

HOME JOURNAL

A Department for the Family

People and Things the World Over

The march of civilization in Afganistan has reached the post card. The Amir has introduced into his state one-anna post cards with ornamental Persian script.

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An article in *The Spectator* on "Bores" has called forth the following definition of a bore which was given by the late Bishop Mackarness of Oxford: "A bore is a man who will talk about himself when you want to talk about yourself." Sydney Smith is said to be responsible for the original definition.

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Since Rudolf Eucken received the Nobel prize for literature, translators are hurrying to place his works before the American people in English. "Rudolf Eucken's Philosophy of Life," by Prof. W. R. Boyce-Gibson is already in a second edition. Prof. and Mrs. Gibson have nearly ready for publication a translation of Eucken's "The Meaning and Value of Life."

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Prof. Lounsbury, of Yale, writing in the February Harper's of "Archaic Speech of the Uneducated," says that nowadays only the wilfully or the obviously unlettered will confuse the verbs "to learn" and "to teach"; yet Shakespeare has more than a dozen examples in his works of the use of "learn" in the sense of "teach," and the brilliant Lady Mary Montagu sometimes blundered in the same manner.

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Because she had abandoned her home and family and run away with her husband's best friend, Mrs. Grace Conger was sentenced by Judge Wismer of Flint, Mich., to "receive no callers for the next three years except in the presence of the adult members of your family; to spend your evenings at home, and to report to the Court every 60 days." The sentence, which is perhaps the most original ever passed in Michigan, was imposed after Mrs. Conger's husband had pleaded with the Court to deal leniently with her for her abandonment of him.

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Without amendment, the United States senate passed the house bill making February 12, 1909, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, a legal holiday and recommending its celebration throughout the United States, for which purpose the President is authorized to issue a special proclamation. The bill also declares that as a part of a national memorial to Lincoln, there may be built a highway from Washington City to the battlefield of Gettysburg, to be known as "the Lincoln Way." An appropriation of \$50,000 is made for a survey of plans and estimates for such a highway.

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Sir Gilbert Parker has been elected president of the Sir Walter Scott Society in Edinburgh, succeeding the Right Honorable George Wyndham. Sir Gilbert, despite political responsibilities, is yet devoting his time to literary work and has written several short stories. "The Weavers," published in the early fall of 1907, was one of the most popular novels of the last year and it has just gone to press for a new impression. At present, Sir Gilbert, whose home is in Carlton Terrace, London, Eng., is sojourning in France and stopping at Biarritz.

The number of words in the English language has never been accurately estimated. It would be almost impossible to do so, for the language is being constantly enriched by the addition of new words. The Standard Dictionary is said to contain 300,000 words, and the Century 225,000. In his various plays Shakespeare used about 15,000 words. Milton used only about half as many in his writings. A person of culture and education has a speaking vocabulary of about 5,000 words; an ordinary person uses from 2,000 to 3,000 words. It is said that every person has three vocabularies. The largest is the reading vocabulary, which is the words of which he knows the meaning and which convey ideas to his mind when seen in print. The second largest is the writing vocabulary, or the words he uses in written thought. The smallest is the speaking vocabulary, or the words he uses in conversation.

Cuba Left to Herself

Ever since the close of the Spanish-American war, it has generally been considered only a matter of time before the United States government, following the example of Britain, withdrew its authority in Cuba and left the island free to work out its own destiny as a self-governing country. That time has arrived, and in pursuance of the intention to withdraw, the American governor, Magoon and other American officials sailed from Havana harbor in the new "Maine," on January 28th. Just previous to their departure, the inauguration of Jose Miguel Gomez as President of Cuba had taken place. The out-going authority left some directions behind, which were proclaimed in an address by Governor Magoon at the time of the inauguration. The departure was made with the understanding that all legislation and regulations of the government then in power should remain in force under the new authority until repealed in legal form; that the many obligations of the out-going government should be assumed by the new, and that contracts already made for public works and sanitation should be faithfully carried out. All other nations will watch with interest Cuba's endeavors to become a self-governing people, and hearty good wishes should accompany the interest from all freedom possessing nations.

Little New Light on Cancer

The British Imperial Cancer Research commission has sent in a report after six year's work. Six years is a long time and they worked ardently, and the fact that, after all, there is so little to report is a plain indication of the mysteries of the cause and cure of this dreadful disease. The medical scientists have found out more about what it is not than about what it is. So far, they have found no cancer germ. The disease can only be carried from one organism to another by transplanting the living cells, so that the fear of catching it from handling the clothes or living in the same house with a patient is greatly relieved. But on the other hand, there is no way of preventing its appearance and no one can be rendered immune. As far as the commissioner can discover, the food one eats has nothing to do with the disease, it being found among vegetarians and flesh-eaters alike. Civilization, apparently, has nothing to do with it, for animals share it with man, and savage with civilized. The only remedy recommended is the removal of the tumor at an early stage by a surgeon. The radium cure, so much exploited recently, has not yet satisfied the commission of its value.

Another Good Man Gone

In reckoning up the agencies that have contributed in large measure to the expansion and uplifting of Western Canada, the church must come high on the list with the Anglican and Roman Catholic bodies leading. And the chief honor should be paid, not so much to the churches, —though they planned and paid—but to the individuals who came to do missionary work under pioneer conditions, among the native Indian tribes or with the earliest settlements of other peoples. Of these missionaries of the Gospel, few are left, and death is claiming one by one the men who gave their lives in long years of spiritual service to Western Canada.

The last to go from his field of labor is Canon William A. Burman, who died in Winnipeg a few weeks ago. He was born in Lincolnshire, England—Tennyson's home—but came direct from there to Manitoba in 1875, before the days of railways. Four years later he was given charge of a mission for a band of Sioux Indians who had settled at Griswold a few years previous to his coming among them. Someone has said that when he arrived they were hunting buffalo, and when he left them in 1889 they were raising wheat and building churches and schools.

Canon Burman was an accomplished linguist and used this ability for the good of his Indian children. He translated the prayer book and other works into the Sioux language, and assisted in a new translation of the Cree Bible. His library on the North American Indian was one of the largest of its kind in America. His discoveries in botanical science were many, and so important that he was appointed botanist and entomologist to the Manitoba government for a time. When he left the mission, it was to become principal of an Indian industrial school near Winnipeg, and later he was Bursar and Professor of St. John's College.

A Kipling Poem Recovered

The February *Bookman* publishes Kipling's "The Foreloper," which it describes as "The hitherto lost poem." It would seem that of this early bit of Kipling, only the first six lines remained within the general memory of men, including the author. The entire poem, fourteen lines in all, was recently discovered in the columns of a Pacific Coast publication.

The gull shall whistle in his wake, the blind
wave break in fire,
He shall fulfil God's utmost will unknowing
His desire;
And he shall see old planets pass and alien stars
arise,
And give the gale his reckless sail in shadow of
new skies,
Strong lust of gear shall drive him out and hunger
arm his hand
To wring his food from a desert nude, his foothold
from the sand.
His neighbor's smoke shall vex his eyes, their
voices break his rest,
He shall go forth till South is North, sullen and
dispossessed;
And he shall desire loneliness, and his desire shall
bring
Hard on his heels a thousand wheels, a people,
and a king;
And he shall come back in his own track, and by
his scarce, cool camp;
There he shall meet the roaring street, the derrick,
and the stamp;
For he must blaze a nation's ways with hatchet
and with brand
Till on his last won wilderness an Empire's
bulwarks stand.

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TELEPATHIC D

Though I be absent
am I with you in
ai: 5.

"Oh, turn me, mould
for use,
Pervade my being
force,
That this else in ex
mine.

May become eloque
power,
Impregnated with li
divine,

Put the bright torch
my hand,
That I may carry it
And win the eye of v
here below,

To guide their feet in
peace.

I cannot raise the de
Nor from this soi
dust,

Nor bid the sleeper v
Nor still the storm
lightning back,

Nor muffle up the th
Nor bid the chains fa
tion's long enfe
But I can live a life
other lives.

And makes this wo
anguish and of p
A life that like the
upon the sea

Sends its wide circl
shores.

May such a life be m
Creator of true life,
Thou givest,

Give Thyself, that
dwell in me, and

Though people som
"a material age,"
never was a time wh
phenomena were more
and studied. St. P
that he is with the C
in the "spirit," th
the "flesh," is no
poetical figure of spee
up-to-date and scienti
In a letter to the C
he commands them to
ecclesiastical court, i
one of their number
mitted a great sin
promises to be there
decision, although in
letter he says: "I
Ephesus until Pentecost

Modern cases of thou
are often very startli
don't understand th
govern our own spirit
stance one or two?
morning last summer
ronto was lying apr
point of death, whe
said to the nurse, "C
Cayley praying for m
ing to get better." I
for her by name in
that hour. She told
she heard the words v
tinctness. Quackenb
when anyone is dying
tensely hypnotic state
free from the restra
the body. Who can
telepathic power of th
Another instance of
ence occurred a few r
is rather ludicrous, b
conclusively to my
thoughts can flash fro
without bodily assista
the midst of long
dreams, between 3 o'
light, when suddenly a
run before my drea
jumped from the top
ing. I thought noth
I heard that abou
someone had leaned o
stairs window and dr
the ground. It coul
been a coincidence, fo
had gone before could
such a dream.

I was once reading
person when my broth