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### EARLY DAYS OF NEW YORK

Fabulous Prices Were Not Always Paid for Land in the Big Eastern Metropolis.

The Fifth avenue site of the famous Vanderbilt houses—those of William K. Sr., and Mrs. William K., Jr., at Fifty-second street—was once occupied by an Indian, who gathered his life from a pond on the opposite side of the street.

In those days Fifth avenue above Forty-second street was almost a wilderness and the beautiful thoroughfare of today was nothing but a mere country lane. Not a few of the old Knickerbockers who lived down on the avenue near Washington square and farther south, in quaint brick houses, had country seats on the avenue between Forty-second street and Sixtieth street.

Thomas Buchanan was a man of affairs in New York back in 1807, but today one never hears of the Buchanan family in society. True, some of Thomas Buchanan's descendants are still to be encountered in the smart set, but they have married and intermarried to such an extent that the family name, Buchanan, has almost passed from view.

Shortly before the War of 1812 "Tom" Buchanan bought 30 acres of land from the city for \$7,537. This 30-acre tract extended from Forty-fifth street to Forty-eighth street on the east side of what is now Fifth avenue.

The Buchanans were widely known in society of those early days and Tom's daughters, Amy and Margaret, married Goets. The marriage of the two Goets sons and the Buchanan daughters united two great fortunes (great for those modest days when the high cost of living was unknown), and the large real estate holdings of the present members of the Goets family can be traced back to that Buchanan purchase of the dim, misty past.

It is said Tom Buchanan's original tract of land—that on the east side of Fifth avenue, extending from Forty-fifth to Forty-eighth street—was appraised recently at more than \$20,000,000.

And to think Tom Buchanan paid a paltry \$7,000 for that land!—Dolly Madison in the New York Mail.

### Many Tyrants.

He was a high school pupil and was imbibing many bits of philosophy. At home he watched the women folk and the ways they devised for doing as they pleased and for getting every other person to do as they wished them to do. And from these he drew conclusions which he later voiced.

"Times have changed since my history was written," he told his father one night. "Then the tyrants were the men, who used to stamp around and kill and frighten people into submission. Today the tyrants have dropped those weapons and use much more subtle ones—tears. I think a woman who cries in order to get her own way is a bigger tyrant than ever those fellows of long ago were."

Anyway, it set father to work thinking.—Indianapolis News.

### Thanked for Cranking.

Some time ago I went with a friend to see an acquaintance at a hospital, and as we were leaving my friend stopped in the corridor to exchange a few words with a doctor. I walked outside, where a long line of cars was parked about the building, intending to crank my friend's Ford. I had some trouble starting it, and while I was cranking some one climbed into the car, but, thinking it was my companion, I did not even look up. Imagine my surprise when the motor began to whirl and the car backed off smoothly. I looked up into the smiling face of a perfect stranger.

"Thank you," he said, bowing.

I had cranked the wrong car.—New York Times.

### Comparative Poverty.

"I don't suppose there ever was a human being who didn't dream of being rich some day," remarked Mr. Good-pur.

"I don't agree with you," said Mr. Dubwaite. "Take my case for instance."

"What? You?"

"Exactly. In my fondest dreams I have never imagined myself possessing more than a million dollars."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

### Canada's Water Power.

An important feature of the water powers of Canada is their fortunate situation with respect to existing commercial centers. Within economic transmission range of nearly every important city from the Atlantic to the Pacific, except those in the central western prairies, there are clustered water power sites which will meet the probable demands for hydro power for generations.

### Expert Witness.

"You swear that this man is no chicken stealer?" demanded the judge.

"Yesur," replied Rustus Rashley. "Da's whut Ah said, suh."

"What do you know about the facts in this case?"

"Ah isn't s'posed to know nuffin' 'bout de facts in de case, suh. Ah is an expert witness foh de defense."—New York Evening Post.

### Unreasonable Complaint.

"I don't see why Grubb is always complaining of his cold house."

"Why not?"

"I understand his wife makes it hot enough for him when he is home."

### MAKING OCEAN TRAVEL SAFER

Device That Is Expected Greatly to Lessen the Danger and Annoyance of Fogs.

It is hoped by the United States navy and shipping interests generally that a device recently invented will prove successful in overcoming the annoyances and delays caused by fogs. The navy department recently signed a contract with Earl C. Hanson of Los Angeles for the use of his contrivance, and practical tests will be made at once at the New London naval base and later with some of the largest liners in the world in the Ambrose channel of New York harbor.

The Hanson device is a simple one. A cable is laid in the center of the ship channel. Through it is sent an electric current of low frequency, which, through the "listening" instrument on board ships, gives off a sound of certain pitch which cannot be mistaken for any other sound.

The ship hugs the cable from harbor line to the dock. On the bridge and in the captain's cabin listening devices like telephone receivers are placed and attached by wires to the hull of the ship. The ship follows the course of the cable.

Any variation away from the cable is indicated by visible indicators, which show in feet the distance away from the cable, and the ship is then put back over the cable by the rudder, in the usual way. By the ear receivers the indicators may be confirmed at all times. Vessels going into port will use one cable; those coming out another. The sound of each is different and there can be no confusion, and, therefore, no collision.

Along the cable, at mile intervals, a section is insulated with lead. Through this no sound can come, and, therefore, the man on listening duty can tell instantly how far the ship has progressed and by the cable chart in front of him can tell where the cable turns and how the ship must be steered to follow the curving of the cable and the center of the channel.—Salt Lake Tribune.

### Had a White Tail.

Ullram C. Callender, Greenacres building contractor, is telling a story on an Indianapolis stairway building expert who some time ago went hunting with Mr. Callender. When the hunters reached the farm, Mr. Callender told his Indianapolis friend that there was one rabbit on the place that he must not shoot because the owner of the farm wished to keep it. The visitor asked how he was to distinguish this rabbit, and Callender told him that it had a white tail. Mr. Callender says he thought nothing more of the incident until he saw his friend scare up a bunny and instead of shooting it, just watched it scamper away. The friend was elated for not killing the rabbit and he told Callender it had a white tail and therefore was the one that was not to be killed.—Indianapolis News.

### He Hadn't Hurt Thomas.

Tompkins hit his parcel on the dining room table with a casual air.

"What have you got there, Edward?" asked his wife sternly.

"Er—just a set of boxing gloves, my dear," explained her husband. "I bought them for Thomas. Every American boy in future should be taught the noble art of self-defense, and I will teach our son. Come into the garden, Thomas! Don't be alarmed. I will not hurt you!"

Mrs. Tompkins smiled coldly as she went on sewing. Ten minutes later Tompkins staggered into the room and sank into a chair.

"Some raw meat and arnica, Marla!" he ordered. "I've—er—sustained a little injury to my eye!"

### King Business Poor.

Two girls, over a box of bonbons, discussed the prince of Wales between acts at the Broadway show. "Oh isn't he adorable?" gushed one. "And you know they say that he says he won't be king unless he wants to be—that he has plenty of brothers to pass it on to."

"Just think of that!" exclaimed the other.

"But, of course, he wouldn't give up being king for anything in the world though."

"I don't know," yawned a man nearby. "Kingin' ain't what it used to be."

### Just Why.

They had been having a few words, and Miss Blank ended in the usual way.

"I could have married Mr. Brown or Mr. Jones if I'd wanted to," she said bitterly. "and both of those men I refused because rich, while you are still as poor as a church mouse."

"Of course," retorted her husband. "I've been supporting you all these years—they haven't!"—Stray Stories.

### Home Had a Drawback.

After living in a small bungalow all summer we took Francis to his grandparents on a visit. The house was large and there was plenty of space for Francis to run about. He enjoyed running back and forth the whole length of the rooms, and when our visit was not he objected to going home. "I don't like our house," he said, "it's too short."—Boston Herald.

### Preocious.

"Mamma," said the little five-year-old Stanley, "do only good boys go to heaven?"

"Yes, dear," replied the mother.

"Well," continued the youthful observer, "if that's the case boys must be rather scarce up there."—Chicago Daily News.

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### GIL ROMANCE NEARS ITS END

Production, of Course, Will Go On, But It Will Be Prosaic in the Extreme.

There are vast deposits of shale in a number of our Western states. Colorado, it is calculated, can be made to produce 200,000 barrels of oil a day for 800 years. The significance of that statement may best be appreciated by reflecting that such a rate of production, if maintained for a single year, would surpass the tidal performance of even the Great Cushing field.

And who will presume to limit the future source of oil to shale? In one form or another prospecting goes on ceaselessly.

No oilless age awaits us; but the passing of the drills and derricks may occasion a sigh. The "excitements" which conscript the soldiers of fortune, where foregather the clans of varied circumstance, the multicolored obligations with their clamor of sudden affluence and their silences, of the baffled—all this will have vanished completely as the luck of a thousand roaring camps. We shall have oil, produced as per schedule, its records preserved in prim, respectable ledgers, but the romance of oil even now, swings to fairs.

### ART WORKS ON LARGE SCALE

Interesting Figures Concerning Decorations for Lincoln Memorial Building at Washington.

Simply to stretch the canvas, says Jesse Lynch Williams, describing in Scribner's Magazine how Jules Guerin painted the decorations for the Lincoln Memorial building in Washington, required eight men, which is less surprising when one realizes that each figure in the groups Mr. Guerin was about to paint is a good deal larger than the painter himself. One agrees with the writer that, although such details are not necessary to art appreciation, it is interesting to know that the two unpainted canvases cost \$400 apiece, and that when the artist finished his work the paint he had used added 150 pounds to their weight. And because the paintings will be somewhat exposed to weather, the paint was mixed with wax, in a way which chemical analysis shows was done to weatherproof painting when the ancient kings of Egypt were erecting memorial buildings.

### To Supply Natural Gas Deficiency.

It is expected that in the near future artificial gas for heating purposes will be substituted largely for natural gas in the Pittsburgh and other districts where a considerable shortage in supply of natural gas has developed. This was the prediction made at a conference held recently under the auspices of the public service commission in Pittsburgh. The Philadelphia company, which has been a large supplier of natural gas for many years, it is stated, is now prepared to supply 7,000,000 cubic feet of artificial gas per day, and expects in the near future to be able to supply 10,000,000 cubic feet of artificial gas per day.

### The Housing Problem.

"You are charged with disorderly conduct."

"Your honor, I was the first man to reach the office of a real estate agency that advertised an apartment for rent."

"Well?"

"This man here who says I blacked his eye, tried to push in ahead of me. He's easy as you can on me, your honor. I had hard luck."

"How so?"

"While we were fighting another fellow I used the flat."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

### Not for Him.

"Here's just the thing for your new mansion," said the art dealer. "Daubigny's famous canvas, 'The Portrait of a Lady.'"

"How much is it with?" asked the man who had recently grown rich in the oil fields.

"Only \$100,000."

"A hundred thousand bucks for the picture of a lady? Great Christopher, man! I don't even know her!"

### Why Women Go Mad.

"You used to say I reminded you of a woodland sprite," she complained.

"You never tell me any more that I'm as beautiful as the dawn or that my eyes are translucent pools in which you see reflections of Elysian vistas."

"I know," he replied, still studying the market page. "Since I have to give so much of my attention to hard facts I seem to have lost my imagination."

### Valued for His Silence.

"The Tondville Clarion pays a handsome compliment to Eliphalet Soghsy, an old citizen who died the other day."

"What does the editor of the Clarion have to say?"

"This: 'The Hon. Eliphalet Soghsy sat on the platform at public meetings in this community for thirty years, and in all that time was never known to make a speech. His place will be hard to fill.'"

### For a Practical Purpose.

"I see you have a 'blue sky' law in this state," remarked the facetious visitor.

"Yes."

"Does it regulate the altitude to which an aviator may go?"

"No; it is merely designed to regulate the operations of gentlemen who wear fancy vests and talk in terms of millions."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

### His Table Manners.

Flatbush—I don't like those paper napkins.

Bensonhurst—But they are sanitary, you know.

"Perhaps so. But they scratch my neck when I tuck 'em in my collar."

### CAUGHT ON THE FLY

- Wrong ideas die under publicity.
- What is to be? A verb, of course.
- Is your character stock rated A-1?
- A good man's light shines day and night.
- Plumbers are not the only pipe fitters.
- Brains without energy are nonproductive.
- A short horse is soon curried—if he isn't a kicker.
- Being funny is the most serious kind of work.
- The auto that attempts flying is apt to turn turtle.
- You borrow from yourself when you cut down expenses.
- Use your mind as a storehouse, but not as a junkhouse.
- The average woman would rather be married than happy.
- Easy street's sunny side isn't paved with good intentions.
- Some grocers adulterate allspice until it isn't spice at all.
- Ambition is all right if a man has energy to back it up.
- Anyway, there is no room for trouble in an air castle.
- The opportunity of a lifetime seldom has a label on it.
- There is no mean work save that which is sordidly selfish.
- "Give to laziness today and it will steal tomorrow from you."
- No married man is henpecked if he buys his own neckties.
- Most contributors to charity manage to be caught in the act.
- Money talks and it is in a hurry to say goodby to most of us.
- The only use some make of their wealth is to boast about it.
- Pride has but two seasons—a forward spring and an early fall.
- When the money of some people converses it uses a megaphone.
- Bravery is reckoned by what we do, not by what we threaten to do.
- It is easier to pass a New Year's resolution than it is to keep it.
- A rural editor refers to his mother-in-law as the "queen of terrors."