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One paper says that George Washington was too truthful a man to say that he never told a lie.

The men who go about the state and claim to be the "father" of the primary will get hit by the people generally.

And now someone is trying to prove that Adam was not the first man. Who gives Adam anyway? says an exchange.

Up to the present time Taft has nearly forty votes in the national convention instructed for him. Indeed, he has all of them so far.

It is said that the dictograph will be used by prospective husbands to find out whether their prospective wives snore. Look under the bed.

The worst feature of the Roosevelt boom in Illinois is that the Chicago Tribune is supporting it. Has the Colonel climbed the back stairway.

The Taft supporters in the east are stronger than in the west. From information it would seem that Taft will carry most of the eastern states.

Governor Deneen is making his canvass in a private car with a special train. It surely costs money to run for office in these days of bum primaries.

L. L. Emmerson, the southern Illinois candidate for state treasurer, is a hustler and is making lots of friends everywhere. He is a very deserving and able man.

Deneen and Jones are both claiming the primary law as their "baby." They are welcome to it, and if it does not take about all their spare change before they get through with it we miss our guess.

The Chicago Tribune has lost an exchange or two in the mails and is now having an average of about five fits a minute and is going to put the United States mail service out of business. Take a poll, gentlemen, and cool off.

There are seven candidates for the republican nomination for governor traveling all over Illinois giving vent to their views and telling what they will do if nominated and elected. Things politically will be quite warm up to April 9—primary day.

Hon. Lawrence Y. Sherman is a candidate for United States senator before the coming primaries. Sherman is a whirlwind, but as John Tanner once said "the cemeteries are full of politicians who thought they could defeat your 'Uncle Shelby' Cullom."

The Hon. Richard Yates is being belittled by the Chicago newspapers, but the Hon. Richard Yates will get a lot of votes in spite of the Chicago papers or anything else. He is surely an energetic worker and as a public stump speaker has them all beaten to a frazzle.

Col. Frank L. Smith seems to be the only candidate for state central committeeman. He has made a splendid record in the committee, and is acknowledged to be one of the best members and ablest politicians in Illinois. The district is fortunate in having such a representative.

A new candidate for the republican nomination for governor has appeared on the scene in the person of J. McCann Davis, of Springfield. Mr. Davis is clerk of the supreme court and was nominated by the newspapers in Illinois, or rather by the liberal use of newspapers. He made a business of it and took advertising space in almost every newspaper in Illinois, and demonstrated that advertising pays.

Hon. Len Small is making a telling canvass of the state of Illinois for governor. He is designated as a Lorimer candidate and a Lincoln League candidate and probably is, but he has another strong asset and that is that he is a candidate of his own volition, and personally is a fine man and has a lot of friends. There is nothing Small about him except his name.

Senator Shelby M. Cullom has opened headquarters at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago. The Senator is well advanced in years, but if anyone thinks for a minute that he is too

old to play the game, just watch him get the votes and get re-elected. The senator may have his failings like others of the human race, but he's on the square all the time, and has a splendid, honorable record.

Listen to this from the Illinois State Journal! "All people who do not feel inclined to follow their own judgment in politics—these and all who have no judgment—are advised to take instructions from the Legislative Voters' league, an impertinent organization of private citizens in Chicago who could find more work at their own doors than they can attend to. The league's advice is not needed in the decent communities down state. On the contrary, it is resented." This is awful, but we just can't think of a thing to say for the league.

Hon. Wm. Penn Nixon, former editor of the Chicago Inter Ocean, died at his home in that city. He made a clean, great republican paper of the Inter Ocean, and it was a power all over the United States, and had a large circulation. The weekly had the largest circulation of any paper in the west and was in nearly everybody's home. Those were the days when the Chicago newspapers were reliable and wielded great influence in politics. To-day they are great newspapers but "jokes" in politics. No one who knows anything about them takes them seriously.

A PATRIOTIC EXERCISE.

The great object of the G. A. R. and W. R. C. is the teaching of patriotism—love of country—love for the flag. To this end these organizations have, jointly, prepared a "patriotic exercise" for observance in the schools of the state. This "patriotic exercise" consists of a "salute to the flag" and of the singing of the national hymn, "America," to be observed on the first Monday in each school month in each school room, says a Nebraska paper.

The observance of this "patriotic exercise" has the hearty endorsement of Hon. James E. Delzell, state superintendent, also of the county superintendents of the state in convention assembled on January 16, 1912.

At the expense of the W. R. C., twenty thousand cards containing the "exercise" have been printed and the state superintendent has caused a card to be placed in each school room.

Nebraska is the first state to take up, in a systematic manner, the teaching of patriotism in the public schools.

The observance of this "patriotic exercise" will tend to teach a love and respect for our country and for "Old

Glory" among the coming generation. It is hoped the observance of the "exercise" will meet with encouragement and approval among all the people.

MONITOR AND MERRIMAC.

On the 9th of March it will be fifty years since the Monitor beat off the Merrimac in Hampton roads. In Harper's Weekly for Feb. 10 H. Ashton Ramsay, chief engineer of the Merrimac and one of the few survivors of the ship duel which revolutionized naval construction, tells a graphic story of that eventful fight, says the Inter Ocean.

President Taft will be the principal speaker at a banquet to be given by the Swedish Republican Association of Illinois in Chicago the 9th in honor of Ericsson, the builder of the Monitor.

Mr. Ramsay served on the Merrimac under two flags. He joined her as an assistant engineer in Panama bay in 1859, when she was a sailing frigate with auxiliary steam power, and voyaged in her round Cape Horn to Norfolk. His chief at this time was Alban C. Stimers. Neither dreamed that one was to be Ericsson's right hand man in the building of the Monitor, and the other to hold a similar post in the conversion of the Merrimac into an ironclad.

Mr. Ramsay's account of the first day's combat, in which the Cumberland was rammed and sank, fighting to the last, and in which the Congress was forced to surrender, has the vividness that only an eye-witness who understood could give. The next morning the Merrimac came back to continue her work of destruction on the Minnesota—and found the Monitor waiting. Then came the historic combat, the first of ironclad against ironclad. Says Mr. Ramsay:

"We steamed toward the Minnesota, thinking to make short work of her. We approached her slowly, feeling our way along the edge of the channel, when suddenly, to our astonishment, a black object that looked like the historic description, 'a barrel head afloat with a cheese box on it,' moved out from behind the Minnesota and boldly confronted us. And now the great fight was on, a fight like of which the world had never seen.

In the three hours that followed the naval methods of a thousand years were wiped out of consideration. The sailing ship and her wooden walls ceased to be a factor in naval warfare. The steamship with her guns sheltered behind ramparts of steel was crowned monarch of the seas. We extract the salient sentences of Mr. Ramsay's description:

"We hovered about each other in spirals, gradually contracting the circuits, until we were within point-blank range, but our shells glanced from the Monitor's turret just as hers did from our sloping sides. For two hours the cannonade continued without perceptible damage to either combatant. And then an accident occurred that threatened our destruction. We stuck fast on a sandbar. Our situation was critical. The Monitor could come close up to us and yet be out of our reach, owing to our inability to deflect our guns. In she came, and began to sound every chink of our armor—every one but that which was actually vulnerable, had she known it."

The Merrimac's armor extended but little below the water line. The coal she had burned left her unprotected decks beyond her armored superstructure exposed. Had the Monitor discovered this she could have pierced the Merrimac between wind and water by depressing her guns. The Monitor did not discover it. The Merrimac, by frantic efforts in her boiler-room, managed to drag off the shoal.

There was another round of the battle, in which the Monitor's conning tower was wrecked, her steering gear carried away, Captain Worden blinded, one of her gun port shutters jammed and the gun put out of commission. But this time the Merrimac's commander did not know his advantage, and hauled off for repairs and a supply of solid shot.

When it ended the Monitor was probably in worse condition to continue the combat than the Merrimac. But the latter's withdrawal left all the moral advantage on the Union side. The rebel destroyer had been stopped.

When the sun set on March 8, 1862, it seemed that there was no human power which could prevent the Merrimac from sweeping the Union fleet from the seas and wrecking any Northern port she might choose to attack. But the Divine Providence which decreed that the American Union should not be divided had raised up the genius of John Ericsson to devise the Monitor and push her building so that she was there at the crucial moment.

It was a great and gallant fight on both sides. Its outcome saved the American Republic from a great disaster, if not from destruction. It revolutionized naval construction and sea warfare. Fifty years after we of a reunited country can forget the causes of the strife and its rancors, and remember only the courage and skill of the men whose deeds then made the names of their ships immortal.

THAT REMINDS US

That a dictograph placed in some places in this town might catch such words as this: "It's your deal." "How many cards do you want?" "I'll just bet a couple of chips." "I'll raise you five." "Call you." "Three aces." "Oh, I just got a little full," etc., etc.

That a dictograph might also discover whether all the bottles around Sundays are purchased Saturdays. Let's have a dictograph and have some fun.

That there are some people who could almost become dictographs, as far as knowing (?) things are concerned.

That you might notice that it is quite torrid from a political standpoint.

Postoffice Changes.

Assistant Postmaster Frank B. Chester has resigned to take effect Feb. 29. The office is in the classified list and Irwin H. Baker, the senior clerk, is acting assistant and will be advanced to that office taking effect March 1. He will have charge of the office under the Postmaster.

Chas. V. Bower, the senior city carrier, will be transferred to clerk in the office to take effect March 1, and will have charge of the city carriers. Hans P. Rosendall will be appointed city carrier to take effect March 1, and will carry Route No. 2, the one formerly carried by Cyrus Dyer, the latter getting Route No. 1, formerly carried by Chas. V. Bower.

Earl Losee will be appointed clerk of the Postal Savings Department.

Otto Mickelson will have charge of the rural carriers.

Elmer Smith is now the senior substitute clerk and carrier.

All rural carriers will be put under the same classified list and will have to take about the same examination as the city carriers and clerks, and they will be eligible to transfer and promotion.

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