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SUNDAY..... APRIL 1, 1900.

#### A MONEY-SAVER.

The decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals in the case of the Parks bill, we believe, will prove to be "a money-saver" for Virginia.

While it possibly may allow to escape some revenue due the State, unquestionably it will prove to be an immense protection to the Treasury. We doubt if the provisions of the Constitution have been strictly conformed to in all respects with reference to payments out of the Treasury. Liberal, not to say loose, construction probably has been indulged in by the various gentlemen who have filled the "basement offices" for the three decades past. Yet, so far as we know, no great harm has been done. But think of the danger involved in the Proposition that without so much as a roll-call in either house, 118 new offices could be created and fees allowed them out of the public Treasury! Had that precedent been established the bars would have been let down and the Treasury would have been subject to all sorts of raids, especially at the end of the legislative session.

The record of our legislatures for a good many years past establishes the fact that in the rush and excitement of the closing hours of the session there are times when the average member does not know what he is voting for. So we insist, and with but little fear of successful contradiction, that the decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals rather than the Parks bill must be regarded as a money-saver for Virginia.

So much for that! Now a word to our farmer friends as to why the Parks bill was so objectionable to many. It was odious to business-men for the same reason that a law would be odious to farmers which provided that a special agent, or inspector, or detective should come upon their lands and enter their barns and there number and value their farm animals, their crops on hand, their agricultural machinery, &c. And possibly there is as good ground for such a law in the one case as in the other, for the official figures of valuation of personal property in the various counties are full of surprises, when compared with another. But enough of that. We reiterate our conviction that the Supreme Court's decision in this case will cause the fiscal officers of the Commonwealth to scrutinize closely all acts hereafter passed imposing appropriations upon the Treasury.

#### THE OFFICE-HOLDERS.

We take the following from the editorial columns of the Rockbridge County News:

"It is stated that the office-holders of the State are, as a body, opposed to the holding of a constitutional convention, and fear it may interfere with their offices. We are prepared to deny this assertion. 'We know that a certain proportion of those who hold offices do not entertain this view. On the contrary, they look at the question from the broad view of good citizenship. It is very unfair to impugn the motives for the action of as respectable a body of men as those who are in the office of the Commonwealth because their official positions may be jeopardized by a convention. In such a manner as the question of holding a constitutional convention they are not expected to lead one way or the other. That they will vote as appears to them in the best interests of the State as unqualifiedly as any other class of citizens we have no reason to doubt.'"

We are glad to have this information from the News. It is to be hoped that it speaks not only for the office-holders of the great and influential county of Rockbridge, but for those of the larger part of the State. In this section of Virginia we know of some office-holders who are friends of the constitutional convention scheme; some others are reported to be hostile to it. But no matter how they stand, the responsibility of the hour is with the masses of the people. The masses can order the convention if they wish to. They have the numbers; they have the power. It would be childish for them, in the event of the failure to act of the Norfolk convention, to attempt to put the blame upon the office-holders.

In the Democratic State Convention to be held at Norfolk May 24, the question will be, Shall the legislative caucus be sustained; shall the constitutional convention proposition be endorsed?

In the Democratic meetings to be held to elect city and county delegates to the Norfolk convention, the question will be, Shall delegates be chosen who are willing to sustain the legislative caucus or not? At the Norfolk convention does not back

up the legislative caucus, great will be the rejoicing of the enemies of a constitutional convention.

The whole matter is now with the people. They can't shoulder their responsibilities upon the office-holders. They must take the credit or blame for what the Norfolk convention does, or fails to do.

Shall the legislative caucus be sustained?

#### RUSSIAN ACTIVITY.

Russia is making "news" at three widely separated points—in Central Asia, in the far East, and down in the neighborhood of Asia Minor. At the first she is giving the Amer of Afghanistan a little object-lesson in the matter of her increased facilities for transporting troops. At the second she is bringing pressure to bear on Korea. At the third she is "sugesting" to the Sultan that it would be well for him to grant her certain railway building privileges. These facts, taken with the war's late deal with the Shah of Persia, have caused a vast amount of speculation as to what the culmination will be, and there are not a few persons among those of a pessimistic cast of mind, who predict that there is long "something will drop" in Russia to Great Britain's serious disadvantage.

Of course, it is always risky to assume what Russia is going to do, or what her "demonstrations" mean. Frequently Russian "movements" have no meaning, and no significance, so far as the outside world is concerned. They have often no bearing on Russia's foreign policy, or programme of expansion and conquest, being merely a sop to that restless and dangerous Cerberus, the war party of the empire, whose cravings and demands the Czar of modern Russia has found it wise to ignore. Although Nicholas may have been never so sincere in his peace conference experiment—and the world is beginning to entertain grave doubts as to that—it must be recognized that he is compelled to pay reasonable deference to the large and influential element in his domains whose only hope of preferment lies in the maintenance of a big military establishment and in Russian aggression. The current "demonstrations" may, therefore, be intended, after all, only for effect at home.

But admitting that this is not the case, and still keeping in mind that it is safe to attempt to foreshadow Russian purposes, it is competent to say that the logic of the situation is opposed to the contention that an overt act is imminent. The approaching Paris Exposition casts Russia off not only from the material, but practically from the moral, support of her only ally in Europe, as long as French feeling remains what it is in respect of Alsace-Lorraine, the Dreibund may be expected to endure. Germany, the head of that combination is not only the natural ally of Great Britain, but has virtually become her formal ally, so far as is involved the question of defeating Russian designs on Asia Minor. Emperor William of Germany not only has the ear of the Sultan touching railway concessions in the latter's possessions across the Bosphorus, but he has it, so to speak, with Great Britain's approval. The Magyar who dominates the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, would be only too willing to spring at the throat of the northern colossus, and even up the sort of 1897, Italy's interest, owing to her immense coast exposure, is with Great Britain as the chief naval power of the world, and while it is true Great Britain has a troublesome and exacting task on hand in South Africa, her colonies are offered to relieve her of it, should the Imperial troops be needed elsewhere. Hence it seems fair to conclude that while Russia may be setting her pins with a view to closing with Great Britain eventually, and in anticipation of the inevitable struggle, nevertheless the grapple is still far off.

#### AN EASTER COMOTION.

An interesting comotion was recently raised in England over the question when Easter-Day falls this year. The ecclesiastical rule is that "Easter-Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon which happens upon or next after the 21st day of March, and if the full moon happens upon a Sunday, Easter-Day is the Sunday after." It appears that in England the moon falls a little after 1 A. M. Sunday morning, April 15th, and it was, therefore, contended that Easter-Day did not fall on that day, as provided by the statute, but on the Sunday following, the 22nd. Not a few of the London bankers, it appears, feared that there would be trouble about the payment of bills due at Easter, in the event of the official celebration's being held on the wrong day, and the result was that the matter was brought before the House of Commons, in the form of a proposition that an act be passed making April 15th of this year Easter-Day in law, as well as in the Church calendar.

This called forth an explanation from Sir Richard Webster, the Attorney-General, who, after stating that the existing statute ordains that Easter shall be observed according to certain tables and rules, went on to say that one of those tables provides that the paschal full moon in the year 1900 falls on April 14th, and that the feast of Easter falls on the 15th. The fact was, he added, that the full moon referred to in the statute was not the actual full moon, nor the mean full moon, but a fictitious or statutory full moon, sometimes called the ecclesiastical full moon, and as there was no possibility of doubt on the question, further legislation was unnecessary.

Some arrangement of the kind, he declared, was essential, as otherwise Easter might fall on different days in different parts of the United Kingdom, to the detriment of unity and concord, for which the Church cared more than it did for the equinox or the moon. Sir Richard also explained that in the years of 1818 and 1845 a similar question arose, and led to the writing of many learned papers on the subject.

There is little probability, says the Danville Register, that the presidential election and the constitutional convention delegates election will be made contemporaneous. Therefore, it concludes, there is no occasion for uneasiness, and that in any event it will be time enough for arranging details after the convention movement shall have carried. The thing to do now is to arouse the people to an appreciation of the opportunity to express themselves on the question. Precisely. That is the kernel of the whole matter for the present.

Milton's own copy of "Paradise Lost," scores of letters of Charles Lamb and his friends, the original draft of Dr. Johnson's letter to Lord Chesterfield, the original manuscript of "The School for Scandal," and copies of the fourth folio of Shakespeare were among the books of the late Augustine Daly, recently sold by auction in New York.

#### BOOK-CRIBBERS.

A number of rare and costly law-books, forming a part of one of the most valuable collections of the Congressional Library, recently have been stolen, and the Washington authorities are now trying to discover the thief.

Two of the volumes smuggled away were worth \$24 apiece, while others of less value are also missing. It is said that since the Library of Congress was established in its new building hundreds of dollars' worth of books have been taken away, and that, too, despite the greatest vigilance on the part of the officials. Ordinarily, the system in vogue there suffices to prevent losses, but despite the caution heretofore observed a few cunning individuals have been able to outwit those in charge. Henceforth a sharp eye will be kept to prevent a recurrence of the evil, and every effort will be put forth to capture the person guilty of the more recent offences.

The experience of the Washington librarians is by no means different from that of librarians in other cities. Wherever an effort is made to conduct a public library a liberal discount must be made for losses occurring by theft, spoliation, and failure of borrowers to return books. There is a certain class, unfortunately much too large, whose consciences are so deadened by literary enthusiasm—if not more sinister reasons—that they do not hesitate to purloin such works as strike their fancy, even though these works are at all times accessible to them during library hours.

Another class—the careless and selfish—are equally as dangerous and disreputable. When they have found what they want in a book they do not hesitate to sling it aside or to misplace it, without the slightest regard for others' convenience. This contingent are perfectly willing to despoil or mutilate books or manuscripts. The work or document itself is worth nothing in their eyes beyond the purpose it serves them. Their own selfish desires are paramount to all other considerations, even though the satisfaction of such desires meets only a passing fancy.

Of such ilk was the spoliator—supposed to have been a Federal soldier—who many years ago stole from the magnificent set of Audubon's works in the State Library of Virginia some of the most beautiful pictures which adorned these books. If we mistake not this set is valued at \$1,500. The extreme rarity of the publication, together with the immense cost of its limited production, has made these volumes a literary treasure which even the most ignorant could not fail to appreciate. And yet their covers were invaded by vandal hands and their contents despoiled by a thievish sneak.

Of course, there is the deliberate thief who steals books merely to sell them and to supply his pockets with cash. He is always with us, but his lack of discriminating power at least clips his claws to some extent. And then, too, he does not profess to be an honest man. This rascal does not belong in the class of which we speak. But there does belong in it the individual who borrows books from the private libraries of friends and fails to return them. He has no excuse for his shortcomings. He is both dishonest and inconsiderate, for he surely cannot regard a loan as the equivalent of a gift. The true lover of books looks upon this individual with contempt, and abhors him. The very appearance of a chronic offender creates a panic in a library. He is irresistible, because he is plausible and full of promises. He will have the books back in a fortnight, he says, but he forgets; in other words, he does not take the trouble to remember. Perhaps the work which he has captured is an old friend of the bibliomaniac's—a comforter and a companion—but that makes no difference.

So far as the public libraries are concerned, we suppose that experience gradually teaches the officials to guard their possessions, but with the private citizen his case is much more difficult. He can never tell whom to trust, and his worst enemies usually come in the guise of friends. He has only to rely on the honor which should prevail among readers. Let us all sacredly guard that honor and never fail to return borrowed books.

#### KEEP COOL.

The New York Evening Post is very much exercised over the plethoric condition of the Federal Treasury. The monthly excess of receipts over disbursements is from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Keep cool, friends; keep cool. This Congress has still some time to run, and the Republicans are in the majority. They will hardly discredit the record of their party for raising the Treasury, and through the Treasury, the pockets of the tax-payers, in the interest of jobs designed to perpetuate the grip of the party upon power. There is no danger of an explosion of the vaults from plethora.

Judging by experience, the Republican managers can be trusted to provide, before Congress adjourns, for "safety valve" political schemes that will keep the pressure down below the danger point. But even should this confidence be misplaced—and that is scarcely within the range of possibility—the Philippines job promises to furnish an "escape" for all the surplus that can be accumulated for years to come.

Hon. Hoke Smith has the following in the Atlanta Journal:

"The publication in the Atlanta Constitution, the Macon Telegraph, and other papers, of a report that I have sold my stock in the Journal renders it necessary for me to make the facts. It is true I have had an offer for my stock, but no sale has been consummated. I still own a majority of the stock of the Journal and control the policy of the paper. If at any time I should dispose of my interest in the paper, the public will be promptly notified through the Journal."

Tips on Chesapeake and Ohio continue to circulate freely. The latest rumor is that the next dividend will be at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. There has been considerable liquidation of the stock during the last few days, and it seems to be well supplied above 312-1/2. Vanderbilt houses have not recently been buyers, although Wall street gets daily bulletins telling of their purchases.

So says the New York Herald in its financial column yesterday.

The Irvington Citizen is satisfied that the majority of the party in Lancaster county are in favor of holding a constitutional convention.

The bonnets that bloom in the spring, tra-la.

May be seen in the milliner's shop; To get 'em you pay and you pay and pay. And you pay, with scarce ever a stop.

#### Literary Notes.

A new novel by Lucas Malet is announced by Dodd, Mead & Co. It is called "The Gateless Barrier," and is the

first long novel which the author has written since "The Wages of Sin." Lucas Malet is the pen-name of Mrs. Harrison, the daughter of Charles Kingsley.

The same firm also announces "War and Policy," by Spencer Wilkinson, the well-known military critic of the London Post. The book will contain many of his views on the African war, and also military observations on our late civil war.

"Current History," which has been published as a quarterly for the past nine years, now makes its appearance as a monthly. The character, scope, and general editorial direction of the work undergo no change. The yearly subscription price remains the same.

A new work by James Lane Allen, of Kentucky, is announced. The title is "The Reign of Law," and the book appears to be descriptive of the hemp industry of the Bluegrass State, though it may be intended for distribution in some portions of the Old Dominion.

The Macmillan Company announce a new historical novel, "A Friend of Caesar," by William Stearns Davis. The story, which is laid in Rome, of course, tells of Julius Caesar is just rising into power and is just beginning the story and the establishment of his empire. It is said to be a stirring tale.

A novel, which is said to treat certain phases of social, theatrical, and literary life in Manhattan, (this is likely to attract much attention, it is announced, for early publication by D. Appleton & Co. "The Immortal Garland" is the title and Anna Robeson Brown is the author.

"Crime, Electricity, and the Camera" is the title of a new novel by George H. H. which has called forth enthusiastic commendation from Professor John Fiske. The book illustrates the wonderful material progress of man through the multiplicity of his resources by each new discovery on the line of science and invention.

The Harpers announce for publication in the spring a volume of political reminiscences by Colonel A. K. McClure, the veteran editor of the Philadelphia Times.

The Harpers also announce for publication "How They Are Made," by H. B. Marriott Watson, and "The Nicaragua Canal," by W. B. Simmons. The latter will not only contain a full history of the canal from its inception to the present day, but an uncommonly interesting account of the country, its people, customs, laws, etc.

Robert Hichens, the author of "The Green Gables," is preparing a new book, which will be called "Tongues of Fire." It is a story of the life of a man, the best work which the author has yet done. "Love and Mr. Lewisham" is the name of a new novel by H. G. Wells, which will be published by the Harpers.

The Lockport States Company will issue the "Guide to the Paris Exposition," which, according to the announcement, contain about everything that a visitor to the great show will want to know, except how to speak the language, and how to get to the place.

Stephen Crane, who has been keeping rather quiet of late, has not been idle, but has been incubating another book to be called "The Red Badge of Courage." The new literary work is a story of "The Red Badge of Courage," which is a story of a young man who is living on a large estate in Surrey, is also at work on a historical romance of Ireland, to be published in the autumn. There is danger of his title-factory having to work over time.

John Oliver Hobbes's new play, "The Wisdom of the Wise," will soon be published in book form.

A volume of circus life in this country, called "The Circus," is about to be written by Mr. John D. Barry, and is to be published in London by Mr. John Lane. A ring should be formed to push it.

Mr. Anthony Hope has a new novel ready. It is called "The Sign of the Cross," and is described as, in many respects, a very keen criticism of Benjamin Disraeli, though why any one should wish to criticize a dead man is not apparent; it is an old friend of the bibliomaniac's—a comforter and a companion—but that makes no difference.

So far as the public libraries are concerned, we suppose that experience gradually teaches the officials to guard their possessions, but with the private citizen his case is much more difficult. He can never tell whom to trust, and his worst enemies usually come in the guise of friends. He has only to rely on the honor which should prevail among readers. Let us all sacredly guard that honor and never fail to return borrowed books.

#### THE CONVENTION.

(Lynchburg News.)

It is the almost unanimous sentiment of Virginia Democrats that the time has come to revise our Constitution or to have a new one for the Commonwealth. For thirty years we have been under the Underwood Constitution, framed by real Virginians, but fostered upon the State by the black-and-tan convention, and framed with a view to multiplication of offices to be held out as reward for partisan service.

The single statement that North Carolina and Georgia, each of them larger than Virginia, enjoys the benefits of a more economical government than our own State while in efficiency their governments compare favorably with ours, speaks volumes in favor of revision. The Legislature has done its duty in submitting the question of holding the constitutional convention to the people. The time is near at hand when the Democratic voters will select their delegates to the Democratic State Convention, which will take up this question and decide authoritatively whether the Democratic party as a whole shall be committed to constitutional revision, or to the present Constitution.

Mr. Scott of the Democratic party, who is not in harmony with them on that point and who will not vote for making it a party issue in the election on the fourth Thursday of May.

Phi Beta Kappa Orator at Harvard. (Boston Journal.)

Dr. William Everett, 23, head master of Adams Academy at Quincy, will be the orator of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard this year, and Mr. Clinton Hamilton will be the poet. For a short time after graduation Dr. Everett held a position as assistant professor at Harvard, but later entered into politics, and in 1883 was elected to Congress.

Mr. Scott of the Democratic party, who is not in harmony with them on that point and who will not vote for making it a party issue in the election on the fourth Thursday of May.

# The Richmond Dispatch's Home Study Circle.

## TWENTY LESSONS IN FRENCH CONVERSATION.

(Copyright, 1900, by Seymour Eaton.)  
THE RICHMOND DISPATCH'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE. DIRECTED BY PROFESSOR SEYMOUR EATON.

Note—These lessons have been prepared for the Dispatch's Home Study Circle, by Professor Benno Kirshbaum, of Philadelphia. They are intended primarily for Americans who propose attending the Paris Exposition. The lessons include (1) easy conversation, and (2) simple reading lessons.

### LESSON NO. 7. SEPTIEME LEÇON.

#### A Few Useful Hints.

1. To form the plural of French nouns we have to add an "s" to the singular, as: le livre, the book; les livres, the books; le chapeau, the hat; les chapeaux, the hats.

2. If a noun ends in "au" or "eau," it does not change in the plural any more. The plural then is the same as the singular, as: bras, the arm; bras, the arms.

Note—There are many more exceptions to the above rules, which we shall give in the next lesson.

3. If a noun ends in "au" or "eau," it does not change in the plural any more. The plural then is the same as the singular, as: bras, the arm; bras, the arms.

4. Also, if a noun ends in "au" or "eau," it does not change in the plural any more. The plural then is the same as the singular, as: bras, the arm; bras, the arms.

Note—The articles for both the masculine and feminine genders are "le" in the plural, without any exception.

#### Memory Exercises.

Such-Needed Words and Phrases.

1. This gentleman; ce monsieur; lui.

2. This man; cet homme; cet-lui.

3. This friend; cet ami; cet-lui.

4. This lady; cette dame; cette-là.

Note—The student will see here that "celui" is translated in three different ways, as: cet, cette, according to the following simple rules, which he ought bear in mind, especially in forming sentences in writing and when carrying on conversation.

5. If used before any masculine noun beginning with a consonant, as: cet train; this train.

6. If used if the noun commences with a vowel, or a mute, as: cet hôtel; this hotel; cet étage; this floor; cet-tuy-tuy.

7. If used always before feminine nouns, as: cette dame; this lady; cette robe; this dress; ces parcs; these parks; ces avenues; these avenues.

8. I go; je vais.

9. You go; vous allez.

10. I do not go; vous n'allez pas.

11. Do you go; allez-vous?

12. I have gone; je suis allé.

13. You have gone; vous êtes allé.

14. I have not gone; je ne suis pas allé.

15. You have not gone; vous n'êtes pas allé.

16. Have you gone? êtes-vous allé?

17. Have you not gone? n'êtes-vous pas allé?

18. It is very warm.

19. It is very cold.

20. It is raining.

21. It is not raining.

22. I am not feeling well.

23. I am feeling better.

24. I am feeling worse.

25. I am feeling the same.

26. I am feeling very well.

27. I am feeling very bad.

28. I am feeling very tired.

29. I am feeling very hungry.

30. I am feeling very thirsty.

31. I am feeling very hot.

32. I am feeling very cold.

33. I am feeling very happy.

34. I am feeling very sad.

35. I am feeling very angry.

36. I am feeling very surprised.

37. I am feeling very interested.

38. I am feeling very bored.

39. I am feeling very excited.

40. I am feeling very nervous.

41. I am feeling very calm.

42. I am feeling very confident.

43. I am feeling very uncertain.

44. I am feeling very sure.

45. I am feeling very doubtful.

46. I am feeling very certain.

47. I am feeling very uncertain.

30. Mushrooms with white sauce.

31. Stuffed tomatoes.

32. Tomatoes with mayonnaise dressing.

33. Chicken salad.

34. Mayonnaise de volaille.

35. Lettuce salad with scallions.

36. Corn; du maïs; mash-ecce.

37. Apples; des pommes; proc-no.

38. Applesauce; marmelade aux pommes.

39. Cranberry sauce; marmelade aux cassis; koo-see-nay.

40. Salt; du sel.

41. Pepper; du poivre.

42. Red pepper; du poivre rouge.

43. Crackers; des biscuits; becco-kwee.

44. Toothpicks; des cure-dents; koor-tant.

45. Salt and pepper-bottle; la salière, la poivrière.

46. Oil and vinegar-bottle; l'huile, les vinaigres.

47. Napkins; des serviettes.

48. Numbers.

10; dix (di).