

THE FIELD OF ARMAGEDDON.

Most Interesting Battleground of the World.

Students of Jewish and Biblical history were profoundly interested in the announcement that the British army had crossed the Plain of Esdraelon, known as the "Battlefield of Armageddon." The plain figures largely in history on account of the many sanguinary struggles of which it has been the scene, but it is of especial interest to the modern world by the reference to it in the Apocalypse (Rev. xvi, 16) as the place wherein the final struggle between good and evil the greatest of all battles will be fought: "the battle of the great day of God Almighty," to be fought at Armageddon, Armageddon being the Hebrew name of the plain.

The plain separates Galilee from Samaria, is triangular in form, and surrounded by mountains, of which Mount Carmel is the most conspicuous. Through it runs the road across Palestine which was the greatest thoroughfare of Asia Minor in ancient times.

It was because of lying on the easiest and most frequented highway of antiquity that it became such a frequent and famous battleground. "In it," writes the historian, "Gideon's gallant band of 300 picked men routed the Midianites from beyond the Jordan by their sudden night attack. On Mount Gilboa, Saul and Jonathan made their last tragic stand against the Philistine army. In the southwestern arm of the plain, King Josiah was defeated and slain by the Egyptian army. Holofernes sets up his camp on the Plain of Esdraelon. So did Pompey, and Mark Antony, and Titus. Near Mount Tabor Vespasian in the year 67 A. D. routed the Jewish patriots with great slaughter.

"The last significant campaign of the Crusades took place when, one after another the Christian strongholds on the edges of this plain were captured by the Saracen army under Saladin. Six hundred years later East and West again met on the historic battlefield, when Napoleon Bonaparte was victorious over the Turks, though the victory was won at such a great cost that he had to retreat to Acre and give up his ambitious dreams of rivalling Alexander the Great as the conqueror of Asia."

Chateau-Thierry.

Chateau-Thierry, whose fame received a new item in the brilliant victory of our Americans there over the Huns, has more history than most places. Not the least interesting item in its long story, is that it was the home of La Fontaine, next to Aesop the most famous of fable writers. The ruins of the chateau, or castle, from which the modern town derives its name, are twelve hundred years old. We are told by the Boston Transcript:

It was Charles Martel, A. D. 720, who built the chateau, and his glory was to have saved Europe from the Saracens. English archers took it in the Hundred Years' war, which Joan of Arc, in whose Lorraine fields other Americans are waiting the word on the German flank, entered in triumph. Charles V., emperor of Germany, in the first half of the sixteenth century, got as far as Chateau-Thierry in a march upon Paris, and half a century later the Spaniards sacked it in the wars between Catholics and Huguenots. Again in 1814, it was at Chateau-Thierry that Napoleon made a stand with 20,000 conscripts against 50,000 troops of the allied rest of Europe. This was in February, but in March his enemies entered Paris, and in a few weeks Napoleon was on his way to Elba. One who saw Chateau-Thierry early in the spring of the year describes it as a sweet old, fortified town of 7,000 people, no larger than Wellesley or Ipswich, set in a fair and peaceful countryside. In the French revolution the story runs, one woman was spared by the mob simply and expressly because she was the granddaughter of La Fontaine."

Why "Doughboys."

A doughboy is an American soldier, and American soldiers, infantrymen, artillerymen, medical department, signal corps, sharps, officers and men alike, all are called doughboys. Our cartoonist is one, so is General Pershing.

The term "doughboys" dates back to the Civil war when army wit was aroused by large globular brass buttons on the infantry uniforms. Somebody (he must have been a sailor) dubbed the buttons "doughboy" because they reminded him of the boiled dumplings of raised dough served in ships, messes and known to all sailors as doughboys. Originally it referred only to an enlisted infantryman, but the A. E. F. applies it to all branches and all grades of the service.—The Stars and Stripes.

HOUSE KILLS GOOD ROADS.

State-wide Appeals for Legislation Fall on Deaf Ears.

Columbia, Feb. 28.—The house, by a vote of 54 to 44 tonight, continued until next session, the good roads bill which was passed by the senate last night. This ends all chance of any good roads legislation at this session. The appeal of Governor Cooper and of people from every section of the State for legislation looking toward the lifting of the State out of the mud fell on deaf ears in the lower house of the general assembly.

The vote came very suddenly and unexpectedly. Representative Owens, of Marlboro, who was fighting the bill before the house tonight, as he has fought every good roads bill introduced at this session, was interrupted in the midst of a long argument which he was making against the bill by Representative Hamilton, of Chester, who moved that the bill be continued until next session.

Aye and Nay Vote Taken.
Representative Berry made the point of order that the motion was out of order. Representative Mower, who was in the chair sustained the point. Representative Berry, of Orangeburg, then attempted to gain the floor, but Representative Mower ruled that Representative Hamilton retained the floor. Mr. Hamilton then moved that the debate on the bill be adjourned until first day of the next session. Representative Mower ruled this motion in order and aye and nay vote was taken.

It was contended by some representatives that the bill which was under discussion was the house bill amended by the senate that the only disposition that could be made of it was either to accept or reject the senate amendment.

Home Stuff.

"I wonder if the coal man is going to give us any coal this year."

"I guess he got tired sending us statements for last year's coal."

"He got his money, didn't he?"

"Yes, after you kept him waiting about seven months."

"Well, he had this satisfaction at least, he got his money for it, but a little we got from it, and you know it."

"Certainly, I know it, but I don't see where you have much room to complain, you weren't home long enough to know whether the house was hot or cold."

"For goodness sake, Nan, when this little conversation started we had the coal man on the pan and now he's out of it and I am in it."

"If the shoe fits you, wear it. You started it, didn't you?"

"I'll take a solemn oath I didn't start to bawl myself out, that I'm sure of, and another thing—if you knew anything about a heater I wouldn't have to make a fresh fire about four times a week."

"Would you listen to that piece of conceit! Why, you dumb thing, this is the first house you ever lived in that had a heater. Didn't you say to me when you first saw it, 'What in the name of common sense do they have five pipes to take the smoke off?'"

"I was only kidding."

"Yes, you were, just like Americans are the Germans. Do you know I have lots of laughs to myself when I think of the times when you were coming around to our house and my mother would say what a fine young fellow you were. Something told me I was making a mistake, but between following my mother's advice and listening to your lies I just fell overboard—but never again."

"The way you talk you would think you were captured. I was the one who was taken in; I know now what your father meant at the engagement party your mother gave when he came up to me half stewed, and so was I or I would have known what he meant when he said, 'My boy, you're taking a lot of responsibility on yourself.'"

"My father knew I was too good for—"

"There's somebody at the door. See who it is."

"Oh, good evening, Mrs. Young; just leave the coach on the porch. Yoh, Charles, here's Mr. and Mrs. Young. Let me have the baby while you take your things off."

"Charles and I were just talking about coal. I don't know what we're going to do."

Moral—Many a door bell has kept a home together.—Inter-Nos.

Answered.

"You know," said the lady whose motor-car had run down a man, "you must have been walking very carelessly. I am a very careful driver. I have been driving a car for seven years."

"Lady, you've got nothing on me, I've been walking for fifty-four years."—Detroit Motor News.

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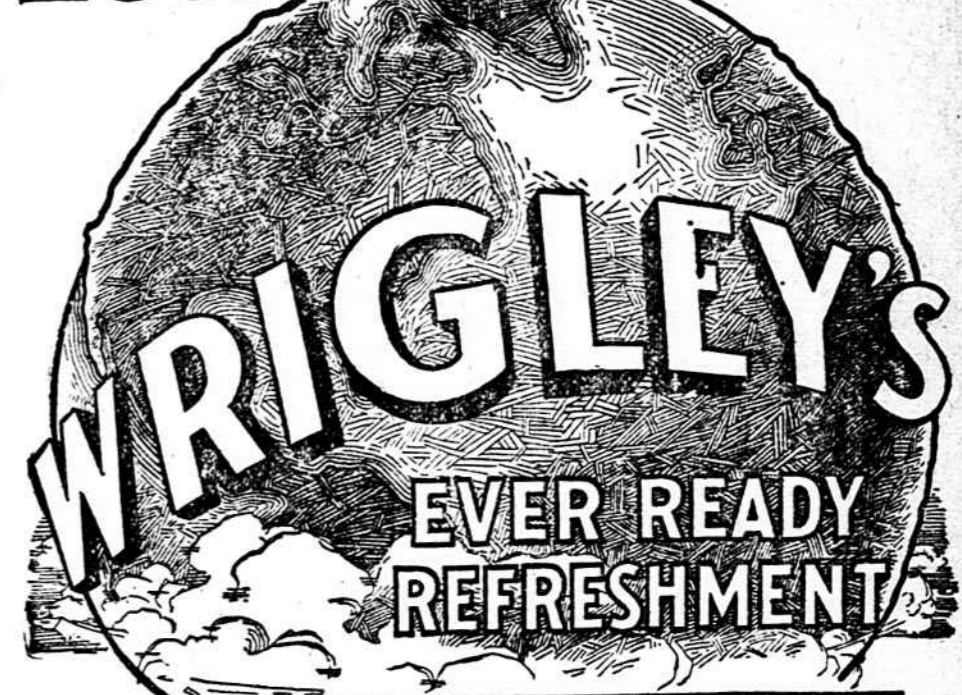
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