

**P. G. WODEHOUSE,** CREATOR of the immortal Jeeves, is a prisoner of war in Germany. Living in France early in the year he was unable to get away in time to avoid the German avalanche. He was gathered in, with many other British civilians and with them he shares prison life. The prison is a large building which was formerly an insane asylum, and Wodehouse has been assigned what was once a padded cell in which he works diligently on a new book. To a visitor he said that this, he supposes, is the first time that a book has been written in the padded cell of an insane asylum. I wouldn't know about the padded cell, but I have read several books that might appropriately have been produced in insane asylums.

**THE NEW YORK TIMES** takes editorial notice of the fact that ghosts in large numbers are invading the colleges. For some time ghosts have been writing speeches for public men and doing many other odd jobs. Now, it appears, they are going to college, writing examination papers for themselves, and, in consideration of suitable honoraria, for other undergraduates less brilliant or less industrious. The Times notes the unfairness of a situation in which the student without money must toil for his marks while his wealthy neighbor can hire a ghost. The Times has a remedy in mind. It observes that no ghost was ever known to pass an oral examination.

**IF THE TIMES EDITOR HAS** been familiar with the college career of Vilhjalmur Stefansson he would not have made that remark. At the University of North Dakota Stefansson ghosted orally for a whole class in German, and got away with it—for a time. The instructor was Professor John Macnie, a man whom everybody loved, and upon whom, because of his nearsightedness and absentmindedness, the boys delighted in playing tricks.

**TO YOUNG STEFANSSON** languages were just duck soup, and he could reel off German translations by the yard without a break. The other members of the class thought it would be a good idea to have Stefansson recite for them, and Stefansson agreed. When one boy's name was called Stefansson would recite, and at a short distance Dr. Macnie couldn't tell whom from which. Impersonating the next boy Stefansson would change his tone and manner, and so on until the class had been covered. It was a delightful game, but after a while Stefansson found it becoming monotonous. He liked action and variety. One day, after he had recited brilliantly for the entire class, and his own name was called last he responded, "Not prepared, sir." That absurdity threw the class into spasms, and that ghost was laid.

**A RADIO MESSAGE RECEIVED** from Dr. Paul A. Siple, base commander of the Byrd expedition at Little America, Antarctica, said that an exploring party that had been scouting 500 miles from camp since October 15 was racing by dog sled to reach the main camp in time for a Christmas roast turkey dinner. The four men of the party has stepped up their usual run of 15 miles a day to 20 miles. The day before Christmas, said Dr. Siple, they had been "sweltering at 26 above zero after a two-day heat wave which sent the mercury up to 32 degrees." Just about the kind of weather we were having at Grand Forks at the same time.

**FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS** Christmas was celebrated at Bethlehem with a blackout. The usual nativity services were held behind curtained doors and darkened windows. At the Church of the Nativity the hall of worship in the cave in which Jesus is said to have been born was illuminated with myriad candles and globes.

**THE BONFIRE ON THE** field where shepherds still watch their flocks was put out early lest it might guide Italian raiders, but sheep were roasted over the fire as in past years. In this ceremony the roasted mutton is handed around on flat slabs of Arabian bread which serve as saucers.

**I LIKE THAT STORY ABOUT** King Christian of Denmark and the Nazi flag which is reproduced in the Reader's Digest. In case you haven't seen it, here it is:

King Christian noticed a Nazi flag flying over an official building in Copenhagen and remarked to a German officer that this was contrary to the treaty between Denmark and Germany. The officer replied that the flag was, flown according to instructions from Berlin.

"The flag must be removed by 12 o'clock, otherwise I will send a soldier to do it," the monarch declared. At five minutes to 12 the flag was still flying. The king announced that he was sending a soldier to take it down. "The soldier will be shot," the Nazi officer warned him. "I am the soldier," the king replied calmly. The Nazi flag was lowered.

**AMONG THE CARDS THAT** I received this Christmas, all of them welcome, was one from an old friend, not a schoolmate, but a member of the little church which was also the church of my family. Lizzie is a little older than I, and at first I regarded her as quite a grown-up young person. Later the slight disparity in our years seemed to shrink, and we met on fairly even terms. She was born in my home town and was baptized in the church which both our people attended and where her father was choir leader for many years.

**THERE SHE ATTENDED** Sunday school and lifted her voice in the songs which the children sang. Christmas was an important day with us, and for several weeks we were rehearsed in songs considered appropriate to the day. The old carols, which have since become so well known, were not on our list. Lizzie studied music, and when an organ was installed in the church she was chosen to play it. The installation of that organ was an important event in the history of our church. It was vigorously opposed by a large minority of the members, who believed that to place such an instrument in a place of worship would be to desecrate a holy temple. There was a struggle, prolonged, and sometimes bitter, but there was no thought of forcibly overriding the will of even a small minority. Patiently the elders and other officers labored with the objectors, and not until the last objection was withdrawn was the organ installed. There was real democracy at work in a most effective way. That struggle, and it was a real struggle, in which there were many heart-burnings, was important because it tested the spirit of the group, and out of it emerged triumphant a united body that had been threatened with disunion,

**THAT ORGAN WAS NOT** A pipe organ, but a parlor organ, of a type familiar in those days. Long ago it was replaced by a more imposing pipe organ, but it is the music of the modest little instrument that I remember. Lizzie was organist for years. I do not know if she ever played the pipe organ, but she served the people well, and she has continued to serve through all the years. She never married. Her parents, an only brother and an only sister passed away and left her the sole representative of her family and occupant of the family pew. One after another of her own generation moved away or passed into another realm. She became an influential and progressive member of the church and the repository of its history. To her the church cemetery, which has been made a place of beauty, is an open book. She does not need the marble monuments, with their inscriptions, for she knows the burial places of the friends who have long since gone to their rest, and she needs no reminder of their "short and simple annals."

**OF ALL THOSE OF HER** generation and mine who attended that church as children she is the last survivor to continue her attendance. A few still live in other communities, but she alone of that group attends the old church. For eighty years, as child, growing girl, mature woman and white-haired lady, she has made her weekly journey there, has seen two generations come and go, and with generous sympathy, unquenchable faith and quiet good humor, she still looks forward and lends a hand wherever help is needed. Some might call such a life circumscribed, but I think my old friend has lived in a larger world than many of us know.

**IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE** of the most futile of all tasks is that of attempting to appraise the relative intelligence of the sexes by conducting examinations concerning fitness for a particular technical job. On the basis of one such examination certain New York people have convinced themselves that housewives are "inferior" to those in most occupational groups. The examination was of applicants for positions as election canvassers under the proportional representation system, and the average scores made by housewives were only 37, as against 72.4 made by students and 72.9 by professional workers. Other occupations came in between.

**SUCH A CONCLUSION BASED** on such evidence seems to me absurd. Students constitute a select class. So do professional workers, but the housewives group necessarily includes a large proportion of those of limited education as well as of the highly cultured. The questions submitted in the examination were largely of a technical character, such as might be fairly familiar to students and those in clerical occupations, but with which the general population, including housewives, has little contact. It would be as reasonable to say that an electrical engineer is lacking in intelligence because he may not be able to pass a medical examination with flying colors.

**TWO PECULIARLY SHAPED** objects of iron or steel, badly corroded, were dug up on the Ole E. Halvorson farm near Manvel, and were brought in to the Herald for identification. One is quite evidently the half of an ox shoe, or perhaps more accurately the shoe that was used on half of an ox's foot. Many persons do not know that oxen ever wore shoes, but they did. Whereas the horse's hoof is solid and the horseshoe all in one piece, the hoof of the ox is divided, and each half of the hoof must be shod with a separate plate. The piece found on the Halvorson farm still has the remnants of front and rear calks and rusted bits of nails are still in place.

**EVERY OLD TIME BLACK**smith was accustomed to shoeing horses. Not all of them shod oxen. When used for field work, or on other soft ground, oxen were not shod, but in teaming on hard roads the feet needed protection. The chances are that the ox which once wore the recovered section of shoe had been used for hauling a Red river cart in the very early days. Most horses take quite kindly to the shoeing operation, but the ox was apt to be untractable under the operation. Accordingly it was customary to confine the animal in a frame made of strong timbers and then suspend him in a sort of sling.

**THE OTHER OBJECT LOOKS** as if it might have been intended for trimming small branches off trees and shrubbery. Actually it is a wire-cutter which was used for cutting the wire bands of grain sheaves as they were delivered on the table of a threshing machine. The early harvesting machines did not bind the grain at all. They merely dropped it in loose bundles, to be bound later by hand with straw bands. Then came the wire binder. Wire about like stovepipe wire was carried on the machine in spools. The mechanism passed wire around the bundle, twisted and cut it. At the threshing machine it was the job of the band-cutter to cut the wire with one of those nippers and retain the wire while passing the bundle on to the feeder.

**THAT WIRE WAS A NUISANCE** to everyone. In spite of all the care that could be taken much of it passed through the machine and was discharged with the straw. Small broken bits would find their way into the stomachs of animals, causing their death. After the straw was burned and the ground was plowed the wire would cut nicks into the sharp edges of plow shares, prompting the plowman to profanity. Other bits of wire became mixed with the threshed grain and ruined the fine bolting cloth of the flour mills. With the possible exception of the wire manufacturers everybody was glad when the twine binder supplanted the wire binder.

**SOME EDUCATOR FROM** Texas thinks that children should be permitted to whisper in the schoolroom. To require silence, he says, is to prevent the development of the child's social qualities. He thinks that because of the silence that has been imposed on them in school men now join service clubs and such groups, to develop the social-mindedness that they ought to have developed in school. I think the gentleman is balmy, as we say in London, or, in current American slang, that he is a nut.

**ALL CHILDREN WHISPER** in school occasionally; some of them oftener. I did, and I got licked for it. As a precautionary measure I kept silent most of the time. Ours was a fairly silent school. But whatever lack of social development was experienced was not due to silence in school, for we had ample opportunity during many hours of every day to do all the talking that we wanted to.

**IN ONE SCHOOL OF WHICH** I read a primary teacher was in the habit of asking the children before closing school how many had whispered during the session. On one such occasion, in response to the usual question Little Johnny held up his hand. "How many times did you whisper, Johnny?" asked the teacher. "Oncet," replied Johnny. "Oncet? How many children can correct Johnny?" Several hands went up. "Well, Mary, what should Johnny have said instead of "oncet"?" asked the teacher. "Twicet," responded Mary.

**THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY** every Christmas the poem "The Night Before Christmas" is read or recited by thousands, and frequent mention is made of the author, Clement C. Moore, who wrote the lines for the entertainment of his children and thus became famous. The *New York Times Book Review* tells of another incident in Mr. Moore's life. He was an alumnus of King's college, New York, which later became Columbia university. He was a member of the class of 1798, and in 1825 he was chosen to deliver an address on the history of the college to a gathering of its alumni, officials and friends.

**A LUNCHEON FOLLOWED** the address, and we are told that at that convivial gathering, which was not graced by the presence of the ladies, 30 toasts were drunk, surely an indication of the capacity and endurance of the notables of that day. There was great enthusiasm over the address, and at the close of the luncheon it was voted to have it printed in order to promote "an affectionate remembrance of college days, and a spirit of brotherly good-will and kind feelings among the graduates." Nothing less than that could be expected after the drinking of 30 toasts. When that address was delivered in 1825, the college had a president, six professors and a student body of 125. Now it has more than 30,000 undergraduates.

**THERE HAS JUST BEEN** published for the first time in regular book form under the title "The Jefferson Bible" the text of a manuscript left by Thomas Jefferson which he entitled "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth." Jefferson devoted much of his scant leisure time for several years in studying the sayings of Jesus, and in segregating those that he believed to be authentic from others which did not appear to him to have validity. The result of his study was embodied in a manuscript of some 25,000 words. He wrote of this collection "A more beautiful or precious morsel of ethics I have never seen; it is a document in proof that I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus."

**SOME LOCAL INTEREST** attaches to the present publication because the work was edited by Douglas E. Lurton, a former member of the Herald staff. Leaving Grand Forks, Lurton engaged in newspaper work in New York, became managing editor of the *Literary Digest*, and established relations with the Funk publishing company which are still maintained. It is that company which has brought out "The Jefferson Bible." Mrs. Lurton, as Helen Leo, was also a member of the Herald force, and she has been associated with her husband in his newspaper and magazine work.

**UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS** living in London is considered more hazardous than serving in the army. One of the latest stories from the bombed city is of the girl who gave her boy friend a white feather because he left London to join the army.

**ANOTHER LONDON STORY** is that when King George, on a tour of inspection, asked Mrs. Beatrice Herbert "Where is your house?" she answered "You're standing on it."

**HARDLY LESS IMPORTANT** than the R. A. F. in British defense is the Auxiliary Air Force, popularly known as "week-end fliers," because it was during their week-end vacations from their regular occupations that they had their air training. These amateurs have given a good account of themselves. Among the pilots of one auxiliary squadron who fought regardless of fatigue and came down only to replenish their ammunition and re-fuel, were a timber merchant, a stockbroker, a bank clerk, a professional footballer, a shipping clerk, an insurance agent, an auto salesman, a small candy-store owner and a wine merchant.

**VERNE MARSHALL, THE** Cedar Rapids editor who heads the "No Foreign War" committee, spoke over the radio the other night, and I listened, hoping to hear an intelligible outline of the committee's plans and the reasons for them. Instead I heard a tirade from Mr. Marshall against persons who, he said, had been trying to "smear" him, all such persons being described as liars, and Mr. Marshall's own declarations of his own patriotism and public spirit. I didn't learn much about why the committee opposes aid to Britain, so I turned the dial and listened to Something else.

**LATER I READ THE AC**count given by the Baltimore Sun's Washington correspondent of a conversation which he had just had with Mr. Marshall. Marshall had a grievance. He said that W. R. Davis, the oil man who, he says, has agreed to finance the Marshall committee, had brought from abroad a peace plan which he said had been approved by a foreign government or governments, had submitted it to the American state department, where it had been suppressed.

**HIS STATEMENTS ON THIS** subject were vague, and contradictory. In a published article he had said that Davis was sent abroad as an "emissary" of resident Roosevelt to see what could be done about peace. Then, he amended the word "emissary" and said that the president had "delegated" Davis to go abroad. Then he said that Davis was neither sent nor delegated by the president, but was "permitted" to go abroad and negotiate. Finally, he said that he did not mean that Davis had been the president's official representative, but that the president knew that he was going and what he was going for. During the entire interview Mr. Marshall seemed unable to stick to one story. The interview and the speech left me in doubt just how to classify Mr. Marshall, but with the conviction that he is not a reliable source of information.

**BECAUSE OF CONFUSION** arising from the fact that the speaker of the house of representatives and his deputy were out of town, and it was necessary to elect a temporary substitute, the house met the other day and opened its session without prayer, something unusual, if not unprecedented. However, it was nearly the close of the term, and there wasn't much business to be done, anyway, so probably no harm was done. And, when somebody thought of it, and it was found that the regular chaplain was absent, a substitute preacher was drafted and a substitute prayer was made.

**ONE OF THE MYSTERIES** of this war is why anyone should be bombing Dublin. One bomb dropped in the recent raid had German markings, according to an official statement from the Dublin government. Eire, which is southern Ireland, is strictly neutral. Dublin is too far from any British objective to render plausible the idea that a German bomber had dropped bombs over or near Dublin by mistake. Some ingenuity is required to figure out a reason why Germany should wish to provoke Eire into entering the war on the side of Britain. If one wished to stretch his imagination he might conclude that Hitler wishes to occupy Eire as he did Norway and make the country a jumping-off place for his invasion of Britain, but that seems scarcely reasonable, as such a move would be opposed by British troops which would occupy all important Irish ports and strategic positions. The other idea that the British are trying to convince the Irish that the Germans are bombing them seems scarcely tenable. If there were such a purpose it could have been carried out much more effectively. So, to discover the meaning of it, we shall have to wait and see.

**WHENEVER MENTION IS** made of the danger in which the United States would be involved in case of German victory in the war someone ridicules the notion that Hitler can send an army across the Atlantic and invade the United States when he has thus far found it impossible to cross the English channel. The objectors beg the question. It is not at all certain that Hitler would attempt to invade the United States with a military force of any kind, or that he would think of it to his interest to do so. It wouldn't be necessary.

**IF HITLER SHOULD** subdue Great Britain the British navy would be captured, destroyed or distributed in distant waters as to be ineffective. War ships must have land bases, fuel, munitions and all sorts of supplies, which must be continually renewed. With the British navy eliminated Hitler would have a free hand in all of western Europe, and would be at liberty to work his will in South and Central America. There his agents have been at work for years laying the foundation for government of the Nazi pattern and under Nazi control. All of Latin America would quickly become Nazified unless the United States intervened. If our fleet were moved from the Pacific to the Atlantic an opportunity would be created for Japan, and we haven't enough ships to patrol two oceans. Without the landing of a German soldier on its soil or the dropping of a bomb on one of its cities the United States would be hemmed in by Nazi influence and would be able to exist and carry on only on such terms as Hitler might choose to permit. Physical invasion is not essential to the real subjugation of the United States.

**NOT LEAST TRYING AMONG** the experiences of the war have been those of Americans who sought to leave the war areas before they were surrounded by armies which would make their departure impossible. There were thousands of such experiences, all difficult, and many tragic. The story of the movements of one family in the early half of the war is told in a little periodical published by the class of 1911 of Wellesley college. The writer, Bessie Hayes Dreifuss, is a member of that class, and has friends and classmates in Grand Forks.

**AT THE BEGINNING OF THE** war Mrs. Dreifuss, with her two daughters, aged respectively 15 and 11, was at the family home near Zurich, Switzerland. Her husband, who had business interests in Paris, was at a home which the family maintained in a suburb of the capital. Mr. Dreifuss, a Swiss officer, was called home to join his company and remained two months, after which he was permitted to return to Paris to look after his business. There the family accompanied him, to experience the terror of air raids and pass through the period of hopes and fears which preceded the French collapse.

**"LIFE WENT ON WITH THE** firm belief on our part that France would be victorious in the end," writes Mrs. Dreifuss. "We were convinced of it. Then came the thing dreaded, but in our imagination unrealizable; the entrance of the Germans into Belgium and Holland. That day in Paris the faces of the people were drawn with worry and they were dumbstricken. Lines formed continually before newspaper stands. There was, however, no panic, but determination to see this fight to the end. French officers and soldiers hurried back from their leave, and, with Dutch and Belgians called home, packed the stations.

**MORE AND MORE FAMILIES** started leaving Paris, autos piled with baggage and children, the proverbial mattress on top. By the middle of the month men, women and children were arriving in Paris by train, bicycle and on foot, and we had our first glimpse of what a refugee was. The sights in the stations were pathetic; those tired, haggard, fearstricken people with their few possessions on which they sat and waited to go—where? They did not know. I saw truckloads of them in the streets of Paris."

**PARIS BECAME TOO DANGEROUS,** and it was decided that Mrs. Dreifuss and the children should move to Biarritz, probably to leave for America later. They left the city with an airplane battle going on over their heads. Concerning the brief stay at Biarritz Mrs. Dreifuss writes:

"Our housekeeping arrangements afforded us great amusement, because three of us cooked on the same small stove. One of them was a Spanish woman, the wife of a so-called "red" refugee from Spain, who would be shot at once should he return to his country. As we never learned the names of this Spanish couple Judith called them Mr. and Mrs. Spanish woman, as we had always referred to them that way; she could not speak one word of any language but her own. Over the stove we made signs and gestures to one another and vaunted the merits of our dishes.

**"DURING THIS TIME I** learned how German propaganda filtered into the minds of the people and played its part in the war by spreading feelings of resentment toward the French government among the poorer working classes among whom we happened to be living. A man next door attracted my attention. He was staring at me while I was speaking. I learned later it was on account of my foreign accent. He was in the French secret service and his duty was to detect and follow up all suspicious foreigners liable to endanger the safety of the nation. When we became acquainted I discovered he was the type of real devout Frenchman I had always admired and for whom the later fall of France must have been heartbreaking. He deplored to me the amount of "defaitisme" among his compatriots, against which he I was fighting. I had always had implicit faith in France morale, and therefore was shocked to learn in this new atmosphere how France had weakened."

**MRS. DREIFUSS WAS RE**joined by her husband, and ultimately the family received permission to leave France. But delay followed delay; days and weeks were spent in obtaining passport visas until it seemed that there was to be no escape. At length arrangements were made to leave by way of Spain and Portugal. After hours of waiting in a dense crowd the crossing of the international bridge at Handaye was begun. At the middle of the Bridge Mrs. Dreifuss discovered that the children were not with her. Making her way back with great difficulty she found that the visas of the children had not been collected. That entailed more hours of delay. At last the bridge was crossed, and as she turned back after crossing Mrs. Dreifuss saw the French tricolor being lowered and the swastika being elevated to its place. There was still more delay before the American "Manhattan" was boarded at Lisbon, but the worst part of the journey was over.

**FROM FAR-OFF BAGHDAD** comes a copy of the Iran Times, whose front page, printed in English, and displaying its usual proportion of display advertising, after the English style, suggests nothing of the Baghdad of Haroun's time. It is when one turns to the back page that he is reminded that the paper links the present with the picturesque past, for that page is printed in characters which I take to be Arabic, giving the page a strange appearance to once accustomed only to modern English type.

**ONE THING THAT GIVES** the Mesopotamian type its peculiar appearance to American eyes is that instead of being fairly uniform in size and reasonably regular in form the Oriental characters appear to have been written with a pen, and are of all sizes and shapes, somewhat resembling stenographic characters crowded close together. Naturally, our type would seem as strange to a Mesopotamian. And, as a matter of fact, the typography of Shakespeare's first printed plays is as unintelligible to most of us as if it had been printed in Baghdad.

**THE THREE PAGES OF THE** Baghdad paper that are printed in English are devoted, except as to advertising, almost exclusively to war news from the several capitals. Prominence is given to dispatches from Istanbul relating to war tension in Turkey. In the one column devoted to local news we are told that certain mischievous persons are spraying acid on the clothing of passers-by. One lady noticing the smell of burning cloth, after considerable search found that it was her own clothes that were on fire. Fortunately she escaped serious injury. No cause is suggested for this peculiar sort of crime.

**IN BAGHDAD, AS IN OTHER** parts of the world, there has been a change in the form of popular entertainment since the days of Haroun al Raschid. The motion picture has been substituted for many of the forms of entertainment observed by that famous potentate on his nightly excursions. The films advertised are mostly American. Among them are "Marco Polo," with Gary Cooper, Sigrid Curie and Basil Rathbone, "Lloyd's of London," with Freddie Bartholomew, Madeline Carroll, Sir Guy Standing and Tyrone Power, and a gigantic technicolor production of "The Wizard of Oz." What would Sinbad and Ali Baba think of it all if they could see it?

**FOREIGN WARS AND THE** need for continental defense have turned attention to the building of highways connecting Alaska with the rest of the United States. Several routes for such roads have been proposed. One runs through British Columbia, paralleling the Pacific coast to Dawson, thence cutting across to Fairbanks. Another also runs through British Columbia, but farther in land to Fort Liard, thence to Dawson and Fairbanks. Still another called the prairie route, would run from Chicago to Edmonton by any one of the routes already in use, thence to Fort Liard and on to Dawson and Fairbanks. Another proposed by Stefansson, would run from Edmonton straight north to Great Slave lake, and would follow the Mackenzie river almost to Fort Norman and would reach Fairbanks by way of Dawson.

**THE ROUTE PROPOSED BY** Stefansson is longer than any of the others if mileage in Canada alone is considered. Measured from any point in the central United States there would not be much difference. The Stefansson route has the advantage of traversing territory rich in minerals, and of presenting perhaps the fewest difficulties in construction, because much of it runs through relatively level territory.

**A STRIKING EXAMPLE OF** nature's interconnections was the sudden increase of parrots in western Australia in 1935. The small green birds became so numerous that a flock alighting on a roof sounded like a hailstorm, and the roof appeared to be painted green. Their great numbers were attributed by biologists to a preceding plague of grasshoppers, which inspired parrot parents to raise more offspring than usual.

**THAT A COMPLEX CHAIN** of influence links practically all organic life is well known. The relation of flies to frogs and of chickens to hawks is evident. The remote relation of cats to clover is more subtle. According to Darwin's famous explanation, in some places a large crop depends on a large number of cats. If it were not for cats killing field mice, the mice would drive bumblebees away by destroying their combs and nests. Since bees are necessary to fertilize certain kinds of clover, it is obvious that where there are no cats, mice prevail; where mice exist, there are no bees, and no bees—no clover. At first the whole scheme seems complicated, but it becomes simple when studied by parts and their relation to each other.

**FROM ITS FILES OF 60** years ago the Winnipeg Free Press has dug up some facts about navigation conditions on the Red river in the early eighties. The paper of that early date noted with satisfaction the fact that during the preceding year the Red river had been cleared of rocks, snags and other obstructions, and that the prospects for spring navigation were good. In 1880 some, 17,000 bushels of wheat had been brought to Winnipeg by river craft, and it was expected that in the following year the wheat shipments would be materially increased.

**IN 1880 THE RED RIVER** was still the great highway into a large area of the northwest. Winnipeg, if I remember correctly, had not yet been connected by rail with the outside world, and the wheat shipments to that point must have been intended for grinding in local mills for distribution to Hudson's Bay posts and to the settlers who were beginning to come into the country. There could be no shipment of grain or flour to the east.

**THE GREAT NORTHERN** had been built to Grand Forks from Fisher about a year before, and Fisher was no longer the of navigation, a proud position which that village had held for several years. Most of the settlers who established themselves in the Red river valley from Grand Forks north had entered the territory by way of Fisher, taking river boats there, entering the Red river at Grand Forks, then being carried north to the river landing nearest their intended destination. The journey across the country to the homestead was made on foot, by ox team, or with horses, the animals, as well as miscellaneous freight, being carried by boat.

**THE EARLY RIVER STEAMERS** were stern-wheelers. I do not think that any side-wheeler ever navigated the Red river. The stern-wheeler was used because during periods of low water the channel was narrow, and at any stage of water it was always crooked, and the narrow boat could be navigated more easily. Both passengers and freight of all kinds were carried on the steamers, but grain was transported in flat-bottomed barges, several of which were lashed together, with the steamer fastened to one side of the tow, or sometimes pushing from behind.

**ON SOME OF THE CHINESE** rivers the channels are so narrow and torturous that it is necessary to "bend" the river craft around the corners. This is made possible by an ingenious arrangement in which the boat is built in several sections, hinged together. For straightaway navigation the sections are locked and thus I kept in straight alignment, but when it is necessary to round a sharp curve the fastenings on one side are loosened and thus it is possible to bend the craft around the curve. Red river barges were not hinged in that way, but often the short turns of the river were negotiated in much the same way. Several barges, loosely connected, would be pushed around a bend somewhat like several automobiles being pushed around a corner by a truck.

**BUILDING OF THE RAILROADS** cut into the river traffic, but for several years after Grand Forks was served by railway it was also an important navigation point. Up and down the river at convenient points were warehouses to which wheat was hauled during the winter from the neighboring farms. When navigation opened in the spring steamers and barges plied the river, collecting wheat from the warehouses and bringing it to Grand Forks. On the river bank in East Grand Forks just north of the DeMers avenue bridge was a little transfer elevator which elevated grain from barges and loaded it on cars which stood on the spur track. Little by little this sort of traffic shrank. Farmers found it more convenient to haul their grain to the railway. One by one the river warehouses fell into disuse. There was no freight for the boats, and river traffic was discontinued in the early years of this century. Some of the barges were junked, and what was left of the steamers was broken up and shipped elsewhere. A colorful period in the history of the northwest was ended.

**MENTION WAS MADE** IN this column recently of the publication by a New York firm of what is known as the "Jefferson Bible," a collection of the sayings of Jesus by Thomas Jefferson, the text being edited by Douglas E. Lurton, formerly of Grand Forks. The literary review containing this announcement described this as the first publication in type of this work, although mimeograph copies were said to have been issued. There must have been some error in the announcement, for D. C. Macdonald of this city has just lent me a copy of the "Jefferson Bible" which has been in his possession for years. The book bears the imprint of the N. D. Thompson Publishing company of St. Louis, Chicago and New York, and was copyrighted in 1902.

**THE BOOK IS A MODEST** one, described by Jefferson himself as "wee-little," containing the text as given by the evangelists of the birth, life, death and principal sayings of Jesus of Nazareth, omitting whatever Jefferson considered extraneous and unrelated. No mention is made of any of the miracles attributed to Jesus by the gospel writers. Jesus is presented, not as a wonderworker, but as a lover of all mankind and a teacher of great truths. Omitted from the book are all references to what we should call the supernatural. The parables are given, the Sermon on the Mount, of course, the Lord's prayer, and the numerous maxims of the great teacher.

**JEFFERSON DID NOT MERE**ly go through the gospels and clip with a pair of scissors those passages which he thought fitted his purpose. A classical scholar himself, he studied the historical background of Jesus and his teachings, and examined in comparison the older Jewish theology and the philosophies of the ancient non-Jewish world. As a result of his studies he wrote of Jesus:

"**HIS MORAL DOCTRINES**, relating to kindred and friends, were more pure and perfect than those of the most correct of the philosophers, and greatly more so than those of the Jews; and they went far beyond both in inculcating universal philanthropy, not only to kindred and friends, to neighbors and countrymen, but to all mankind, gathering all into one family, under the bonds of love, charity, peace, common wants and common aids. A development of this head will evince the peculiar superiority of the system of Jesus above all others."

**BY MANY OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES** Jefferson was held to be an athiest. He was anything but that. He rejected many of the beliefs held by the orthodox, but he accepted unreservedly what he believed to be the philosophy of Jesus. He believed that the founders of the early church had incorporated in their system many of the less admirable tenets of the older philosophers and had thus built a system which did not fairly represent the broad inclusive-ness of real Christian doctrines,

**JEFFERSON WAS A PASSIONATE** believer in personal liberty. In his devotion to religious liberty he was reluctant to make even a voluntary confession of his faith lest he might be thought to be assenting to the view that the individual may be required to make public statement of his belief. On this subject he wrote:

"**I AM MOREOVER** AVERSE to the communication of my religious tenets to the public; because it would countenance the presumption of those who have endeavored to draw them before that tribunal, and to seduce public opinion to erect itself into that inquisition over the rights of conscience which the laws have so justly proscribed. It behooves every man who values liberty of conscience for himself to resist invasions of it in the case of others, or their case may, by change of circumstances, become his own. It behooves him, too, in his own case, to give no example of concessions, betraying the right swering questions of faith, which the laws have left between God and himself."

**COVERING A PACKAGE** that came to Rev.W. Murray Allan was a sheet of paper on which were stamped the words: "Save paper. This bag can be used when you come again." Evidently the paper had been used, perhaps more than once, to wrap goods from some local store. That is significant of the economies which the war has made necessary all over Britain. Nothing must be wasted, for the materials and the labor which would be required to reproduce it are imperatively needed now in the war industries.

**WITH US THE SHOPPER** who accumulates a number of packages which she intends to carry home is given as a matter of course a large paper bag to contain all the smaller packages. Formerly that was the custom in Great Britain, but it is so no longer. Now the shopper piles her small packages on her arm and manages them as best she can. The larger container is a thing of the past.

**AS I MAY HAVE MENTIONED** before, the paper bag is a relatively modern invention. Many of the commodities which are now sold in paper bags were formerly wrapped in flat paper, and ability to do up a neat package with loose material was one of the accomplishments of the competent clerk. When sugar was no small trick for a novice to do up a dollar's worth of sugar sold twelve pounds for a dollar it in a flat paper, and until a boy got the hang of it the package was likely to look like something that the cat had dragged in from the alley. But with practice the thing could be done swiftly, deftly and neatly.

**MOST OF THE MORE BULKY** groceries were wrapped in brown paper, but it was one of the traditions that tea should be wrapped in a white paper known as tea paper, which resembled our newspaper print paper, although it was different, because wood-fiber paper was then unknown. In a store where I worked we used a limited number of paper bags, but we made them ourselves. That was a job for a rainy day when there were few customers. Flour was not handled in paper containers at all, nor in the thin cotton bags such as are now used for the larger packages. When flour was to be shipped it was actually packed in barrels, and the making of flour barrels was an important industry. Some forty years ago there was a cooper shop at the end of Walnut street in Grand Forks where barrels were made for the Diamond mill across the street. Now there are few barrels used for the domestic flour trade, although flour prices are still quoted on the markets at so much per "barrel."

**FEW OF OUR EASTERN** farmers bought flour. They took their wheat to the mill, and when the grist was ground they took back flour, bran and shorts from their own grain, the miller retaining at one time one-twelfth, and later one-eighth of the grain as his toll. The city retailer delivered flour in a grain sack, dumping it into the purchaser's bin, receiving another sack in exchange, or leaving the store's sack to be called for later. Somebody manufactured a paper of unusual strength and of it made a bag large enough to contain 25 pounds of flour. That created a mild sensation. The idea that paper could be made strong enough to hold 25 pounds of flour was incredible. Enterprising merchants advertised the gift of such a paper sack with each purchase of 25 pounds of flour.

**TURNING A GRAIN SACK** that had been filled with flour and shaking the flour from it was a messy job if you didn't know how to do it. Shortly after I went to work in the city store I was engaged in that task and was kicking up a lot of dust when the boss came along and watched me. He was an elderly man and a millionaire. From small beginnings he had built up a big business and although he had long since moved from behind the counter to the office, he kept closely in touch with all the details of the store. Observing my ineptness with the flour sack he said, "No, no William. That's not the way to turn a flour sack. I'll show you." With a few deft movements he had the sack inside out and had it shaken clean, without soiling the black broadcloth suit which he always wore. It was something like Henry Ford stopping during a tour of his shop to show a green boy how to handle a monkey-wrench.

**STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN** with commendable promptness by the senate committee on privileges and election gate the charges made against William Langer in the petition asking that he be denied a seat in the senate. A sub-committee has been appointed to examine the charges and make its recommendation to the full committee. If on the basis of this report it is considered that the subject merits further attention a hearing may be ordered, and the committee will report its findings to the senate. At the opening of the session Mr. Langer was seated without prejudice to the right of the senate to exclude him later if it considered such action warranted. I suppose that under the procedure being followed Mr. Langer will retain his seat without further action by the senate unless it is found that the facts warrant his exclusion.

**FILING OF THE ANTI-LANGER** petition has stirred up afresh in North Dakota controversy over matters which were supposed to have been settled last November. The petition asking that Langer be denied the senate seat is sponsored by persons who opposed Langer's election. On the part of some of those who supported him there is now a tendency to come to his rescue and to repeat the arguments which they made during the campaign in favor of his election. It seems to me that all that is water that has gone by the mill. The only question that I can see is involved is whether the senate of the United States shall go back of a general election and reopen a case whose major facts have long been matters of public discussion and concerning which the courts or the people of the state have rendered their decision. If the senate is to dip into state politics in the manner proposed we might as well abolish state elections altogether.

**THERE HAS BEEN A LOT** of conversation about the war aims of the belligerent powers. There are demands that Germany and Great Britain tell the world what they are fighting for, so that the rest of the world, especially the United States, may draw up for them a program of compromise and insist on their making peace. The German aims have been quite distinctly set forth by Hitler in his book, "Mein Kampf," and in numerous public statements made by him and his spokesmen. Lest there be any doubt concerning those purposes we have the concrete and indisputable evidence of persecuted minorities, violated treaties, invaded neutrals, subjugated peoples, independent governments overthrown or banished and the declaration of a new order of force to be imposed on human beings who once were free. No clarifying statement is needed.

**AS TO THE BRITISH PURPOSES**, when Winston Churchill took charge of the British government he set them forth quite clearly.

"You ask what is our policy?" he said. "I say it is to wage war by land, sea and air—war with all our might and with all the strength God has given us—and to wage war against a monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

"You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs. Victory in spite of all terrors. Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival.

"Let that be realized. No survival for the British empire, no survival for all that the British empire has stood for, no survival for the urge, the impulse of the ages, that mankind shall move forward toward his goal."

And still there are those who ask "What are the aims of the belligerents?"

**GERMANY'S PROPAGANDA** minister, speaking obviously to reassure the German people, said the other day that the relative inactivity of German forces of late must not be interpreted as a sign of indecision, for every important movement made by Herr Hitler has been preceded by careful preparation. In substance the German people are asked to rest confident in the assurance that something grand is being prepared, and that when the preparations are completed the final blow that spells victory will be struck. Undoubtedly, the German military operations have been carefully and skillfully planned, and there need be no doubt that preparations are now being made for what may prove the decisive blow of the war.

**IT DOES NOT FOLLOW** that there is no uncertainty or indecision in the German high command. Not all its operations have gone according to program. Britain was to have been invaded and subdued by last September. But there has been no invasion, and Britain is not yet subdued. British cities have been mercilessly pounded, but German cities as well have taken their share of pounding and the forces massed for invasion have been subjected to almost continuous bombing. Affairs in the Mediterranean have not gone according to Hitler's plans. His ally has been kicked out of Greece and is being chased across Albania. The Italian army that was to have seized the Suez canal is rapidly being broken to bits. The axis plans have gone sadly awry.

**NEVERTHELESS, HITLER** must move soon and to some purpose. He may strike at Greece through Hungary, in which case he will be confronted by an exceedingly capable Turkish army. He may take the desperate chance of attempting an invasion of Britain. If he does that he will be hammered by an air force which is growing in strength and whose spirit is superb. But he must move in one direction or another, and soon.

**EDWARD ENERSON OF** Niagara is puzzled about leap year. He writes: "In the winter time we think of many funny things. How is it that in the past hundred years, from 1804 to 1896, leap year came every fourth year, but we did not have leap year in 1900 skipping eight years to 1904? Then leap year comes every fourth year until 2000." Probably that is as good a subject as any to discuss on a winter day, because, among other things, it covers an almost unlimited territory. The division of the year into months and corresponding periods presented a problem with which the ancients struggled for many centuries, most of the time with only indifferent success. The problem would have been greatly simplified if it had been so arranged that the earth made an exact number of revolutions on its axis, during the time required for it to make a complete circuit of the sun, the period which we call a year. However, it was not so ordered. The ancient astronomers observed that it took the earth approximately  $365 \frac{1}{4}$  days to complete its journey around the sun, and that quarter-day, or thereabouts, has been responsible for a great deal of confusion.

**TRADITION HAS IT THAT** Romulus, legendary founder of Rome, authorized a year of 10 months and only 304 days. What he did with the other days nobody knows. In the earliest Roman calendar of which there is credible record the year had 10 months, beginning with March. Later January was added at the beginning of the year and February at the end. Still later the Relative positions of these two months were reversed, giving the months in their present order.

**DURING MOST OF THIS** time little attention had been given to that troublesome quarter-day, so that by the time of Julius Caesar the reckoning had gone three months astray. Caesar ordered that the year should begin on January 1, and that there should be 12 months, January, March, May, July, September and November having 31 days each, and the other months 30 days each except February, which had 29. To take care of the quarter-day it was ordered that every fourth year February, being the shortest month, should be given an extra day. That arrangement took effect January 1, in the year 46 B. C. and continued for nearly 1600 years except that the emperor Augustus, in a fit of childish, vanity, gave to the month of August, which was named for him, an extra day, which he took from February, in order that his month might be as long as any other, and changed the length of the succeeding months to the order which we now have.

**THAT WAS AN IMPROVEMENT** on what had gone before, but it wasn't quite right yet. The actual length of the year is not  $365 \frac{1}{4}$  days, but 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds, more or less by a fraction of a second, and by the time of Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 the accumulation of those odd minutes and seconds had amounted to 10 days, which the pope ordered stricken from the calendar. In order to prevent such error in the future it was decreed that there should be a new arrangement with reference to leap year. Every year divisible by four was to be a leap year except that only those century years divisible by 400 should be leap years, with the further provision that the century years divisible by 400 should not be leap years. The year 1600, being divisible by 400, was a leap year, but the years 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not. The year 2000 will be a leap year, but the years 4000, 8000 and so on, being divisible by 4000, will be common, or non-leap years. Even this is not quite accurate, but as the error from the accumulation of fractions of a second annually will not amount to more than about a day in 100 centuries, we needn't worry about it.

**THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR** was adopted in most of Europe soon after its promulgation. It was not officially adopted in England until 1752, and by that time the accumulated error amounted to 11 days. Those days were dropped in September of that year, despite vigorous protests and not a few riots. Many believed it sacrilegious to change the order of time, and in some communities it was believed that the whole thing was a scheme of the land-owners to steal a couple of weeks time from their tenants. Actually it was provided that all legal commitments should be equitably adjusted on the basis of the new calendar. The Greek Orthodox church, which is the dominant religious body in Russia and some of the Balkan countries, did not make the change until just a few years ago.

**WITH HIS INQUIRY ABOUT** leap year Mr. Enerson sends a description of a complicated method of checking dates by counting the joints of one's finger, but I find the plan too deep for me.

**IN THIS COLUMN A FEW** months ago I told of the visit in Grand Forks of R. H. Tuttle, now of Los Angeles, who was a dispatcher in the Great Northern office here in 1885, and who later became an official on the Santa Fe system. The article interested L. H. Tuttle of Willow City, North Dakota, whose brother, Tipton Tuttle, was also a railroad man, serving the Alton for 40 years until his retirement. L. H. Tuttle, one of a family of five boys, all born near Bloomington, Illinois, came to North Dakota in March, 1907, toward the close of what he describes as the "winter of the big show." The snow was deep, as many older residents will remember. The roads around Willow City wound across fields and through pastures, and were snow packed until the roadbed was four feet high. The newcomers knew nothing about skis, and when they wanted to go anywhere off the beaten road they broke through the snow crust up to their arm-pits. In view of the shortage of water in recent years snow like that would now be welcomed almost anywhere in the state.

**AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS** have wondered why it is that they cannot find a motion projector that will accommodate both 16 and 8 millimeter films. Some of them have films of both widths and it would be convenient to have a projector with which either could be shown. Apparently nothing of the kind is on the market here, but for some reason the Japanese seem to be a step ahead of us. In a recent Japanese commercial publication there is advertised one projector taking both 8 and 16 mm. films, and another adaptable to three gauges of film, 8, 9.5 and 16 mms. The latter is described as having interchangeable fronts. Why do they have those in Japan and not in the United States?

**MR. AND MRS. THOS A. Suhr**, 418 Cherry street, have just returned from an Eastern tour on which they visited some of the historic spots in Pennsylvania and adjacent states. One of the interesting relics of pre-revolutionary times which they saw was a fort or stockade of logs on the road taken by Braddock's ill-fated expedition into the wilderness, in which Washington first won military distinction.

**MR. SUHR, A NATIVE OF** London, England, came to southern Ontario when a lad of 16, and after a few years he came west and entered railroad service as a telegrapher, in which occupation he continued until his retirement two or three years ago. On his recent tour he saw in Cleveland the motion picture "Northwest Mounted Police," and he was reminded by some of the scenes of the interest which the Kiel rebellion aroused in Ontario in 1885. At that time he was living at Tilsonburg, Ontario, and a company of volunteers was organized there in expectation of being called into service for the suppression of the rebellion. The boys were all ready to go, and were expecting the call to come at any moment, when came that the rebellion was over, and orders were given to disband the company. That was most disappointing to the young volunteers, who had been expecting a thrilling adventure. "But," says Mr. Suhr, "it was the best thing that could have happened."

**A LITTLE BOOK OF VERSE** comes from the Beta stanza of the North Dakota Poetry society at Bismarck. The Bismarck chapter, or Stanza of the society was organized in 1936, largely through the efforts of the late Paul Southworth Bliss, whose recent death will be lamented by all who knew him, and of Grace Brown Putnam, president of the North Dakota Poetry society. In a foreword we are told that the members came from the occupations of teaching, nursing, farming, housework and the office. Meetings are held once a month except in summer, and are devoted to discussions, study in technique, constructive criticism and the writing and reading of original verse.

**EACH OF THE SEVENTEEN** members is represented by several selections in the book, and while the selections vary necessarily in quality, some of them impress me as being of unusual excellence. One feature which I found pleasing is that the book contains little that is grotesque in form, written under the urge to achieve something "different". A mistake too often made by amateurs is to cast their lines in fantastic forms. The poetic genius can write in almost any form and get away with it, but the beginner, if wise, will stick more closely to the simpler and safer forms.

**LOS ANGELES PAPERS** tell of the induction of J. F. T. O'Connor into the office of United States district judge for southern California. The ceremony took place on January 13. Born on a Grand Forks county farm, Mr. O'Connor has moved steadily from one position of honor and responsibility to another. Graduated from the University of North Dakota, he took an advanced law course at Yale, then engaged in practice in Grand Forks. He became active in public affairs, served in the state legislature, headed the North Dakota delegation to the Democratic national convention in 1924 and vigorously championed the nomination for president of William G. McAdoo in his historic contest with Al Smith.

**IN OTHER CAMPAIGNS**, MR. O'Connor was nominated by his party in North Dakota for governor and senator. Moving to California he entered into law partnership with Mr. McAdoo and later engaged in private practice. Under President Roosevelt he served with distinction as comptroller of the currency and resigned to resume his California practice. He was appointed Federal judge last August, but delayed taking office until he could wind up his business and personal affairs. His is a long and honorable list of achievement, but to those who knew him in Grand Forks years ago, he will always be just "Jefty" O'Connor.

**BROOKLYN IS SAID TO BE** the crookedest city—geographically—that ever was built, although there are some who claim the record for Boston. It is said that if a Brooklynite travels from his own home farther than to the nearest car line he becomes hopelessly lost. Clifton Fadiman, quiz master of the popular radio feature "Information Please," was born in Brooklyn and spent his boyhood there. A biographical article about him says that he knew Brooklyn so well that he could find his way anywhere in the city blindfolded.

When that statement was repeated in his hearing a Manhattanite considered it thoughtfully and observed "Blindfolded? Well, I suppose that may be possible. But I'll bet he couldn't do it with his eyes open."

**ESPECIALLY INTERESTING** is the article on the Marquis de Mores which appears in the current number of the North Dakota Historical Quarterly just issued by the state Historical society. There have been many stories written about this adventurous and irrepressible Frenchman and his business career in the Little Missouri country, but the story which is now reproduced is one which was written by a French author, Charles Drouliers, the intimate personal friend of the marquis, and who undoubtedly obtained most of his material from de Mores himself.

**GEORGE F. WILL OF BISmarck**, translator of the article, expressed thanks for permission to use the material to de Mores son, the duke of Valombrosa, who a few years ago donated to the state of North Dakota the chateau at Medora, with all its priceless contents. Commenting on the treatment of the subject by the French author Mr. Will says:

"**HE SEEMS INCLINED TO** make a demigod out of the marquis, but in the main seems to give an excellent character sketch of the man and a clear idea of his own intentions in his American venture and of the controversial stories dealing with his life in western North Dakota."

**ANOTHER EXCEEDINGLY** interesting article in the quarterly is that on "The Paisley Shawl" by Dr. James Grassick of Grand Forks. That article was written; and published by Dr. Grassick several years ago, and many readers have perused it with delight. It is gratifying to know that the article is now incorporated in the permanent records of the Historical society. Other articles are on pioneer days, by Charles H. Hobart and on the North Dakota State park system, by Superintendent Russell Reid.

**MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN** called to a question and answer in the quiz feature "Test Your Horse Sense" in the Herald conducted by Dr. George W. Crane. The question is: if it is 9 A.M. in New York, the time in London is— 3 P.M.; midnight; 5 A.M.; 3 A.M. The reader is invited to pick the right answer. Dr. Crane gives the answer as 3 P.M., which is wrong. Doubtless Dr. Crane knows better, and his incorrect answer is probably a slip, due, perhaps to the fact that the feature comes to us from Chicago, and that the questioner may have been thinking for the moment of Chicago time instead of New York time.

**THE SUBJECT WOULD** scarcely merit comment were it not for the fact that the same error is made frequently and persistently in telegraphic dispatches and in radio announcements. The difference in time between New York and London is five hours, not six, as is so often stated, and as New York is in the eastern time zone and Grand Forks is in the central, our time is six hours later than that of London.

**AS A MATTER OF MATHEMATICAL** convenience the circle has been divided into 360 degrees, and as it takes the earth 24 hours to make one revolution with reference to the sun, sun time changes 4 minutes with every degree of longitude, or one hour with each 15 degrees. The 75th meridian west from Greenwich (London) runs about 60 miles west of New York and places New York in the time zone of that meridian, making its standard time 5 hours later than that of London. New York's actual time by the sun lacks about 4 minutes of being 5 hours later than London's. It is all quite simple, and the facts can be checked on any atlas.

**SINCE THE PUBLICATION** in this column of paragraphs relating to what is known as the Jefferson Bible I have been told of two or three other copies of the book owned by Grand Forks people and published at different dates. My original mention of this compilation of the sayings of Jesus was prompted by the following paragraphs in the New York Times Book Review:

**"THOMAS JEFFERSON WAS** a very religious person and, over a period of about 16 years, spent his small leisure in winnowing the indisputable words of Jesus from the additions made by the apostles and the incrustations that came with time. These he embodied in a manuscript of some 25,000 words which he entitled "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth," and said of it in a letter to Charles Thompson in 1816, 'a more beautiful or precious morsel of ethics I have never seen; it is a document in proof that I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus.'

**"IT WAS NOT PUBLISHED** during Jefferson's life, but in 1904 a photo-lithographic edition of the manuscript was made and the copies presented to the members of the Senate and Congress. The English section (the manuscript had extracts in four languages in parallel columns) has been reproduced in type for the first time by Wilfred Funk Inc., under the title 'The Jefferson Bible' and edited by Douglas E. Lurton."

**THE STATEMENT IS EXPLICIT** that the English section of Jefferson's work "has (now) been reproduced in type for the first time. But the copy which I have, and which was lent me by D. C. McDonald, was published by the N. D. Thompson Publishing Co. in 1902 and answers exactly the description given by the Times writer. It contains not only the textual extracts from the gospels made by Jefferson, but a copy of Jefferson's letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush transmitting to him the writer's "syllabus of an estimate of the doctrines of Jesus, compared with those of others," and a paragraph from the letter to Charles Thompson.

**IN THE PREFACE TO THIS** work it is said that Jefferson called his work "The Philosophy of Jesus of Nazareth, extracted from the account of his life and doctrines, as given by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; being an abridgement of the New Testament for the use of the Indians, unembarrassed with matters of fact or faith beyond the level of their comprehension." In his letter to his friend Thompson, Jefferson is said to have expressed the wish to arrange the text also in Greek, Latin and French in parallel columns, which he afterward did. The preface says "This is the volume called the 'Jefferson Bible', which is now owned by the government, and the publication of which has been recently (1902) ordered by congress, while this volume was still in the possession of Mr. Jefferson's oldest grandson, Colonel Thomas Jefferson Randolph, an accurate copy of its table of contents was made, and from that copy the English text is reproduced in the following pages."

**EVIDENTLY THE TIMES** writer is in error in supposing the book recently published to be the first reproduction in type of the Jefferson Bible, as at least two or three other editions have been published.

**ONCE IN A WHILE A DEER** is struck on a northern Minnesota highway, but although much of northern Minnesota deer are not there considered a serious menace. In certain districts in Maine and some other New England states deer have become so numerous in protected areas that they are a nuisance to neighboring farmers. But one does not think of deer overrunning farms and gardens and impeding highway traffic almost within sound of the roar of traffic on the streets of New York City, but that is what is happening in Rockland county, New York.

**ROCKLAND COUNTY IS THE** most southerly county in New York on the west bank of the Hudson, only a few miles north from the northern limits of New York City. Residents complain that deer have become so numerous as almost to make life unbearable. That they are numerous is evidenced by the fact that more than 100 deer have been killed on the highways of the county within the past year. The flesh of animals so killed is turned over to nearby public institutions of the state and the inmates of such places are complaining vigorously of too much venison. That reminds one of the backwoods housewife of years ago who said she was tired of deer and wild turkey and maple syrup and wished for some real hog meat and store molasses.

**DEER ON THE HIGHWAY** are a real menace, and many a wreck has been caused by collision with one of them. In the New York county one garage man has repaired 45 cars that were damaged in collisions with deer. One trick that the animals have acquired is that of following ice cream trucks along the road. Salt water drips from those trucks and the deer likes to lick it up. The deer ruin gardens, injure field crops and in the spring nibble the blossoms off fruit trees. One orchard man reports loss of over \$1,000 from this cause last year. Royal F. Copeland, son of the late New York senator, who lives in the county, wants an open season for deer in that district, but for actual residents only. He does not want the country invaded by outside hunters, who would be more dangerous than the deer.

**GERMAN OCCUPATION OF** Norway has placed difficulties in the way of the marriage of Swedish youth with Norwegian maidens. The border between the two countries is rigidly guarded and there are numerous regulations which stand in the way of the usual wedding parties. But the young people have found a way to circumvent some of these. Where it is possible for both parties to reach the international line groom and bride stand on their respective sides while the marriage lines are read and vows exchanged. Then, when the young woman is married, she is a Swedish citizen and is free to enter Sweden.

**TRADITIONALLY THE WOLF** is a fierce and voracious animal and a pack of wolves will follow and attack even human beings. In some of our old schoolbooks there was the picture of Russians in a sleigh being pursued by a pack of wolves while the driver lashes the horses into a furious gallop. The accompanying story told of the occupants of the sleigh throwing overboard robes and other articles, one by one, thus gaining a little time while the wolves stopped to examine and tear to bits the abandoned articles.

**ANOTHER SCHOOLBOOK** story told of a skater on a northern wilderness river who, on his way home one night was pursued by a pack of wolves. Despite his best speed the wolves gained on him, but when they were almost near enough to spring upon him the skater swerved suddenly, and the wolves, unable to turn as quickly, slid sprawling on the slippery ice. By zig-zagging back and forth in that manner the skater was able to elude them until he reached home.

**MANY OBSERVERS OF WILD** life have declared all such stories apochryphal, and have said that there is no well-authenticated case in which wolves attacked a human being. The fox is naturally a timid creature, and the idea of a fox attacking a grown person when it had a chance to get away would probably be generally discredited. But such a case occurred on a Minnesota farm just a short time ago, and unless Mrs. Johnson had been handy with her ax and had the assistance of her dog she would have been severely treated by the fox which she disturbed making a meal of her chickens. The fact is that no one can tell what a hungry wild animal will do.

**I NEVER WAS ATTACHED** by a weasel, but once I thought that I was about to have that experience. There was a disturbance in the chicken coop, and I entered to see what was the matter. Entering the little building I found a weasel about to pounce on a plump hen. Instead of running when I appeared the weasel continued its progress along the perch toward the hen. As I approached it the animal turned its attention in my direction and seemed to be preparing to spring at me. I struck at it with a stick which I carried, and missed. I struck again and landed, but not hard enough to disable the little beast, which gave up the fight and made its escape. The weasel wasn't cornered and it had plenty of room to get away, but until it was struck and probably badly hurt, it preferred to fight.

**PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT** has asked congress for a blank check, and the prospect is that he will get either that or some thing closely approaching it. He demands extraordinary and unprecedented powers in order that he may do immediately w h a t e v e r he thinks necessary in order to provide for the adequate defense of the nation. For that defense he believes it essential that aid without limit be given Great Britain in providing her with material of every kind that she can use in her present war with Germany.

**IN ORDER THAT HE MAY BE** able to render such aid as he may believe to be necessary in any emergency which may present itself the president asks that he be given unlimited authority over all the material resources of the country, military and industrial, with the right to lend such material, or any part of it, to any nation which he believes to be resisting aggression. He asks that these vast powers be given him without limit as to time, so that no matter how the situation may change, it would require a special act of congress to transfer those powers from him back to the congress in which body they are vested in normal times.

**MOST AMERICANS ARE** IN complete agreement with Mr. Roosevelt in the conviction that American interests, material and idealistic, demand that aid be given to Great Britain on an increasingly large scale, but there is no such unanimity of thought on the subject of giving to one man unlimited authority, not merely over the administration and direction of that aid, but over its time, place, manner and volume and direction of that aid, but over its time, place, manner and volue and the selection of those to whom it shall be given, now or in the indefinite hereafter. There are very many patriotic Americans who are eager to build up American defenses to the limit, who u n d e r s t a n d thoroughly that a Hitler victory would constitute a menace to the United States, and who are in favor of helping Britain vigorously and whole-heartedly, who are op posed to investing Mr. Roosevelt with the unlimited powers of a dictator.

**IN HIS APPROACH TO THIS** subject Mr. Roosevelt followed the course which we have come to know is characteristic of him. He knew that there was in congress a little group of confirmed and irreconcilable isolationists who, if they could, would build around the United States an impenetrable wall, within which they would have Americans live in a state of glorious solitude. He knew that he could expect nothing but opposition from them. But he knew, also, that there were in congress able and patriotic men who were in complete sympathy with his desire to render active and abundant aid to Britain, but who wished to have such aid given regularly and under specific authority of law rather than according to the irresponsible judgment of a dictator.

**MR. ROOSEVELT HAD THE** opportunity, by calling men of the latter group into conference to enlist their hearty co-operation in a measure which would represent some modification of riis own views and some curtailment of his demands, but which could be presented to the nation and the world as in a very real sense, representing the united voice of the American people. Instead, he chose to follow his now familiar course, taking council with none of those who might not see eye to eye with him, and seeking advice from none but those who have been trained to say "yes" to whatever he proposes.

**AS A RESULT OF THIS** "take it or leave it" attitude we have conflict, sharp and bitter. Those who would withhold from the president some of the extreme dictatorial powers demanded are placed in the position of opposing a program with whose objectives they are in accord. There is created the appearance of a division of American sentiment which, in fact, does not exist. The pending measure, when passed, as it will be, will be presented to the world, not as an expression of the determination of a united people, but as representing the victory of one political faction over another. That could have been prevented by a president of different temperament.

**BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND** Senator Wheeler have made within the past few days statements which neither of them ought to have made. Senator Wheeler's statement suggesting that the president is arranging to plow under every fourth American boy was inexcusable and indefensible. Senator Wheeler is a public man occupying an important and responsible position and he committed an outrageous offense in making such a statement. But, the statement having j been made, the president belittled himself and his position by commenting on it as he did. A man of larger spirit would have treated the statement with silent contempt.

**GEORGE F. B. ATKINS OF** Overly would like to obtain the words of an old song containing the lines: "Fancy me a-smoking fags, Riding bikes and wearing bags, And wearing all their bits of rags, At my time of life." Mr. Atkins "It is an old song t h a t I o n c e heard in England. Someone may know of it and be able to give the whole song." Can anyone oblige?

**VERNE MARSHALL, CHAIRMAN** of the No Foreign War committee, is having some difficulty in holding his organization together. His vice president resigned the other day because he didn't approve of Mr. Marshall's methods, and there have been other withdrawals. In speeches he has promised several times to make public the names of his financial backers and committee associates, as well as those in the "war machine" in Washington, but this far he has not produced. He seems to be interested chiefly in "smearing" those who, he says, have been "smearing" him. Asked how long he expected to continue as chairman of his committee he said "Until some malicious stories or other traducers succeed in making me ridiculous or in discrediting me." No newspaper need try to make Mr. Marshall ridiculous. He has done that job very effectively himself.

**IN LONDON JUST NOW THE** publishing business, like every other kind of business, is conducted in more or less erratic manner. The wonder is that it is possible to publish anything. Yet they do publish. In spite of bombings, newspapers are issued with fair regularity, and even the publishers of art magazines refuse to quit. A recent number of the Studio, an old London art magazine, contained a significant editorial announcement under the heading "Bombed."

**THE FIRST PARAGRAPH** of the announcement reads: "We apologize to our subscribers for the late appearance of this issue owing to air raid damage in which we lost much valuable property and suffered great dislocation of our organization. This is not our first loss from the raids, but it merely adds to our determination. So long as it lies in our power we shall continue our efforts. Many of our readers have written to express their appreciation of our endeavors, and the satisfaction they obtain from the monthly renewal of contact with the cultural values, and we are determined not to fail them. We believe that in serving the cause of art we are serving the cause of democracy and the permanent values and so long as we escape utter disaster we shall continue our work."

**THERE FOLLOWS AN EXPLANATION** of the impossibility under existing circumstances of providing supplies of copies of the niagazine for casual buyers, and friends are urged to enter regular subscriptions. Then comes a line of asterisks, followed by this:

"**THE ABOVE WAS WRITTEN** yesterday. Today, we arrive at our office to find it does not exist. It is buried beneath a heap of rubble, with all our London stocks. This merely confirms our resolution. We shall redouble our efforts. The arts, and the spiritual values, after all, are important among those things we are fighting to defend. The Studio shall still carry forth its reminder that the cultural values are eternal, so that when peace returns—as it must—the artist and designer shall play their full parts, in building a better world . . . Our records have been duplicated and are still available . . . Our new London address is 66 Chandos Place, London, W. C. 2, . . . Alternative addresses have been given to the postal authorities as a precaution in case, for any reason, that address becomes inoperative."

**IT WILL TAKE A LOT OF** bombing to break a spirit like that.

**DURING THE PAST YEAR** or two there has been a revival of discussion of tax exemption as applied to securities issued by federal state and municipal governments. Such securities are now exempt from normal taxation, and some of them are totally exempt. Many persons believe that they should be taxed on the same basis with other property. Some 16 years ago I heard that subject discussed in the house of representatives in congress, and I was interested in the manner in which the two speakers approached the subject.

**ON THAT OCCASION UNDER** the guidance of Congressman Burtness I made a tour of the capitol, and while I sat in the house gallery the debate on tax exemption began. There was pending a resolution for a constitutional amendment subjecting all future securities of the government to taxation. The first speaker was Ogden Mills, then a member of the house and later assistant secretary of the treasury. He made an excellent address in support of the amendment, analyzing the whole tax situation, showing the effect of existing exemption on public revenues, and explaining the manner in which a few men of great wealth were able to escape practically all taxation by investing idle capital in tax exempt securities, it was an orderly, logical address, confined entirely to the merits of the subject at issue.

**MR. MILLS WAS FOLLOWED**

by Congressman Rainey of Illinois, afterward speaker of the house, who opposed the measure. After declaring his opposition he drew from his pocket a sheet of paper, and from it he read a list of the corporations in which Ogden Mills was a director, and that was the substance of his speech. He made no attempt to discuss the effect of exemption or of its abolition. He didn't touch the subject at all. The theme of his argument was that Mills was a rich man, interested in many corporations, and that whatever he proposed must of necessity be wrong. There could scarcely be a greater contrast in the attitudes of two public men.

**IN HIS "HORSE SENSE" DEPARTMENT** the other day Dr. Crane had a little puzzle about the division of 14 gallons of milk. There were three containers holding respectively 14, 9 and 5 gallons, and the problem was to measure 7 gallons by the use of those containers. The problem was solved in the manner usual in such cases by pouring various quantities from one to the other. The problem was illustrated with pictures of the three containers, each of which was a perfectly cylindrical can. To divide the 14 gallons in half a simpler way than pouring back and forth would have been to pour from the big can until the liquid just reached the upper edge of the bottom of the can. If the vessels had been of irregular shape it would have been different.

**THERE WAS PROPOUNDED** to me the other day a barber-shop problem in arithmetic which runs as follows: One hundred tickets to an entertainment are sold for 100 dollars. The ticket prices are, for men, five dollars, for women, three dollars, and for children 10 cents. How many of each must be sold?

**IN PRINCIPLE THAT PROBLEM** is identical with the older one in which 100 objects are sold for 100 dollars, but at prices respectively of 10 dollars, three dollars and 50 cents. The latter one can be solved quite quickly as it involves nothing but whole numbers, and after two or three motions the solution becomes apparent. The ticket problem is different because it gets one into fractions, and unless one makes a lucky guess the job of matching fractions so as to bring the necessary whole numbers may take some time. In either of the above problems one answer, and only one, is possible.

**SOMEONE INQUIRED** IF such problems cannot be solved readily by algebra. The preliminary steps may be worked out either algebraically or by simple arithmetic, but after that one must experiment with various combinations. If you are inclined to try them better begin with the second. It's simpler.

**PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT** didn't like Senator Wheeler's remark about plowing every fourth boy under. I don't know of anyone who did like it, and Senator Wheeler ought not to have made it. But the president didn't help matters when he gave way to his anger and made an explosive comment. In contrast I think of a story that is told of President Lincoln. It required much tact to keep Lincoln's official family working together, and Secretary of War Stanton was one of the most difficult to handle. He was stubborn and pugnacious, and he didn't hesitate to express disapproval of his chief when he felt that way.

**LINCOLN HAD SAID OR** done something of which Stanton did not approve, and Stanton burst out: "Why, the man's crazy, plumb crazy!" A friend of Lincoln, hearing that remark, was shocked. He went to Lincoln and said "Mr. President, this is outrageous. That man Stanton says you're crazy." "Well", drawled Lincoln, "Stanton is a most able man, and I have great respect for his judgment." That put Stanton in a hole, whereas Roosevelt went into the hole with Wheeler.

**SOME TIME AGO I REFERRED** to the old Red river steamers as stern-wheelers, and those that I remember were driven from the rear. But Felix Stenquist of Drayton recalls also that there were side-wheelers. He writes:

"**I LIVED ON THE RED RIVER** from June, 1880, until 1907. The first few years there were about eight river steamers, and while I am not sure, it seems to me that one or two of them were sidewheelers. I never saw the barge attached to the sides of any of them, nor in front, but always behind, with a space between, and it occurs to me that they had a steering car attached at the rear of each barge, with one or two men to steer, so the barge would not run aground in the river bends. The warehouses mentioned were built near enough to the river channel to allow the loading of the barges by running the wheat through pipes by gravity, but in the 90's the water in the river receded so the grain had to be hauled by wagons from the warehouses to the barges, and that was no snap with Captain Griggs on the job."

**I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT** that Mr. Stenquist's recollections are correct. In the navigation of the Red river the elements of experiment and adventure were conspicuous. With a moderate stage of water the going was fairly simple, but with low water there were numerous shallows which were likely to cause trouble, and at flood stage it required all the skill of an experienced pilot to keep the craft from grounding on inundated banks. Therefore, many different methods of construction and operation were tried.

**EVERYONE KNOWS THAT** the Red river is crooked, but one doesn't realize how crooked it is until he sees it from an airplane. On the river itself one can see only a few hundred yards of the channel, and he doesn't know what is around the bend until he gets to it. But from a plane the whole valley is spread out beneath him, and he gets all the crooks at a glance.

**W. A. HAMILTON OF RUGBY** sends a clipping from a Canadian paper describing an old mill in the Ottawa valley which ground flour for the settlers of that district for many years. The mill was built on the Madawaska river, a tributary of the Ottawa, where a group of Scottish settlers had built a little village which they called Burnstown, in honor of the poet. Among those settlers were McKays, McCallums, Fishers, McFarlanes, Campbells, McNevins, McLachlans, Robertsons and Carmichaels, who established a strong community there, and some of whose descendants are now residents of North Dakota.

**THE BURNSTOWN MILL** was operated, of course, by water power, with an immense wheel. The building was framed with heavy timbers held together with wooden pins. Little metal was used in construction, and even the gears which carried power to the stones were of wood, cut by hand. Mill and water-wheel are gone, but the millstones have been preserved and have been set up in a park at Niagara, with an inscription explaining their origin and use. In Grand Forks that has been done with the millstones from the old Viets mill which once stood about where the big water tank on Third street now stands. Those stones are in Central park.

**YESTERDAY I MENTIONED** the old mill in the Ottawa valley which is described in a Canadian paper a clipping from which was sent me by W. A. H a m i l t o n of Rugby. Mr. Hamilton took grist to that mill back in the sixties and early seventies. Apart from the history of the mill there were some interesting incidents in the history of the Scottish community that was established there on the bank of the Matawaska.

**ONE OF THE EARLIEST OF** the Scots to settle in the Matawaska valley was Alexander McNab, who seems to have been a man of means, and a proud, domineering person. Over those who followed him into the new country, he attempted to exercise, and for a time did exercise the authority of a feudal chieftain. Generous in many of his personal dealings, he was intolerant of opposition, and clashes were frequent between him and the rugged Scottish immigrants who resented his assumption of authority.

**IT WAS DURING THAT** period that the Canadian rebel lion of 1837 broke out, headed by Papineau of Quebec and in Ontario by William Lyon Mac kenzie, grandfather of the present Canadian premier. Canadian affairs had been administered by pontical appointees from England who knew nothing of the country and its problems, and who followed many of the methods which had been followed by tory governors in the thirteen colonies. The grievances of the people were different in detail, but they were real grievances, and petitions for redress brought no relief. Papineau and Mackenzie's rebellion was quickly suppressed, but the occurrence aroused the British authorities to some appreciation of the situation, and Lord Durham was sent out as governor general to bring order out of the confusion.

**THE SETTLERS IN THE** Matawaska valley apparently did not participate in the rebellion, and McNab continued in control, so that opposition to him was dangerous. But there were secret meetings here and there, and at length Allan Stewart volunteered to ride to Montreal and lay the grievances of his people before the governor general. That was a difficult and dangerous journey, through vast forests where Indian trails were the only roads, but it was made in safety. Lord Durham received the messenger, heard his story and promised that attention would be given to the complaints. McNab was summarily deprived of the authority which he had usurped and left for France, where he died, a bitter and broken man. The wrongs of which the settlers complained were righted, and peace reigned again in the little community.

**AS A MILITARY** Movement that rebellion was of little consequence. The people had grievances in abundance, but only a few of them were willing to go to the length of armed rebellion, and the movement collapsed of its own weight. Many of those who participated were imprisoned, but general amnesty was soon granted. Occasionally in my youth I met old men who boasted of having been in jail "after thirty-seven." They wore no medals, but they were proud of the experience.

**THERE IS NEED FOR** A new word in the English language. The word "fail" is improperly used and overworked because of lack of one simple word which expresses accurately and conveniently the idea that we usually intend to convey by the use of "fail." We say that a man failed to register for the draft, that an expected witness failed to appear in court, that a boy failed to attend school, when on the face of it there is no evidence that any of those persons tried to do the thing which he did not do, and without trial there can be no failure. We may say that one neglected or omitted some act, but there is no word in the language which conveys accurately the idea that one did not do something, without implication or suggestion. Perhaps the builders of the language tried to find the right word and failed, finding the task impossible.

**I SEE THEY ARE DISCUSING** legalization of the pari-mutuel system of betting over at Bismarck. As is usual in such cases it is proposed to divide a percentage of the proceeds between the organizations holding races and one or more public funds, the bettors to get what is left. One theory on which such plans are based is that while the betting public gets only a part of its money back, everybody actually benefits because of the increased circulation of money.

**AT THE WINNIPEG RACES** about a dozen years ago, when the pari-mutuel system was rather new there, I chatted with a lady whose husband owned a store in a Winnipeg suburb. I asked if she knew whether the new system had stimulated the gambling spirit among the people. She answered that she didn't know about that, but she did know that after every race meeting her husband found it more difficult to collect his weekly bills. The increased circulation of money didn't seem to have increased prosperity.

**IN ONE OF THE OLD COHAN** plays there was an amusing take-off on that idea about the circulation of money, I don't recall the name of the play, and only bits of it are recalled, but the principal character was a grouchy old chap who had his own ideas about the circulation of money. He offered to make a bet with another man, and the other refused, saying that he never bet. "Never bet!" exclaimed the old fellow. "How do you suppose business is going to keep going if you don't help to keep money in circulation? You've got a mean disposition!"

**IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH**day anniversary of Robert Burns, famed bard of Ayr, Mrs. James Black sends me a poem in Scottish dialect which is intended as a sequel to the familiar poem "Bairnies, Cuddle Doon." The poem, authorship unknown, is as follows:

**"RAB COMES HAME".**

Was that a knock? Wha can it be?  
A hirple to the door; A buirdly chiel' is stan'in' there,  
I never saw afore. He tak's a lang, lang look at me,  
An' in his kindly een A something lies I canna name,  
That somewhere I hae seen.

I bid him ben; he tak's a chair, My heart louns up wi' fricht,  
For he sits doon as John wad do When he cam' hame at nicht.  
He spreads baith han's upon his  
knees, But no' ae word he speaks;  
Yet I can see the big, roun' tears  
Come happin' doon his cheeks.

Then a' at ance his big, strong  
airms  
Are streekit out to me— "Mither, I'm Rab, come name at  
last,  
An' can ye welcome me?" "Oh, Rab!" my airms are roon'  
his neck—  
"The Lord is kind indeed;" Then hunker doon an' on his  
knees  
I lay my auld grey heid. "Hoo could ye bide sae lang frae  
me,  
Thae weary, weary years» An' no' ae worci—but I maun  
greet,  
My heart is fu' o' tears; It does an' aul, frail body guid,  
An' oh! It's unco sweet. To see you there, though through  
my tears, Sae I maun ha'e my greet.

"Your faither's lang since in his grave  
Within the auld kirkyard, Jamie and Tarn they lie by him—  
They werena to be spared; An' I was left to sit my lane,  
To think on what had been, An' wussin' only for the time  
To come and close by een.

"But noo ye're back, I ken fu' weel  
That no' a fremit han' Will lay me, when my time comes roun'  
Beside my ain gudeman." Noo, wad it be a sin to ask  
O' Him that rules aboon, To gie me yet a year or twa  
Afor I cuddle doon?

**I SEE BY THE PAPERS: DETROIT** — Two hundred women strikers paraded as pickets before a local corset factory, attired principally in corsets. That sort of appeal proving ineffective, they charged police with hatpins, weapons which the police found were both morally and physically effective. Several cases of minor injuries were reported.

**LONDON**—Mrs. Lillian Halle, who counted both Harriet Beecher Stowe and Florence Nightingale as her close friends, has been recommended for an award of bravery for dealing with an incendiary bomb which crashed on the roof of her house on her ninety-third birthday. Without hesitation she carried sand and water to the top of her house, where she found that the bomb had burned through the ceiling, set fire to the paper, melted the gas-pipe and set the gas burning. It was not until two ceilings had been burned through that she called for help. This was Mrs. Halle's third bombing, but she refused to go to a safer place in the country. She has been three times around the world, 15 times across the Atlantic, including one shipwreck, and she crossed the Sahara desert on a camel.

**BIRMINGHAM — ANGERED** by the Nazi bombings of school-houses several citizens demanded that German schools be bombed in reprisal. The board of education disapproved of the recommendation, saying that it would be inhuman and contrary to the laws of war. The board added further that "the Nazi education is so debasing the German character and blunting the intelligence of the German youth that it would be a pity to interfere with the continuance of that process."

**NEW YORK—THE CITY IS** losing 2 cents on every 5-cent subway fare, but the people prefer to pay the difference in taxes for the privilege of riding anywhere for just a nickel.

**NEW YORK — Mlle EVE** Curie, daughter of the famous co-discoverer of radium, arrived on Monday from London by way of Lisbon. She has spent the past seven months in London, doing what she could to keep alive the spirit of France. From London she broadcast many messages in French, and she has evidence that in spite of German surveillance many of the residents of occupied France heard her. She has received from France hundreds of postal cards in which private information is concealed in apparently innocuous sentences. Referring to this method of communication she said: "The French are a very tricky people — or perhaps should say very intelligent people,

**NEW YORK CITY HAD** A blackout last week right in the middle of the day. For the second successive day airplane flights were practically suspended because of fog over the city and throughout the east. A photograph of Times Square taken at 11 A.M. shows but the faint outlines of the huge buildings and the lights of Broadway, which were turned on at that hour, are seen but as mere glimmers. Under those conditions a hostile plane would have had difficulty in finding the city.

**THE FOGGY WEATHER** which has prevailed for several weeks throughout the northwest seems to have thickened as it moved east, and as the fog congealed ice formed everywhere. Telephone lines went down under their loads of ice and thousands of phones were put out of commission. In several rural districts schools were closed because of ice on the highways which made travel by bus hazardous. In the city great masses of ice which had formed in huge icicles on the tall buildings crashed to the walks as the temperature rose, and whole blocks were roped off to prevent injury to pedestrians.

**SOME ANONYMOUS FRIEND** sends me a copy of the Denver Register containing a marked article in comment on Hemingway's book "For Whom the Bell Tolls." I expressed my opinion of that book some weeks ago, an o p i n i o n quite contrary to that of any other critic whose comment I have seen. However, there are at least two of us, for the Denver columnist has no more use for the b o o k t h a n I have. So the Denver man (whose name is not carried in his column) and I stand back to back, as it were, against the world.

**THAT ISN'T QUITE A FAIR** statement, either. The eastern literary critics seem to be unanimous in laudation of Hemingway's book, but since writing about it in this column I have received comments, more than I can count, by mail and in person, and every comment concurred in my condemnation of the book. I often wonder if there isn't a sort of cult of literary criticism which sets up artificial standards of values utterly foreign to the true purpose of literature. That purpose, it seems to me, is to instruct, stimulate, inspire or entertain, but never to debase or defile.

**FROM A MASS OF OLD PAPERS** there has been resurrected a newspaper clipping, faded, tattered, and almost undecipherable, containing an account, credited to the Wimbledon, N. D. News, of a Populist caucus held in Wimbledon, long, long ago. The story merits republication, and here it is:

"**A POPULIST CAUCUS WAS** held at D. R. Swartout's office early in the week for the purpose of election delegates to the county convention. Mr. Swartout, who is the only Populist in the township, being present, the caucus proceeded at once to business. The meeting was called to order by D. R. Swartout, who read the call to himself and stated in a general way the purpose of the meeting. On motion D. R. Swartout was elected temporary chairman. Upon taking the chair Mr. Swartout thanked the caucus for the honor conferred upon him and said he fully appreciated the wisdom of the action. He severely arraigned the Republican party for the poor quality of garden seeds congressmen are sending to their constituents and proudly recalled the fact that during the time that he and Abraham Lincoln were engaged in putting down the rebellion he never heard Mr. Lincoln say a word in favor of retaining the Philippines. These patriotic sentiments were loudly applauded. On motion D. R. Swartout was elected temporary secretary by acclamation. D. R. Swartout then moved and seconded that the temporary organization be made permanent, and also that the chair appoint delegates to attend the county convention. Both motions were carried and the chair appointed D. R. Swartout. After deliberating about 10 minutes the committee reported the following list of delegates: D. R. Swartout. The report was enthusiastically adopted. The delegation was instructed to vote as a unit and the delegates present at the convention were empowered to cast the full vote. And then adjourned one of the most harmonious caucuses ever held in this county."

**IN WRITING THAT STORY** the editor of the Wimbledon paper was spoofing Mr. Swartout, of course. But the story, really, is not as great an exaggeration as might be supposed by one unacquainted with some of the methods employed in holding caucuses in the good old days. I have heard of a couple of Grand Forks men driving into the country, hailing a friendly farmer at work in his field, and then and there holding with him a township caucus and repeating the process in township after township. Sometimes there were two or more sets of caucuses held in the same manner by rival groups, and the result would be a contest in the county convention over the seating of delegates. In deciding such contests equity and regularity were given little consideration. Those delegates were seated who belonged to the crowd that had the most votes.

**REFERENCE IN THE FACETIOUS** story to garden seeds as a political issue may seem mysterious to some present-day readers, but old-timers will remember when the distribution of garden seeds was one of the important functions of a congressman. With excellent intentions the department of agriculture received an appropriation for the purchase of garden seeds to be distributed to their constituents by members of congress. The idea was not to make gratuities to farmers and gardeners, but to have experiments in field and garden crops conducted all over the country. There were no experiment stations in those days. On each packet of seeds was printed the request that the recipient would plant and cultivate the seeds and write to the department giving the result of his experiment. The plan didn't work out as intended. Some reports may have been sent in, but I never heard of one. The whole thing became a petty draft and it was discontinued years ago.

A BOOKLET ENTITLED "LIVING in Forest Lands" has been prepared by the forest service of the department of agriculture for the use of junior high schools. The work contains a mass of valuable information on forest growth and its influence on social and industrial life. Opening the book at random I was particularly interested in the following paragraphs:

"Limited Studies have been made, some of which tend to show measurable differences in certain climatic factors, such as wind velocity and temperature, traceable to the presence of forests. Most scientists are of the opinion that such influence is limited to the forest areas or to the very short distances beyond the forest borders. Few will question that the temperature within a forest in summer is lower, the humidity greater, and the wind velocity lower than in neighboring areas. The horizontal extent of windbreak influence leeward is held to be from 10 to 20 times the height of the trees. Such influence cannot be expected to change the climatic features over large and remote areas.

"**FORESTS ARE A RESULT**, rather than a cause of rainfall. The Great Plains are treeless because of factors beyond the control of man. Although trees may be grown in much of this area if given proper attention, the possibility of affecting rainfall by tree planting is so remote as to be out of the question. These facts have been recognized in the Prairie States forestry project. The primary purpose in the tree planting work of this undertaking has been to provide the prairie plains area with some of the beneficial influences of forests, not to change climate.

"**WINDBREAKS SHOULD BE** grown for what it has been proved they can do; namely, check wind velocity within the 700 or more feet of their influence to leeward; protect growing crops from hot winds; prevent soil from blowing; protect buildings, stock and man from strong winds both hot and cold. The windbreak also contributes to an improved appearance of farmsteads and the landscape and to fuel and miscellaneous wood supplies."

**IN THOSE STATEMENTS** the forest service makes a common-sense approach to thoroughly demonstrated facts. The statement that "forests are a result rather than a cause of rainfall" cannot be too strongly emphasized. In spite of evidence and reason the contrary belief has been and is fairly prevalent, and statements have been made by numerous speakers and writers with at least the semblance of authority that the liberal planting of trees will change a dry area into a relatively wet one. Such statements are without foundation, and their frequent repetition leads to visions which never can be realized.

**RUNNING PARALLEL WITH** the theory that forest growth increases rainfall is the belief that precipitation can be increased by the damming of rivers and the creation of more ponds and lakes. This latter idea has often been advanced by some speakers and writers in support of the Missouri diversion project. Because it is unsound it tends to discredit the project as unsound, whereas the diversion of the surplus waters of the Missouri is defensible on other and quite different grounds.

**THE SCIENTIST KNOWS** whence the rains come, and why. For the layman who may not be versed in meteorology there is conclusive evidence that proximity to water does not insure rainfall in the fact that some of the driest regions in the world are in or immediately adjacent to great oceans or seas. On many of the islands of the Caribbean no rain falls for months at a time. The Mexican peninsula of Southern California has the Pacific ocean on one side and the great Gulf of California on the other, and no part of it is more than 50 miles distant from one body of water or the other. Yet nearly all of its area is arid desert. Just now war is being waged in northern Libya, where the rainless Sahara desert is within gunshot of this Mediterranean sea.

**VERA KELSEY,** WELL known as a former resident of Grand Forks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kelsey, and author of outstanding works on South American life, told a New York Sun reporter early in the winter that she wished something could be done about Americans who go to Brazil, live there for years, making money for themselves and the companies they represent, then come back home without ever having made friends of Brazilians, without sharing their social or cultural life, without letting American children play with Brazilian children. The loss in all that, she says, is ours in more ways than one, and it is far from trivial.

**BACK IN NEW YORK AFTER** three years in and out of Rio de Janeiro she has something to show for what she learned as a guest in homes of rich and poor and for the 30,000 miles she traveled north and south and up and , down the Amazon. For, besides her new book, Seven Keys to Brazil, just published by Funk & Wagnalls, she already has a stack of manuscript for another book.

"**I'M LONESOME FOR BRAZIL** and impatient to get back. In many ways it's the loveliest land in the world," she said. "It's so huge and so varied. I never had an unpleasant ; moment there, never had a headache, never worked so hard in my life. "Brazilians are filled with kindness and courtesy and with a sense of humor that enlivens every occasion. They are so generous that you have to learn not to admire anything out loud. First thing you know, there will be a graceful gesture and it's yours."

For example, there were the twin miniature dolls of red and blue wool that the author wears at her throat, clipped to a black dress.

**SHE THINKS THE WOMEN** are superior to the men, more courageous, more tenacious, more ready to sacrifice temporary benefits for lasting good, and she praised the men for deferring to the wife's judgment before making business decisions.

She remembers a prosperous cattle man going to Rio on the day when buyers were coming. He knew that his wife would get better prices if he were out of the way.

"All over Brazil I met women who do heroic things to keep the family together and get the children educated," she said.

She learned most about family life in places so far from Rio that few tourists see them. During a 600-mile trip up the Amazon, she met the child who shares her book's dedication.

**WHILE THE PARTY WAS** being delayed for three days because of an airplane accident, word went around that a New York writer was collecting information on Brazil. A boy of 7 walked six miles to bring his school reader, so that she could learn about Christopher Columbus and Pedro Cabral, the Portuguese discoverer of Brazil.

"That gracious action seemed , to me to be a symbol of the Brazilian attitude toward a stranger," she said.

A North Dakota girl, Miss Kelsey was graduated from Washington State university, did newspaper work in China for three years, traveled in Europe, then had her own public relations office in New York before she went to South America to recuperate from an illness for which she now thanks her stars.

"**IT'S NO TROUBLE TO** learn Portuguese if you remember any of your Latin and French," she said. "Brazilians are so polite that they try not to let you know you've made a mistake. And they're awfully good at guessing just what it is you're trying to say."

Women past 30 prefer Parisian styles and usually appear in chic black gowns, but younger ones like our sports clothes. "They take great pride in sports," Miss Kelsey reported.

"**ON A BOAT TRIP DOWN** from the Amazon Valley we had about a dozen girls in socks and sneakers. Except for their low voices and gentle manners, you might have thought them Americans. They had won physical education prizes in different communities and were coming to Rio for a two-years course, to be trained as teachers."