TO WED LEAP YEAR OR NEVER

Be Lonely and Miscrable Unless
Some Girl Proposes.

New York.—"Don't forget that I've got my flag up and if I miss marriage this leap year, I shall be doomed to a bachelor life and misery forever."

This is the parting hint to the girls by Maj. Archibald Butt, military aid to President Taft. It sailed for the Mediterranean and will be absent air. weeks. "I'm not engaged," he said. "They've always got me engaged to somebody whenever I leave Washington. But I shall not have much trouble in denying the last report, as Miss Dospothy Williams is already very busy in denying it.

"The man who does win her will be fortunate, as she is a most charming young woman, and it is curious that my name should have been coupled with here instead of with some one I

knew better.

"Every girl I meet before 1913 I shall look upon as a possible wife, so if I do get married don't be surprised. I need this little vacation, as I've lost 20 pounds in the last year and the rest will do me good."

Major Butt was accompanied by his friend, F. D. Millet, head of the American Academy of Art in Rome, director of the fine arts commission in Washington and of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

UNCLE SAM ADOPTS "BABY"

Tiny Mail Back Originating in Chicago Aiready Saves \$500,000 for Government.

Chicago, Ill.—Chicago has a new "baby." It was born in the postoffice and has been adopted by Uncle Sam. It weighs only one pound, but as a typical Chicago "doer" it is as big as a mastodon. Already it has saved its great foster parents a half million dollars and it is less than a month old.

The new creation is a small man sack, the baby of the bag department of the United States mail. It was created from the needs of the great mercantile and publication concerns sending out vast quantities of mail. Some time ago the department ruled that in order to handle such matter more expeditiously the publishers

must route it.

It further was ordered that the matter be tied in bundles and then put into United States mail sacks of the warious sizes furnished by the government. In one of these tiny sacks as many as 800 pieces of small mail may be bagged. In a label holder is slipper a narrow card bearing the name of the postoffice destination, whether it be St. Louis or the Philippines. Uncle

DAKOTA CAT A FIRE FIGHTER

Feline Extinguishes Blaze in a Trousers Leg and Paws Out Other
Flames.

Deadwood, S. D.—What is believed to be the only fire-fighting cat in the world is a pet in a Deadwood business house. A recent feat of the animal was to extinguish a fire which had started in the trousers leg of a customer in the store. The customer, in striking a match to light a cigar, accidentally set fire to his clothing. The coat discovered the fire, sprang at the flame, struck at it with her paw and put it out.

The cat in the same way extinguishes matches which have been lighted and thrown on the floor. The animal evinces a desire to get at a fire whenever she sees it.

BABY IS BORN IN PRISON

Negre Boy Baptized in Hospital Ward of the Eastern Ponttentiary.

Philadelphia.—The gloomy walls of the Eastern penitentiary echoed three days ago to the cries of a tiny new baby, for the first time in many years and there was a baptismal ceremony in the bospital ward, where the mother, a negress, and her infant, were tenderly cared for.

desired to see the little chap—he was christened Abraham Lincoln by Chap-lain Welsh—but that was denied them. The child's father is also a prisoner in the same institution, he and his wife having been convicted six months ago of a charge of larceny.

This event stirred the prisoners. All

SENTENCED; ASKS FOR DEATH

Assailant of Girl Begs Spectators for Rope With Which to Hang Himself.

Akron, O.—John Rettig, 48 years old, a widower, was sentenced to eight months in the workhouse and to pay a fine of \$500 and costs for containing to the delinquency of a 16-year-old girl. Sentence was pronounced by Probate Judge Lytle. Rettig jumped to his feet and begged that someone bring him a rope that he might hang himself.

Hospitals for Bankrupts.

Berlin—A singular foundation is to the established near St. Petersburg through the will of the wife of the Meweler Ivanhoff, who left 2,500,000 aroubles under strange conditions. A million had to be spent on a sant-tarium for hankrupis, so that as a resolution of the anxiety their failures cause them they can spend a few weeks inder conditions which will conduce to the restoration of their shattered beauty.

PANELS HOUSE WITH WARSHIP

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Hard as Iron Are the Timbers of British Frigate Despite Ite Age.

New York.—Oaken timbers from the old British warship, the Daedalus, have been brought to New York and are being converted into paneling for the interior of the new home of Stephen Carlton Clark at No. 42 East Seventieth street.

Though the vessel was built in 1769 and was in commission until two years ago, the timbers are sound, and "hard as iron." At Eckeworth & Sons' yard at Fifth and Lewis streets, where the parts of the hull were taken from the Atlantic transport liner Mesaba, it was found necessary to invent a special machine to pull the wrought iron spikes from the wood. In the parts of the keelson the bolts were one and a quarter inches in circumference.

The timbers are being turned into paneling at Sherwin & Berman's in East One Hundred and Thirty-seventh street. The work will require four months. The old oak panels will be stained dark brown and will be given a duli finish. They will be put in the halls, stairs, library and dining room of the Clark residence, under the direction of Architect Sterner. There is to be a "gunboat room," decorated, it is said, with some of the bolts and

Stephen Carlton Clark is a son of Alfred Corning Clark, whose widow became the second wife of Bishop Henry C. Potter. He is a grandson of Edward Clark, a partner of Isaac Singer in the sewing machine businessa. Young Clark in 1909 married Miss Susan V. Hun, a daughter of Marcus Hum of Albany, and he has a large fortune. His family owns much land in the supper West side. He is now in Europe. His country home is at Cooperatown, N. Y., where he was elected to the assembly.

HENS PHONE ALARM TO OWNER

Well-Known Poultry Raiser Catches Chicken-Thief by Unique

Winsted, Conn.—To catch an animal which had been killing his hens, B. E. Moore, a well-known poultry raiser, who has a pen of hens taking part in the international egg laying contest at the State Agricultural college at Sterrs, had a telephone installed in his henhouse.

The wire ran to his bedroom, where the receiver was fastened to a bedpost close to his pillow. The receiver on the other end was also off the hook, thus permitting any sound in the hennery to travel to Moore's sleeping chamber.

About daybreak Moore was awakened by the shrill cackling of his hens coming over the wire. Half dressed, he grabbed a gun and started for the henhouse, where he shot and killed the thief, a mink.

Moore will not take the telephone out of the hennery, because the crowing of the roosters coming over the wire in the early morning beats any alarm clock he ever had.

NO REASON FOR EXISTENCE

Pastor of City Temple Church, London, Takes a Gloomy View of Things in General.

London.—Rev. Dr. R. J. Campbell, pastor of the City Temple, said at a service that he doesn't believe there is any reason for existence. He said:

"One is sometimes inclined to question whether there has been any progress in the world at ail, or whether, if there has been progress, it has been worth the ages upon ages of agony it has cost. Of course, I believe there has been progress, but the question is whether it has really furnished a sufficient reason for the existence of humanity in the material world.

"Frankly, I don't believe so. Are things today so different from ancient Egypt or Rome, when precisely the same economic questions were being fought as those which still confront the modern world, such as free distribution of food to the poor and legislation for fixing wages and prices?"

HAD NOT MET IN 40 YEARS

Brothers Gilman Greet Each Other at Railway Station—Death of Parents Separated Them.

Peabody. Kan.—Thomas and William Gilman, brothers, who had not seen each other since they were children, 40 years ago, met by accident at a railway station here. The two were waiting for a train and casually entered into a conversation. William, a farmer living in Western Nebraska, asked the other his name. A few more words revealed the relationship. Thomas is a New York traveling salesman and has been visiting Nebraska for 15 years. The brothers became separated when their parents died in New York state.

Quait Shut Out the Sun.

Los Angeles.—Ranchers from the Coachella Valley who were in Los Angeles recently reported that quait were so thick in the valley that crops of all kinds were being destroyed, despite the efforts of the state game wardens, who are now trapping the birds by thousands and sending them to other sections of the state. One rancher said he saw one covey of quali that must have contained five

thousand birds.

"They were so thick the sunlight was shut out when they flew past" he said. "The quall are very wise," he continued, "and hunters find trouble in shooting thme, while trapping is still more difficult."

COMIC KING IN U.S.

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Emperor of Sahara Now Lives in New York.

Ruler Is Without Funds—Former
Boulevardier, Known as "The LitRie Sugar Bowl," Is Plaintiff
In Big Law Suit.

New York.—Jacques Lebaudy, first emperor of the Sahara, idler of the Paris boulevards and one time lover of the spectacular, has found New York a place where he can indulge in many of the eccentricities which made him notoriou: in France and elsewhere. As an asylum for rejected and dejected monarchs, he prefers it to England.

Strange as it may seem, in a city where publicity is the lot of doers of the unconventional the emperor of the Sahara in the six years that he has spent in exile here has had many adventures which have escaped no-

As was his wish when he came here an exile from France, but with money to burn, he has effaced himself, has joined the submerged tenth as it were. Just now he is living in a villa within a hundred miles of this city, enjoying himself and awaiting the outcome of the suit which he has brought against the superintendent of banks and the Carnegle Trust company for an accounting of something like \$2,000,000, that being the value of property in France which he alleges the trust company was to dispose of for

The sait brought by Jacques Premeter, as he used to sign himself on hotel registers, is really an echo of his Saharan expedition. It was in 1906 that Lebaudy, forced to abandon his scheme of empire in the desert owing to the refusal of the powers to recognize his claims, determined to seek an asylum in the Truited States. Because of the treatment of some of his men France had become uncomfortable for him. In September, 1908, he issued a proclamation offering his French property for sale, signed by his imperial hand which was sent to leading bankers abroad and which was the forerunner

of his present swit.

It was after this proclamation that the emperor says he turned over the disposal of his property to the trust company which he is now suing. It is almost needless to say that his claim has been disputed by the receiver and the banking department.

Just why Lebaudy, after entertaining Europe with his escapades and playing the role of an opera bouffer monarch, should have elected to retire into seclusion has long been a mystery. Not even his friends of former days have known in recent years the restricted of the emperor.

the residence of the emperor. While the former idler of the Paris boulevards is now seeking a fortune in the courts of this country, that does not mean that he is penniless. He yet has a large fortune. An investigation of the career of the exmonarch of the desert in this country revealed that at the time Mr. Harriman was reported to be about to rehabilitate the Erie Lebaudy was shrowd enough to purchase a large block of Erie shares at from \$12 to \$15 a share, which he afterward disposed of at from \$30 to \$35 a share. Friends who have since heard of this are convinced that instead of its being evidence of unusual business sa gacity it was only another evidence

of his eccentricities.

A brilliant and unique individual is this Frenchman, and he comes of an eccentric family. It is just about twenty years ago since he and his brother, Max, who was equally eccentric, inherited \$15,000,000 each from their father, the French sugar king. The Parisian wits dubbed him at once "The Little Sugar Bowl."

SINGS HIMSELF TO FREEDOM

Kentuckian Liberated After Rendering "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" for Benefit of Jurors.

Richmond, Ky.—Isaac Lakes sung himself out of jail here when he rendered "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" before a jury in the circuit court room. He was indicted far disturbing public worship by singing too loudly. Several continuances had been granted on account of the absence of witnesses, so the judge suggested that in lieu of testimony the jury be allowed to pass judgment on the prisoner's voice

Lakes acquiesced, and standing in the witness stand, he seng with all his might. The jury retired and immediately acquitted the defendant.

CORN GROWS IN APPENDIX

Strange Conditions Found in Human Body by Doctors Operating on a Farmer.

Lawrence, Ind.—Three grains of corn that had begun to aprout were found in the appendix of James B. Pewell, a wealthy farmer, when he was operated upon for acute appendicitis. The appendix was H inches long. Powell had a habit, he said, of eating a few grains of corn every time he fed his stock.

Sheriff Prevents Wedding.
Kenton, O.—Denied permission to marry by the girl's parents. Daniel Lewis, 19, and Ethel Smith, 16, eloped. They were pursued 20 miles by the sheriff who prevented the marriaga and arrested Lewis.

FARMER WELL PAID FOR WORK

Oregon Man Goes Trapping and Expects to Make \$500 With Little Labor.

Klamath Falls, Ore,—When R. 8. Sparks walked down Main street fairly enveloped in pelts of wild animals he had caught and skinned, he attracted no little attention. He had fifteen unusually fine covote pelts and five bolicat pelts strung on a circular wire, which rested on his shoulder like a yoke, and the skins hung down on all sides like a cape, nearly to the ground. It is the biggest and most valuable catch of the kind brought to County Clerk Tharles R. De Lap in a long time.

The ! ounty collected from the clerk was at the rate of \$1.50 for the coyote skins and \$2 for the bides of the bobcats. In addition to the total bounty of \$33.50, he will get enywhere from \$4 to \$8 apiece for the skins. As a rule, coyote skins bring less than those of bobcats, but this winter they are slightly higher.

Sparks places his traps on hilly places where he can see them from the door of his house on the farm about two and one-half miles from Bonanza, and before breakfast looks out to see if there is a catch. He says the trapping has not taken two hours' time from his farm labor all season. He expects to devote his time exclusively to trapping instead of farming next winter, expecting to make mere than by agriculture.

With a dozen traps, Sparks declares that in a winter he can easily clear

NINE KITTENS ARE ABDUCTED

Kidnaper Evidently Fought Many Hard Battles to Accomplish the Feat.

Los Angeles.—William Helm, 645 South Daly street, is owner of a huge white Persian tom cats worthy of a special prize at the next annual cat show as the original kidnaper of his turbe.

Ordinarily he presents a most docile

and innocent countenance despite his crimes. One night he set out by stealth, to return before dawn, where he waited for Mrs. Helm to open the door.

Mrs. Helm was struck with the battie scars on her pet. One of his eyes was closed, his coat was torn and rough and his tail was limp and almost as bare as a rat's.

Once inside he was not content, but by many "meows" and trips to the kitchen door he convinced his mistress that there was something outside. When the door opened he darted out shead, and when Mrs. Helm arrived on the back porch he was marching like a victor around nine blind kitten which he had kidnaped during the right.

Each kitten meant a long and hazarduous journey and nine successive battles as his appearance indicated.

HIRES HUSBAND FROM JAIL

Asheville (N. C.) Woman Purchases
Convicted Spouse's Services
for \$500 a Month.

Asheville, N. C.—Placing a much higher value on his services than anyone else, Mrs. P. H. Trash hired her husband from the board of county commissioners for one month for \$500, strictly cash in advance.

Trash a man worth \$50,000 and well connected, had been found guilty of keeping liquor to sell to retailers in his prohibition section and sentenced by Judge Long in superior court to pay a fine of \$2,000, costs amounting to \$400, and to be imprisoned in jail thirty days; but upon the tearful petition of the wife the judge stipulated that if the county commissioners chose to do so they might hire the defendant for his term to the highest bidder, but not less than \$500.

The heard decided to take the money and in default of other bids the defendant was struck off to the wife for \$500, which she promptly puld.

SETS GOLD WALL IN ARTERY

New York Surgeon Astounds His Colleagues by Unusual Operation.

New York.-An assemblage of physicians and surgeons, many of them from other cities, was held spellbound by an operation performed by Dr. William C. Lusk A new interior wall of gold wire was supplied for a distended aorta, the principal wall had been torn to such a thinness that it threatened to burst at each beat of the heart. It was necessary to perform the operation to plerce the wall of this artery. Had the worn walls ripped or cracked under the pulsations of the heart while the operation was in progress, the patient's death would have been a mutfor of moments. Under the conditions it was necessary to use only local anesthetics, and the patient was conscious throughout. Henry E. Griffin, the patient, is 53 years old.

Left Estate Worth \$30,000.
Woodside, N. Y.—Investigation of the accounts of Daniel Creedon who lived in an old windmill, showed that he left an estate worth \$30,000. All his relatives live in Ireland.

Once Millionaire, Now a Tramp.

New York.—Gol. Wayne Belvin, once vice-president of the Northern Pacific railway and rated at worth \$1,000,000.20 years ago, was alrested here on a charge of vagrancy.

TIRES OF AFFINITY

Former Crown Princess Is Plain-

Was Separated From Prince Because of Escapade With Tutor—Afterwards Married a Musician—Now Seeks to Be Free.

Rome.—The trial of the suit of the Countess Montiguoso, formerly crown princess of Saxony, for a legal separation from her husband, Eurico Toselli, was begun here and promises to be replete with sens lons. In her pe--tition the former princess accuses Signor Toselli with having misappropriated money and jewelry belonging to her in order to lead a vicious, lazy and immoral life, and further alleges that during her absence Toselli invited women to their villa, decked them out in her finery, and afterward openly escorted them through the streets of Florence.

Signor Toselli has made no public statement in regard to the suit, but his friends declare that many of the accusations made against him are false, and he is expected to make a vigorous defense. It is hinted also that he will bring serious counter charges against his wife, the former princess.

Princess Louise, or the Countess Montignoso, first came into notoriety in 1902, when she disappeared from the court of Dresden and was not located for several days, when she was found at Geneva in company with M. Giron, a former tutor of her children, who had been ordered out of Saxony ion account of his attentions to the princess. It was said that the married life of the crown princess and her husband had been very unhappy on account of the prince's conduct, but King George insisted that his son should get a divorce, which was granted on February 11, 1903.

The princess and Giron at first seemed to be very happy, going from Geneva to Mentone. Then came the serious illness of Prince Christian, the eldest child of Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Louise, and the mother agreed to part with Giron if allowed to see her son. This was refused, but Louise did not go back to Giron.

After her flight Louise assumed the title of Countess Montignoso, and was granted an income of \$7,500 a year from her former husband. The countess then came to Italy, where he had an affair with the Marquis Guiccardini, which caused the latter's wife to leave him and sue for divorce. Louise next met Signor Toselli, who was a music teacher with a very modest income. They eloped to London, where they were married in 1907.

The pair have not lived together for nearly two years, but not until recently were any steps taken looking to a legal separation. The fact that the countess now seeks her freedom has given rise to a report that she has another matrimonial venture in view and consequently desires to rid herself of the Italian planist.

GIRL WHO LIKES GHOSTS

But Some of Thom Are Sporty, Concludes Wellesley Girl Fancier of Spooks.

Wellesley.—Miss Agnes Rockwell, a senior at Wellesley college, has acquired a wholesome sympathy for ghosts, not the kind that walks on Saturday, but the sort that plays havoc with one's spinal cord.

She says they are much abused and are really good and not bad. She knew a ghost once, she declares, that of a favorite black cat. Her nurse, so she says, "in common with many other distinguished people, held the fallacy that ghosts are horrible creatures and that every man's hands should be against them."

"A most flagrant instance of the mishandling of ghosts in fiction has driven me to take up my pen in their defense," she continued. "It must have been apparent to all considerable litterateurs that of all the faithful servants who wait upon the pleas are of the insatiate novel reader, none are so abused and mistrested as the ghosts.

"The finest specimens of ghosts, and in may opinion the only resity authentic ones, flourish in England. All other ghosts are sports"

10.000 LOONS TAKE WING

Mobilization and Flight of Birds From California to North Rare Scene.

San Diego, Cal.—The first sign of spring was evident on San Diego bay a few days ago when a flock of loons, estimated to have numbered 10.000, mobilized on the surface of the water and maneuvered to the weird calls of their leaders until their formation was perfect.

Then, at a signal, the feathered visitors from the north, which have been about San Diego during the winter, rose and in wedge-shaped body headed for their northern summer home.

Many persons lined the bay shore and witnessed the strange mobilization, which lasted for more than an

To Have Aerial Line.
Indianapolis, Ind —Capital assured for axirigible balloon passenger line between this city, Chicago Laulaville and Cincinnati. Ten passengers will be carried on the first trip

hour.

GIVES \$5,000 TO GREET BIRDS

Anonymous Donor Contributes to Audubon Societies' Fund to Encourage Children's Care.

New York.—Five thousand dollars was given to the National Association of Audubon Societies to encourage school children to welcome the birds in the eastern and middle western sec-

tions of the United States.

The donor, who prefers that his pame be kept secret, is following the example of Mrs. Russell Sage, who is giving \$5,000 a year to the same society, to be used in promoting the study of the feathered wanderers of the air in the south.

It was announced at the offices of the association that work would be begun at once. The idea will be carried along in this part of the country on somewhat different lines than in the south. In the winter the children of the east and middle west will be encouraged to put out boxes for the snelter of birds and to place food for them on the window sills of their homes.

With the coming of spring, instruction is to be given as to the northward migration of the flying hosts. The association will expend the fund in sendig out plates, color prints and descriptions of the common varieties of birds, directions for feeding them and how to place material at hand which they may use in the building of nests. Two field agents will also give lectures.

The giver of the fund is believed to be a prominent citizen of Massachusetts, who was asked a few days ago, while in this city, if he knew of anybody who might contribute money to start this new kind of bird study. He sent a check signed by himself, with a jetter, stating that the donor did not wish to have any public mention of his name.

U. S. PAYS OFF AN OLD DEBT

Government Sends \$1.77 to Minnesotan Due Him Since Days of the Civil War.

St. Paul, Minn.-Another proof that Uncle Sam is honest and will pay his. debts as soon as he can is on exhibition at the office of Julius Schmahl, secretary of state, at the capitol. It is a check for \$1.77, which was received by Charles A. Rose, document clerk. Uncle Sam has been owing Mr. Rose this money since 1863 and at last has got enough ahead to pay the debt. In 1863 Mr. Rose was transferred from one company of volunteers to another and at the time of this transfer there was due him \$1.77. The amount was never naid and Mr. Rose had even forgotten that he had it coming until the check ar rived yesterday.

-Warren, Pa.—Hiram Towsley, of Garfield, near here, has received a check from the United States government for \$105, which was the balance due him in prize money for services rendered in the Civil war. Mr. Towsley was one of the crew of the gunboat Connecticut. For valuable cargo captured his share amounted to \$2,400, of which \$105 had not been paid, owing to an oversight.

TO USE MUSIC ON CRIMINALS

Teacher of Instrumental Melody to Work at New York Reformatory Indorsed by Council.

New York.—Patrick A. Whitney, commissioner of corrections, has decided that music should have a large part in the work of reforming youthful criminals, and he has accordingly directed the employment of a teacher of instrumental music at the city reformatory on Hart's island. His order to this effect is indorsed by the aldermen in a resolution, which says:

"Music is extremely beneficial in the general scheme of social reform, for which this institution is octablished, and is necessary as a part of the special reform work there. Furthermore, beginners may practice on an island to their heart's desire and annoy no one but themselves."

Commissioner Whitney will offer the convicts an "optional course" of eighty instrumental music lossons this spring.

BABIES ARE THIEF'S NEMESIS

Man Arrested for Jewelry Thefts
Gives Tots Great Credit for
His Capture.

Bpokane, Wash.—Babies are the best protection against burgiars, according to James Burke, under arrest at Missoula, Mont., who has confessed the theft of \$11,000 in jewels from the Thatcher residence at Pueblo, Colo., and the taking of gems worth \$5,000 from B. L. Gordon of Spokane.

"Babies are better than watchdogs or the pelice," said Burke to Gordon, who returned from Montana with some of the recovered jewels. "When the baby begins to cry the burglars better 'best it.'"

Dog Puts Out Fire. Louisville, Ky.-After extinguishing a fire caused by hot coals falling from a grate, the prize-winning collie of W. J. Atkinson awoke its master to have a look at its blistered paws. The dog sleeps on a rug in front of the grate and during the night live soals fell on the rug. Mr. Atkinson was awakened by the dog whining and scratching at his bedroom door. He arose and followed the dog to where it indicated the burned places in the rug with its nose. Then the dog exhibited its paws, which had been blistered in beating out the

biaze.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS