but are offering values that have been in stock or orders have been placed for one year or more ago. This range of fine Linens have been collected from the world's best makers, such as J. S. Brown & Co, Belfast; Old Bleach Linen Co., Randalstown; Wm. Liddel & Co., Belfast. Most lines from these makers have had to be discontinued on account of the shortage of flax. We are indeed fortunate to be able to offer this at prices that cannot be replaced at an advance of 50 per cent. or more. Linens have advanced to date from 75 to 125 per cent. over 1913 prices.

You can readily see our reasons for so urgently advising our customers to buy linens, while we are able to show such an excellent range of beautiful designs and qualities at such wonderful prices.

J. S. BROWN & CO. DISCONTINUED NUMBERS

Over $2,000 worth of J. S. Brown & Co. discontinued numbers of Fine Table Cloths, Napkins, Towels and Towellings. Linens that cannot be bought at any price, had to be discontinued on account of being unable to procure fine fibre flax.

10 only Pure Linen double ***Damask Cloths,*** size 2x2 1-2, special price... **$4.50**

6 only pure linen double ***Damask Cloths,*** size 2x2 1-2, special price... **$5.25**

4 only pure linen double ***Damask Cloths,*** size 2x3, special price... **$6.25**

Napkins to match these cloths, in 22 1-2x23 in. size, special at, doz... **$5.25**

15 very fine double ***Damask Cloths,*** size 2x2-1-2 yds, special price, each... **$6.25**

Napkins to match these cloths in 5-8 size, special price, per dozen... **$5.35**

13 Pure Linen ***Satin Damask Cloths,*** size 2x2 yds., special price, each... **$5.85**

21 pure linen ***Satin Damask Cloths,*** size 2x2 1-2 yds., special price, each... **$7.75**

Napkins, to match same, 24 in. size, doz... ***$7.50***

25 very fine double ***Damask Cloths,*** size 2x2 yds., special price, each... **$5.00**

20 Dozen Fine Huck Towels, $1.50 pair

20 dozen ***Fancy Huck Towels,*** in size 22x40, J. S. Brown and Co. manufacture, very handsome patterns, worth $2.00 pair, sale price pair... **$1.50**

Great Bargains in Madeira and Hand Embroidered Doylies, Centre Pieces, Sideboard and Dresser Scarves, Lunch Setts, Etc.

Doylies, Centre Pieces and S. Scarves To Match

6 only 6 in. ***Doylies,*** reg. 25c., for, each... ***19c***

8 only 8 in. ***Doylies,*** reg. 40c., for, each... ***29c***

15 only, 10 in. ***Doylies,*** reg. 50c., for, each... ***39c***

1 only 24 in. ***Doylie,*** reg. $2.25, for... ***$1.98***

6 only 18x45 in. ***S. Scarves,*** reg. $3.35, for each... ***$2.75***

6 only 19x54 in. ***S. Scarves,*** reg. $3.50, for, each... ***$3.10***

12 in. ***Madeira Serviettes,*** 5 dozen only, regular $5.25. quality, sale price... ***$4.69***

14 in. ***Madeira Serviettes,*** 3 dozen only, 14 in. size, reg. $7.50, sale price, dozen... ***$6.49***

A big lot of mussed and soiled ***Madeira Doylies and Centre Pieces,*** worth 50 per cent. more if bought now. On sale, 25 per cent. off regular price.

13 p.c. ***Madeira Lunch Set,*** 6 doylies, 6 in. size, 6 doylies, 8 in. size, 1 centre piece, reg. $4.50 quality, sale price per set... ***$3.95***

1 only ***Madeira 36 in. Centre Piece,*** reg. $4.95, sale price... ***$3.98***

1 only 45 in. ***Madeira Centre Piece,*** reg. $8.25, sale price... ***$6.98***

Some Real Values in Cluny Centre Pieces, S. Scarves, Etc.

12 in. ***Madeira Serviettes,*** 7 dozen only, regular $5.75 quality, sale price... ***$4.95***

3 only 36 in. real ***Cluny Centres,*** worth $3.50, sale price, each... ***$1.50***

2 only 45 in. ***Real Cluny Centres,*** worth $6.00, sale price, each... ***$4.95***

6 ***Cluny Sideboard Scarves,*** 18x54 size, worth $4.50, sale price, each... ***$3.98***

2 ***Cluny Sideboard Scarves,*** worth $4.00, sale price each... ***$2.98***

300 Table Cloths, Slightly Soiled or Imperfect, at Less than Half Price

10 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 14x84 in., worth $2.00, sale price... ***$1.50***

5 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 13x63 in., worth $3.25, sale price, each... ***$2.75***

7 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 72x72 in., worth $4.00. sale price, each... ***$3.19***

3 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 72x90 in., worth $3.85, sale price, each... ***$2.98***

10 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 72x72 in., worth $4.25, sale price, each... ***$3.49***

12 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 72x72 in., worth $4.00, sale price, each... ***$3.29***

1 only ***Table Cloth,*** size 2x 3 yards, worth $7.50, sale price, each... ***$5.98***

2 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 2 1-2x3 yds., worth $8.00, sale price, each... ***$5.98***

2 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 2 1-2x3 yards, worth $6.00, sale price, each... ***$3.98***

2 only ***Table Cloths,*** size 2x3 1-2 yards, worth $5.00, sale price, each... ***$3.39***

1 only ***Table Cloth,*** size 2x3 1-2 yards, worth $5.75, sale price, each... ***$3.69***

22 in. Table Napkins $4.98 doz.

20 dozen ***Fine Satin Damask Napkins,*** 22 in. size, worth $6.25, sale price, per dozen... ***$4.98***

Hemmed Napkins $3.75 doz.

35 dozen ***Pure Linen Napkins,*** all ready pressed, worth $5.00 dozen, sale price, dozen... ***$3.75***

Grand Value in Damask by the Yard

3 Pieces only of ***Pure Linen Damask,*** 70 inches wide, special at, yard... ***$1.00***

2 pieces only of ***Pure Linen Damask,*** 72 inches wide, special at, yard... ***$1.25***

J.M. YOUNG & COMPANY

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FOR FLETCHER'S
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