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**A Member of Fire Engine Company No. 6**  
By ESTHER VANDEVEER

**SALONIKI, GATEWAY TO THE BALKANS**  
An Important Strategic Point in Present War Drama.

**A BEST SELLER**  
By MARY C. ATWOOD

There was a fire engine house to Mr. Singleton's city residence and so happened that the piece was an object of curiosity to his little daughter, Bess. The moment she heard the clanging of the gong announcing a fire she would run to the engine house to see the horses hurried to their places beside the tongue of the noisettes, plate (impatiently till they were looked through dash out of the house followed by the rattle and clatter of the town and Bess.

The ancient city of Saloniki, known in former times as Thessalonica is occupying an important position at present in the great war drama that is being enacted in Europe. Here the allied Anglo-French troops landed to go to the aid of Servia upon the invitation it is alleged of the recent Venetian government. This government also pledged that no action by Greece should result to the benefit of Germany.

"Comstock has got out a new novel, 'See,'" said Collins to Bartholomew. "Yes, Comstock is making money. How did he get his start?"

"By a misfortune."

"Come, please to excite my curiosity and tell me the story."

"It was this way," Comstock tried scribbling at home, but made no success. Whether he wrote over the heads of the people, or under them, I don't know. His stories didn't sell. But Comstock had talent, and all he wanted was something to start him. One of his friends told him to go abroad. All Americans who succeed in literature make their living abroad, his friend said, and if Comstock was going to succeed he'd have to go too. There's a literary atmosphere there that doesn't exist here. Besides, the crowned heads take an interest in literary work, and a king may make an author if he chooses.

**The Degradation of Matter.**  
If we examine the life history of any substance with sufficient knowledge and sufficient care, says the Engineer, we shall find that nature provides means and forces that little by little are turning that substance into dust. The manipulations of man greatly assist in the process. But nature itself is always active in it and even without man's aid is quite competent to achieve the task. At times we strive to hinder the process, as, for example, when we apply paint to iron-work in order to prevent it from rusting. But we can hinder it only for a time, and even then we merely check the degradation of one substance by degrading another. Thus we have constantly to renew the paint on our iron-work. The former coats disappear wholly or in part, and the material of which they were composed has turned to dust. We may accordingly look forward to a time when all matter will be uniformly distributed as dust throughout space, a condition that, according to the nebular hypothesis, actually did prevail at one time, before the universe, as we know it, was formed.

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WE DON'T OBBIE THEM WE REPAIR THEM

And she did. She went in and out at her own sweet will, climbed up on the hood and under truck, the horse carts and occasionally would ask to be put on the back of one of the horses. One day when she was ten years old a roll of parchment was left at her home on which was written: "This is to certify that Elizabeth Singleton has been duly elected a member of the Fire Engine Company No. 6." The words were surrounded by pictures of engines, discharging, burning buildings and tattered, fire-fighting women and children descending from the upper story.

This was the proudest day of Bess's life. She was on the ladder truck one day when an alarm came. No one noticed her till she was jumped on to the footboard putting on their helmets, then one of them saw her hanging for dear life to the ring of a ladder. It was too late to put her down. At the fire, no one made a move to go and she was made to the top. There was little to do in quenching the flames and since the ladder was not lowered she was permitted to remain perched high, an object of interest to a gathering crowd. On the return she was put down at her home and lectured by her mother.

But from playing in the engine house she had got a taste for going to a fire and from that time forward all efforts to keep her away from the fire engine failed. One day when the department paraphernalia was about to be packed to an alarm one of the men beside the truck turned and nearly fell over her. She put up her arms, and before he realized what he was doing, he had swung her up on to the ladder.

Bess grew up the pet of the fire company and was considered a part of it. A part of which the men were very proud. When she was sixteen all the younger members were in love with her, and the older ones considered her something to adore. They raised a fund among them to procure a marble bust of her that was put up in the engine house.

Mr and Mrs Singleton did not quite know what to think of all this, but they were proud of it or ashamed of it. Bess's associates envied her having her bust set up in the engine house and the friendship of the men, but they had no desire to line to the round of a ladder on the way to a fire. However, her parents could not separate her from the fire company and gave up their efforts to do so. But about this time she came of an age to see that going to fires was not of broad, fit to a young woman, and of her own accord ceased all visits to the engine house except on state occasions.

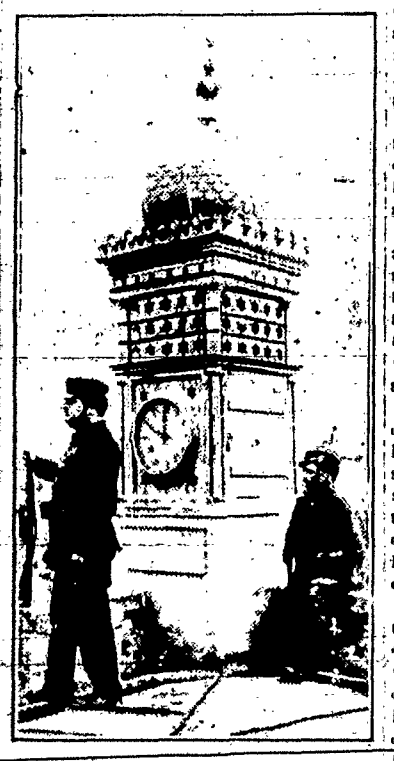
When Bess was sixteen her father was elected sheriff of the county. On the day a murder was committed that excited the indignation of the populace to such an extent that, assuming a man who had been arrested for the murder was guilty, they proposed to lynch him. Marching to the jail, they demanded the accused. There was no adequate defense, and the sheriff took the man out through a back door into an alley and thence to his own home. Unfortunately the two were seen by one of the mob, and before long they appeared and demanded the prisoner.

When Bess saw the crowd before her father's door and the trouble he was in an idea occurred to her. Slipping away, she ran to the engine house and, with flushed cheeks and out of breath, told the freemen of the situation.

"What can we do, boys?" asked the chief.  
"Play on them!" said Bess.  
"Good!" cried a dozen voices, and in a jiffy horses were played before the engine. It was hauled to the sheriff's house, and suddenly the mob, who were howling for the prisoner, found themselves before a stream that knocked them down as fast as it was turned from those who had fallen to those still on their feet. Within five minutes the street was cleared.

The proudest men in the town were the firemen, who had found an opportunity to do a service for their idol. And as for the Singletons, no objection was offered that ever raised to her going to fires and climbing the walls of burning buildings if she chose to do so.

When Bess was married a silver tea service was given her by her fellow members of the fire company. They were all invited to the wedding, and when later a little girl was born to her bride she was made a member by inheritance of fire engine company No. 6.



SALONIKI

of the Serbian army. In this instance, the allies contend Greece is still bound by the spirit of her treaty with Servia.

Saloniki is one of the first ports of southeastern Europe and its annexation to Greece after the war of the Balkan League with the Turks was a bitter disappointment to the Bulgarians. Saloniki is only about 10 miles from Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and for years the Greeks and Bulgarians vigorously contended with one another for this city from the Turks.

Saloniki has a population of 120,000 and an annual commerce, including its worldwide trade, to the value of \$15,000,000. A great part of the exports from Bulgaria, southern Serbia and northern Greece pour through this port. While many of the imports of the same area are distributed from here, the city is built on a sheltered natural harbor. It is well supplied with water, and its climate is temperate.

When it connects with the Paris-Vienna Constantinople line, while another line connects it with Moscow. It is by far the most important strategic point in all of the war theater for the prosecution of the allied campaign.

**HARVARD RED CROSS UNIT.**

University Sends Doctors and Nurses to the Front in France.  
One million dollars in gold to help carry on Europe's war and thirty doctors and thirty six nurses to help mitigate the effects of the conflict went out of New York last night on the other day when the Holland American liner Noorland sailed from her pier at H.



Photo by American Press Association.  
DR. DAVID CHEEVER

Broken. The gold was taken on board the steamer in twenty cases holding \$50,000 each.

The doctors and nurses who sailed constitute the second Harvard unit of the Red Cross. They expect to be assigned to a first line hospital near Loos, France, where they will see much active service directly in the rear of the firing line. This unit will be connected with the British forces, though it is entirely neutral, according to Dr. David Cheever of the Harvard Medical school faculty, who heads it.

"It happened that he struck a vein that was natural to him, and in his own way he became absorbed in his work and made him forget his troubles. But having only enough writing to do each day to keep him from being bored, he spent the rest of his time planning ahead. He would lay out impossible-sounding things to do for his next day's work. As for his general plan, that was so intricate that no one would ever suppose it possible to execute his plan from the entanglement into which an adverse fate had cast him.

One day while he was at work on his story he was astonished to see two policemen enter his den. Without a word of explanation he was ordered to follow them and being with him his manuscript. It occurred to him that something he had written in his novel about the government might have caused his arrest, but this could not be, for on his arrival he was not only permitted to keep what he had written but was commended for his work. That he might be well situated to do so, he was given pleasant quarters and plenty to eat and drink. At first he was so frightened that he could not write, whereupon a member of the government sent him word that he was his no danger. This gave him courage and he resumed his task.

He was arrested because he had written his first novel. He was so frightened that he could not write, whereupon a member of the government sent him word that he was his no danger. This gave him courage and he resumed his task.

Every weekday at noon the chimes of Grace church in New York, send down into the clutter of Broadway the strains of old familiar hymns. The other day the chimes had just finished Pleyel's hymn. They began a new melody, which in the midst of the city's roar was not at first distinguishable. Then the tangle of notes unrolled itself and through the noises of the street sounded the sweet notes of "Just as I Am, Without One Plea."

Car wheels clanked, car brakes shrieked, tram wheels horse hoofs spote the stones of the street, motor horns blew raucously, there was the sound of a myriad human feet and of many human voices, and through it all—"Just as I Am, Without One Plea."

Pedestrians took up the theme and hummed it sentimentally. Old scenes were brought back, old faiths strengthened, old memories remembered.—Christian Herald.

**First English Book on Sport.**  
The first book on sport ever printed in the English language was a rime treatise called the "Book of St. Albans." Its author being a woman, Dame Juliana Barnes. Its second edition was printed by Wynken de Worde in 1486. A descendant of her family, Lord Bournes, was the translator of L'Amateur's "Club Book." It is true that old manuscripts existed, such as the "Verrie de France" of the time of Edward II, but it was Dame Juliana who was the real ancestress of sporting literature in England, for she also prepared an essay on hawk flying and another on "Fishing With an Angle," the last being of such excellence that Izaak Walton himself did take a hint from its pages.

**Parasol Monoplanes.**  
The parasol plane is really a bi-plane with the lower pair of wings removed, the engine, pilot and observer all sitting under the upper plane and thus giving rise to the nickname of "parasol." This type of monoplane is chiefly used for directing the fire of the guns. In an ordinary monoplane it is difficult for the observer to see below him.—Pearson's Weekly.

**Fighting Fishes of Siam.**  
The Siamese devote great care to the cultivation of their famous fighting fishes, known as plakat. The interest in the fights, on which the spectators stake large sums of money, is so great that the license to hold them brings a large annual revenue to the king of Siam.—Westminster Gazette.

**Excusable.**  
"Miss Short says she's only thirty, and I'd swear she's five and thirty if she's a day."  
"Well, you see, I've heard she was a rather backward child, dear, and didn't learn to count till she was five."—Exchange.

**Expanding.**  
The Old Friend—I understand that your practice is getting bigger. The Young Doctor—That's true—My patient has gained nearly two pounds in the last month.

**Contempt of Court.**  
Justice! I demand justice! Justice! Justice! I demand justice! Justice! Silence! The defendant will please remember that he is in a courtroom.—Penn State Proth.

**Merits your deficiencies and your merits will take care of themselves.**—Bulwer.