

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

Grandchildren had Lots of Fun Out of the Old Man.

Atlanta Constitution.

This month did not begin right. April means to open, but it did not open. It was an April fool. Nothing shows in my garden but the peas and onions. The flowers make no progress. There is no sweet south wind to breathe upon them—no sunbeams to warm them. On Monday the grandchildren imposed upon me with their Hindoo pranks. They gave me a cup of chocolate with whipped cream on top, and it was nothing but soapuds. I pretended to be fooled, but I wasn't; I paid them back in various ways. The Hindoos started this childishousness away back in the ages, and it still annoys the children. And now Easter day is at hand and that is another name that came down from the Pagans. Osters was their goddess of spring and it was corrupted into Easter. How these old names do stick to us. The names of the days of the week and of the month came from them. So did the planets and the constellations. Even the prophets and Job had to take them from the Egyptians. But the Scotch people don't call it Easter. They say Pascha, or pasover day. They won't pattern after anybody but John Knox, and he said Pascha. But there is a reason for calling it Easter, for the coming of spring—the opening of the earth and the flowers is emblematical of the resurrection—the opening of the Saviour's tomb and His return to bless and comfort His people. This year corresponds closely with the Jewish passover, and so they observe it.

Now I want the young people to know that Lent is another word that means spring. It is preceded by that foolish festival called mardi gras—or fat beef—and continues forty days in remembrance of the Saviour's long fast, and it ends with Easter, and the communion and other rejoicings. As the old-time almanacs would say, "about this time look for Easter hats and flowers and fiery." Christmas is another festival day that is common to all Christian nations. There are many other days dedicated to the saints, but in course of time it was found that there were not enough days in the year to go round, and so the pope stopped the sainting of so many and had one day set apart as All Saints day. The next day after that is All Souls day, on which mass is said by the Roman Catholics for the souls of the dead who are in purgatory. It seems that about 900 years ago a pilgrim from the holy land found a hermit in Sicily who told him of an opening between the cliffs of the mountains near by that communicated with hades where Pluto lived and that he could see the sulphurous smoke rising and hear the groans of the lost souls who were being tormented in hell and he had known some of them to escape through the prayers of the priests and this made the devils very mad and he could hear them cursing the priests with awful imprecations. The pilgrim told all this to the abbots and monks, and they had a day set apart to pray these lost souls out of hell or hades or purgatory or whatever it is.

Besides these international days there are national days in every country. Here we have the Fourth of July and Washington's birthday and Decoration Day and some others. Germany celebrates the birth of Calvary and Luther and the Kaiser. Scotland that of Sir William Wallace and Bruce and John Knox. In old England they celebrate the Queen's birthday, Magna Charter day and Waterloo day and May day. May day is the happiest of all and has been long remembered in verse and song and in dancing around the May pole. Tennyson wrote a sad, sweet poem called "The May Queen." Mexico celebrates all the Roman Catholic days and has one other that the rabble call Judas Iscariot's day. It is the next day after Easter. On the beautiful trees in the plaza or park they suspend pasteboard images of Judas Iscariot—images as large as life, with little holes bored in them from head to foot and in every hole is fastened a cannon cracker. At a given signal the fuse in every cracker is lighted and all of them explode nearly at the same time and such a terrific popping was never heard outside of a battlefield, and poor old Judas is torn and rent into a thousand pieces. This is just a sign of what they would do to him if they had him these days, but I reckon it is more for frolic than anything, for they shout and laugh and dance the horrible and make all the racket they can. Ben Franklin said that man was a bundle of habits. He might have added "and superstitions," for most all people have some belief in supernatural things. Two hundred years ago almost everybody believed in witches. Shakespeare wrote about

Funston's Capture of Aguinaldo Recalls Previous Similar Incidents.

Gen. Funston's achievement in capturing Aguinaldo recalls earlier attempts made by officers of other armies to make prisoners of the leaders of hostile forces. The first attempt at seizing a general was never carried out. It involved too many persons, and the plotters engaged in it worked from the inside, not from without, as Funston did, and their plans were overheard. This was the attempt in June, 1877, to seize Washington in New York. The plans of the conspirators were overheard by a woman, who disclosed them to the American authorities, and as result the men implicated were captured and punished, one of them, private Thomas Hickey, of Washington's bodyguard, being hanged.

After Arnold's treason and his flight to the British, the Americans made an attempt to seize him. This undertaking was like General Funston's exploit. Sergt. Champe, of Lee's Legion, was the principal actor in the scheme. His plan was known only to the chief in command; so when he deserted to the British his late comrades fired upon him, and he reached the enemy's lines under a shower of bullets, narrowly escaping with his life. This was an excellent introduction to the British, and Champe was received with open arms. But he was unsuccessful; Arnold moved his headquarters the day on which Champe had arranged to capture him, and Champe had finally to desert from the English and return again under fire, to our lines. When Washington wished soon after to promote him for his gallantry, he found Champe had died of disease.

The capture of the British general, Prescott, in July, 1777, was perhaps the first successful attempt of this kind. General Prescott commanded the British forces in Newport, R. I., and went for the summer to a fine house some five miles out of the city. Colonel William Barton, knowing this, decided to capture him if possible; and on July 10, 1777, with 41 comrades, rowed across from Warwick Point, on the west shore of Narragansett bay, and reached the house undiscovered. The door of his house was burst in by a negro, who used his head as a battering ram; Prescott was asleep and awoke to find himself a prisoner. He was not allowed to dress, but in his cloak with a cap carrying his clothes, was forced to the boat, and taken within the American lines and then to Washington's headquarters in New Jersey. He was exchanged later. The successful capture of General Stoughton by Mosby and his Rangers in March, 1863, was the result of a carefully made plan. Mosby, with 29 men entered Fairfax Court House, passing themselves off as belonging to the Fifth New York cavalry, and while some of the band attempted to capture Colonel Wyndham, the leader went to the house where the general was sound asleep. At the name of Mosby, General Stoughton sat up in bed, wide awake in an instant. "Have you got him?" he asked. "He's got you," replied Mosby. The prisoner was taken to General Fitzhugh Lee's headquarters, from the very midst of a camp in which lay several thousand troops. The attempt to capture Sitting Bull was not made by strategy or trick; our Indian scouts went openly to the old chief's tent, and when and when they tried to arrest the famous Sioux were met with bullets; they returned the fire and killing him, losing some of their own number. Funston's capture of Aguinaldo was marked by a well-devised plan, involving more danger than that of any other plot except Sergt. Champe's and requiring longer time and more careful work, with the same exception.—New York Sun.

The Best Remedy For Rheumatism. QUICK RELIEF FROM PAIN.—All who use Chamberlain's Pain Balm for rheumatism are delighted with the quick relief from pain which it affords. When speaking of this Mr. D. N. Sinks, of Troy, Ohio, says: "Some time ago I had a severe attack of rheumatism in my arm and shoulder. I tried numerous remedies but got no relief until I was recommended by Messrs. George F. Parsons & Co., druggists of this place, to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. They recommended it so highly that I bought a bottle. I was soon relieved of all pain. I have since recommended this liniment to many of my friends, who agree with me that it is the best remedy for muscular rheumatism in the market." For sale by Hill-Orr Drug Co.

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It takes the average woman till she is thirty to make up her mind whether its better to marry a pig that looks like a gentleman or a gentleman that looks like a pig.

A Dangerous Drug.

The following editorial from the New York Journal has interest for the whole country, and we print it in order that attention may be riveted in South Carolina upon the possibilities of the abuse of a very dangerous drug: Lawmakers should read and think about Dr. Thomas D. Crothers' recent lecture in New York on the subject of cocaine.

The danger of the cocaine habit has been mentioned in this column before. It is a habit which ends in insanity and death. It is never cured. Tens of thousands of people become victims of the cocaine habit through the criminal negligence of doctors and druggists.

Every parent should see to it that no cocaine is used in treating a child, or at least that the child is not informed of the nature of the drug.

Dentists and doctors should be held responsible for malpractice when their treatment of patients results in making them cocaine fiends.

The sale of cocaine should be supervised strictly. Any druggist or other individual found guilty of selling the drug improperly should go to jail for at least five years to think it over. The man who will wreck another's life for a business profit is a villain and a natural candidate for Sing Sing.

It is horrible to learn that the cocaine habit is spreading widely, and at the same time that the price of cocaine from all restrictive tax is constantly decreasing. An amount of cocaine which a short time ago would have cost \$6 can now be bought for 75 cents.

The government imposes a heavy duty on the manufacturer and sale of alcohol, and it imposes the duty most properly. But cocaineism is ten times as dangerous as alcoholism, since in every case its victim is doomed. There should be an enormous tax on cocaine, and such a tax as would prevent any but physicians from using it.

Already in New Orleans strict measures have been taken to prevent the sale of the drug, which has made victims of the negroes by thousands.

We urge every reader to remember that the use of cocaine is indiscriminate among many physicians. Some years ago morphine was used in the same way by well meaning but foolish and ignorant doctors. The present great army of morphine fiends results from this past stupidity.

If cocaine is used to allay pain in treatment of your wife or child or friend, impress upon the physician that he must keep the fact to himself.

If you know anybody in danger of forming the cocaine habit and not yet a confirmed victim, he may perhaps be broken of the habit by friendly warning.

Cocaine gives at first a feeling of elation, of freedom from physical and mental worry. But there follows a sure and terrible reaction. The character is changed. The best and frankest of men is transformed by this drug into a sneak and liar, ultimately into a maniac. Tell the man or woman who begins taking cocaine that prussic acid would be better. The latter is quick suicide—the former is suicide also, but painful, long drawn out and horrible.

Capt. Raphael Semmes Foresaw Cuba's Fate.

While Captain Raphael Semmes was roving the seas in the Sumter, he carried six prizes into Cienfuegos, only to have them turned over to their owners by the Governor General of Cuba. This was naturally annoying to the enterprising captain, and he says in his memoirs, published in 1868: "I planned a very pretty little quarrel between the Confederate States and Spain, in case the former should establish their independence. Cuba, I thought, would make a couple of very respectable States, with her staples of sugar and tobacco, and with her similar system of labor; and if Spain refused to foot our bill for the robbery of these vessels we would foot it ourselves at her expense." That plan fell through, but Captain Semmes continues with a passage the conclusion of which may strike some people as curiously prophetic: "Poor old Spain!" he exclaims, "I thought perhaps to forgive thee, for thou wast afterward kicked and cuffed by the very power to which thou didst truckle—the federal steamers of war making free use of thy coast of the 'Ever Faithful Island of Cuba,' chasing vessels on shore and burning them in contempt of thy jurisdiction and in spite of thy remonstrances. And the day is not far distant when the schoolma'am and the carpet-bag missionary will encamp on the plantations and held joint conventions with thy free-men in the interest of godliness and the said schoolma'am of missionary." According to some of the Havana papers the day which Captain Semmes foresaw is come, and thirty years is "not far distant" in the realm of prophecy.

April Fool Hoax. Reporters have been told of an April fool hoax at Graniteville, which seems to have been one of the best in years. The big smokestack for the new mill is up. It is very tall and imposing. Mr. Sam T. Denning, who is at work in Graniteville, procured a suit of old clothing, stuffed it carefully and, during Sunday night, caused it to be suspended from the top. When the population started to work on the morning of April 1 they saw what appeared to be a man hanging from the chimney top. The figure was perfectly gotten up. Sensation ran high for a couple of hours when the figure was cut down and the hoax exposed. But the news had gotten out and for two days people tramped in from the outlying sections to see the man who had been hanged or who had hanged himself from the big smoke stack.—Augusta Herald.

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