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References—Merchants & Mechanics First National Bank. All commercial agencies.

The "Necessary Evil"

By AD SCHUSTER

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FROM Palisades to Eureka it went puffing through the sagebrush and boiling up the grades, and the countryside called it the "Necessary Evil." A locomotive of a type abandoned by the elevated railroads of New York and Chicago when electricity took the place of steam, a couple of box cars, perhaps a flat car and and oil tank, and, on the end a combination baggage and passenger car—the "Necessary Evil" was as queer a string of beads as was ever dragged across the desert.

Those who would grant the "Necessary" as obvious might pause over the "Evil," or hold that the mighty puffing, the shrill and vainglorious whistling and the general trembling of boiler which seemed to threaten an explosion had earned the description. In truth it was the train's habit of jumping the track that was responsible for many long, vehement and picturesque descriptions voiced by men versed in the art, and of these there was none more profane than Monte Murdock, then engineer.

Monte knew that whenever the train carried an important consignment of freight or passengers, it was sure to leave the rails. Eureka, looking forward to a minstrel show to break the season of darkened "opera house," turned its wrath upon the "Necessary Evil" when troupe, trombones and interlocutor were stranded in the prairie until the rescue crew could put the old train back upon the tracks. Heavy orders of ice cream, purchased for the Fourth of July demands, melted in the sun while the town went without.

The engineer was the only one who saw something sinister in these accidents. The rest of the town blamed the old rails and the equipment, but Monte came to believe that something else was responsible. For one thing, the train, nine times out of ten, jumped the track at one place where there was no curve and the road was level. Monte took to running slowly here and drew a great sigh of relief whenever he passed without mishaps. Then he noticed the squirrel.

It was a saucy and scrubby little squirrel and it sat on a post and chattered as the train approached. In time the engineer recognized it as a fact that whenever he could see the squirrel waiting on its post, the train was going to have an accident. At first he had been so concerned with the bumping of the cab and the dangers of the situation that he did not notice the animal, but after numerous derailments, exasperation took the place of excitement and Monte noticed that the squirrel seemed to be leaping up and down in enjoyment of the sight. The thing seemed so uncanny and preposterous that he dared not mention it in his reports to the railroad or even in conversation with friends. The train continued to jump the track with a costly frequency and the railroad company continued to work on the dangerous stretch in the hope of applying a remedy. Extra heavy rails were laid on an improved roadbed until that one stretch would have been creditable on the main line, and yet right there where the squirrel sat on the post, the "Necessary Evil" left the rails with the first dog and pony show of the season.

The genial Monte became morose. He could not help but feel these accidents reflected upon his qualifications as an engineer, but more than all he was silenced with the feeling that he was dealing with the supernatural. Once he was certain the squirrel had put its paw to its nose in derision. He knew it was laughing, that it was waiting its time, and he was afraid of it.

Why didn't he shoot the squirrel? The question persisted in the mind of the engineer, who put a shotgun in the cab and tried in vain to summon courage for the act. Several times he drew aim on the animal only to lower the barrel.

"It just sets there and laughs," he muttered. "It's daring me to fire. Wonder what would happen if I did?"

Again the train jumped the track. Monte took a young man with him in the cab and, as they approached the danger spot, handed him the gun.

"See that squirrel?" he asked with pretended indifference. "Bet you can't hit him."

The engineer turned his head away and waited for the result. It would not have surprised him had the boiler blown up or had the whole train leaped into the air. He heard the gun roar and the "Necessary Evil" swaying and panting moved along.

"Did you hit him?" Monte asked, and there were tremendous hope and appeal in the voice.

"Sure, knocked him sky-high."

And it is a matter of record that the "Necessary Evil" has not jumped the track in six months.

Couldn't Be Worse

A young dramatist persuaded Alexander Dumas, the great French novelist, to read two of his plays. Reluctantly Dumas started to read and when he had finished the first one, the young man asked him what he thought of it.

Dumas reflected a moment and then said: "I'm sure I prefer the second."

State of Mind

Your state of mind has a direct relationship to your state of health.

The individual who is bored with his work, tired of its monotony, depressed with its sameness oftimes reflects his mental state in the condition of his health.

There is no question of the vital influence of a happy frame of mind over the physical forces of the body.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 per annum.

People Never Partial to Perforated Coins

Perforated coins were never in favor in the United States, though various efforts were made to popularize them. The first United States coin with a perforated center was a gold dollar issued in 1849, which had a square hole in the middle of the planchet. It was the forerunner of the gold dollar issued by the United States mint in 1849. The coin was engraved, not struck from dies. The next United States coin with a perforated center was issued from the Philadelphia mint in 1850 and was of the denomination of 1 cent. It was about the size of the bronze cent now in use.

At that time the large, old-fashioned copper cent was in general circulation and the perforated coin received the name of "ring cent." The designer reasoned that by means of the perforation the cent could be distinguished by touch from the dime. Another perforated cent issued the same year showed two rings in the field, with the words "Cent, one-tenth silver." The reverse showed an olive wreath around the perforation and the words "United States of America." The mint authorities undertook to design a coin that would answer all requirements, and the pieces were struck with both pierced and perfect centers in silver, copper, nickel and composition metal, six varieties in all, without counting the various metals, but none of the designs was favored by the government authorities, and consequently they were never put in general circulation.

Marriage No Light Ceremony in China

Getting married is complicated business in China. Anna Louise Strong, writing in Harper's Magazine, gives the following description of Chinese wedding customs as related to her by a Chinese student:

"If a marriage is honorable in China, the parents of the groom will pay the money needed. They will send notes from the groom's father: 'On such a date my son will marry the daughter of Mr. So-and-So. Your presence is requested at the feast.' But it is worth much to him, for at the wedding, all honor is shown to this old man, who will now be a grandfather, since his son has taken a wife.

"But if the marriage be without parents' consent, then the young folks cannot be at home on their wedding day. A proper, honorable marriage—it really cannot be done without the parents; otherwise, all is disorder. There are only two other ways for young folks. One is to wait and beseech the parents. Even if they do not like the girl, still they love their son, and if they see him always unhappy, refusing to take any other woman or to give them grandsons, in the end they will often give way."

Banana Employed by the Serpent in Eden?

"Early inhabitants of the East believed that the banana plant was the source of good and evil and that the serpent which tempted Eve hid in a bunch of the fruit," according to W. T. Pope of the Hawaii experiment station of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Undoubtedly this legend influenced the early classifiers who designated two species of the plant as musa paradisiaca (fruit of paradise) and musa sapientum (fruit of knowledge). The common name, "banana," was adopted from the language of an African Congo tribe, and first came into use during the Sixteenth century. Prior to that time the fruit was called "apple of paradise" and "Adam's fig."

The name "banana" seems to have been borne for a long period by the fruit, which was eaten raw. The term "plantain" was given to a variety which, though closely related to the banana, is edible only after being cooked.

The generic name "Musa" for the banana group was bestowed by the botanist Linnaeus in honor of Antonius Musa, a learned physician of the early Roman empire.—Chicago Journal.

Modern Homes Built on Old Mission Site

On the heights east of Manila is an old Franciscan estate with an early Seventeenth century church on it, and down in a vale the ruins of a chapel—the holy edifice and the ruin alike memorable of a forgotten age, when Spain under Philip II attempted to evangelize the world. The church, which, of course, has a monastery attached to it, was the sanctuary whence Franciscan missionaries went to Japan, China, Cochinchina, Cambodia, India, Java, the Moluccas and other parts. Back of the altar was a cave in which the friars knelt and endured voluntary bleeding in order to be steeled against tortures in heathen lands and to resist the temptation under physical pain to apostatize themselves. The "via crucis"—for prayer and penitence—began in the monastery courtyard and ended at the chapel, a distance equal to that which Christ walked from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem to Mount Calvary. An American has acquired this old estate and laid it out in suburban home sites which prosperous Filipinos are eagerly buying. The chapel and church are carefully preserved.

Clerical Sandwich

A missionary to one of the islands where man-eating is still practiced was captured by a cannibal chief. To his surprise he was offered his freedom on condition that he would carry a small packet to another chief in the mountains. He agreed and he was so grateful to his captor that when on his way he met a detachment of marines, he declined to accompany them to safe territory. The sealed packet should be delivered as he had promised.

But while one officer was arguing with him another quietly opened the packet. It contained a small quantity of onions with a note to the chief reading: "The bearer will be delicious with these."—Boston Transcript.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 per annum.

CHURCH NOTES

Kennedyville M. P. Church

A welcome awaits you at all of the services of the church. Do not neglect to worship with us during the summer months. Preaching services begin promptly at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m. Our evening service during June have been delightful. The presentation of the Bible in pictured has been both instructive and beautiful. Do you know your bible? If you don't, there is an opportunity to learn each Sunday evening at 8 p. m.

Sunday School begins at 10 a. m. L. W. Ford, Supt., will welcome you. Junior Church immediately after Sunday School.

The C. E. service will consist of patriotic song's, story and picures. A welcome awaits you at 7.30 p. m.

Salem M. E. Church

Services for Fairlee Charge July 1st Salem Church. S. S. at 10 a. m., W. B. Barnes, Supt. Public worship at 11 a. m. sermon by the pastor, S. L. Hanby. subject, "The Art of Enconragement; E. L. at 7.30 p. m. lead by Miss Ethel Moore, topic, "America First " in what? there will be extra singing at these services would you not like to take part?

Union Church, Worton

S. S. at 2 p. m., B. F. Rash, Supt.; sermon by the pastor at 3 p. m. come and go with us for we will do you good for the Lord has spoken good concerning Israel. Ladies Aid on Thursday afternoon at the home of Sister C. G. Hadaway. No excuse now on account of roads.

St. James and Lynch M. P. Churches

L. Colvin Randall, Pastor. Sunday services at St. James and Lynch Churches will be spent in giving to the young ladies who will teach in the Daily Vacation Bible Schools an encouraging send-off. The Sabbath School of St. James will meet at 10.00 a. m., followed by the Hour of Worship at 11.00 a. m., at which time the pastor's theme will be "The Magnetism of Christ." The St. James Christian Endeavor convenes at 7.30 p. m. The Lynch Sabbath School at 2.00 p. m., followed at 3.00 p .m. by the Hour of Worship, with the Christian Endeavor at 8.00 p. m. The Quatrerly Meeting of the Official Board will meet at the parsonage on Thursday evening at 8.00 p. m.

Bond M. E. Chapel

Robert E. Green, Minister. Sunday School 10.00 a. m., Mr. A. C. Loud, Supt. Our special number will be a selection by group of young men. We hope every member and officer of the school will be present this Sunday. Divine Worship 11.00 a. m. special music by the choir. Epworth League 7.30 p. m. p. m. Mr. Shinn leader. A cabinet meeting on the league will be held at the close of the evening service. Church Aid will meet at the home of Mr. T. R. Starr Thursday, July 5th.

Mowbray M. E. Chapel

Sunday School 2.30 p. m., Mrs. I. V. Kirby Supt. A Sunday School camgaign has been started in the school for new members and a very interesting session is being for his Sunday. Plan to be present. Epworth League 7.00 p. m. Richard Legg leader; preaching 7.30 p. m. by the pastor, Mr. Green.

Christ M. P. Church, Chestertown

N. O. Gibson, minister. Sunday, July 1st, Sunday School at 10 a. m.; divine worship and Holy Communion at 11 a m.; Christian Endeavor at 6.45 p. m.; gospel song service followed by short gospel talk by the pastor at 7.30 p. m. Wednesday, church night service of prayer song and bible study at 7.30 o'clock.

ST. JAMES TO CONDUC TDAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

With a desire to enlarge its usefulness to the community in a program of Christian Education, St. James Church, under the direction of its pastor, will conduct a four weeks course of Bible training for boys and girls of four to fifteen years, beginning Monday at 9.00 a. m. The County Board of Education has granted the use of the schools in the vicinity, and Primary and Junior Departments of the Standard Course for Vacation Schools will be installed in the Janvier, Worton Point, Hanesville, Flatland, Worton, and Fairlee Schools. The Kindergarten Department will also be installed at Fairlee School, and at the St. James Parsonage. Children from four to six inclusive will be in the kindergarten grades. Rev. S. L. Hanby, of Salem and Union M. E. Churches; and Rev. John White, Rector of St. Pauls and I. U. have given the program their approval, and will render their support. Your children are invited.

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