

## THE DAILY MAIL

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1920

## INACCURACIES IN NOVELS

The perils that environ the novelist who seeks to recreate a period of the past which is still well within living memory are exemplified in Mrs. Edith Wharton's latest book, "The Age of Innocence." The story deals with New York society in the seventies. There are many allusions to actual persons and places of the time. These are artful aids to historic color and verisimilitude. But Mrs. Wharton is just now running the gauntlet of criticism from older readers who point out minor inaccuracies in these allusions, and in certain words and expressions which were not then current.

Some of the errors appear to be slips, and few are of a serious nature. Perhaps they could all have been avoided by careful inquiry among older residents of New York. One case typical of an author's carelessness may be cited. A gentleman of high social standing is mentioned as having lost caste because "he married his typewriter." That alliance must have occurred, according to the chronology of the story, at the beginning of the seventies. Many men have married the young ladies who took their dictation and manipulated the keyboard since the middle eighties, but Mrs. Wharton will search long for a precedent reaching back to the early seventies.

No such error was possible under the painstaking care exercised by Dr. S. Weir Mitchell in writing his novels of old Philadelphia and early American history. So minute were his methods of securing accuracy that, in writing "Hugh Wynne" and "The Youth of Washington," he admitted no word which was not defined in the first edition of "Johnson's Dictionary." This was radically different from the slipshod manner of most writers who were producing so-called "historic novels" in that halcyon period of "best sellers." They perpetuated absurd anachronisms not only in romances of old France and England, but in stories of Colonial and Revolutionary America.

American authors are not the only offenders in these respects. A novel entitled "Tamariek Town," by Sheila Kaye-Smith, which is now circulating covers a considerable period of time. The writer is particular in noting the chronology of events. She alludes to many contemporary trifles and more important affairs which were engaging the attention of the public or the characters. Most of these allusions appear to have been set down at random, without attempting to verify them, and the result is such anachronisms as the playing of the music of "The Belle of New York" by a band at a seaside resort several years before that musical comedy came into being. This is a typical example of frequent lapses.

If a novel is to have any real value as a contribution to social history it should be as accurate in statement and allusion as any other form of historical writing.

## A NAVAL HOLIDAY

The New York World has started a campaign favoring disarmament by agreement of the leading maritime powers. The newspaper prints cables received from various prominent men of England and France who favor disarmament, and also numerous letters from prominent Americans who hold similar beliefs. In an effort to arouse the sentiment of the American people on the question the World says editorially:

"Lloyd George is right when he says that nations cannot take the risk of disarming until they know that other nations are doing the same; but there must be a beginning somewhere. Somebody must take the initiative and it would be difficult to over-estimate the moral effect if the three great seapower nations were to take immediate steps to limit their naval expenditures.

"The United States is spending money today on preparations for wars that any other country in the world would find it useless to talk about. In the administration of government if this is to continue at the expense of American labor and the expense of the civilization."

Detroit News: Now that the winter is here, the usual epidemic of energetic coughing has seized theatre goers. A persistent play lover is the man who is in perfect health until he is snugly ensconced in a theatre seat. Once settled, hears some one cough. Immediately it is borne in upon him that he, too, has a cough—or did have one, last winter, or last month, or a few weeks ago. Tentatively, he begins to experiment with it. A little preliminary hawing and hemming proves the cough to be in excellent working order; it now needs only the beginning of a clever line or a properly palpitant moment on the stage to bring this cough to the glory of fulfillment.

Scotsman: So far the achievement which the prohibitionists describe as encouraging is equivalent to the extinction of one license for every poll that has been taken. Some three hundred and seventy districts have voted 322 have declared against any change 26 have carried no license, and 26 limitation, and the gross yield to the prohibitionists is that he has extinguished about 350 licenses. How long will it take the pioneers, as the more rational of the prohibitionists call themselves, to reach the goal at this rate? Yet it is vain to hope that they will learn to turn to better methods of advancing emperance.

Manchester Guardian: The present craze among pipe-smokers seems to be for the old black briar, or for a dark, shell-like ornamental bowl. A few years ago it was the calcined meerschaum or goudron and earlier still the awkward looking but light and comfortable calabash. As for the old-fashioned meerschaum which the youth of the eighties and nineties delighted to color and generally broke in the process it is as out of date as its humble relation the clay.

Mr. Upton Sinclair, a Socialist who created quite a stir some years ago by publishing a book called "The Jungle" which dealt with conditions in the Chicago meat packing plants is still writing books. He has been acting as his own publisher and having encountered difficulties in financing, has appealed to his readers to help him out. It seems to be the case of a Socialist in search of Capital.

New York World: If there is any lesson whatever to be learned from a war that has cost more than 10,000,000 lives and nearly \$300,000,000,000 in treasure, it is the criminal folly of competitive armament, and if the United States is unwilling to take the initiative in destroying this system its burden of guilt is even greater than its burden of wanton extravagance.

New York Herald: Senator Harding threw a stone at a goose forty-five years ago and to his amazement the stone struck and killed the unfortunate quacker. The Senator should remember this incident when he gets into the White House. A thoughtlessly thrown dornick of legislation may kill the goose business which lays golden eggs for Uncle Sam.

A drink of whiskey used to be merely a drink of whiskey. Now, however, it seems to be the highly concentrated extract of murder, arson and rape in combination with a double distillation of newly discovered and uncharted crimes that are keeping hell working overtime to think up. Indianapolis Inquirer.

It is announced that President elect Harding will resign his seat in the Senate on January 10th. His successor will be Senator elect, Harry B. Willis.

## THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Get busy with your New Year's resolutions.

All successful men recommend work. But they didn't know how to play pocket pool.

A bill collector is one type of man who never forgets his engagements. He's never late.

Did you ever stop to think if fools didn't sometimes rush in angels would not have any place to tread.

What we would like to know is whether the man who says skirts are to be longer is an optimist or a pessimist.

It is easy to say what we would do in another man's place, but when it comes to doing the proper thing in our own place—well, that's different.

Next to taking care of his family and fulfilling his obligations to mankind in general, a man's greatest duty is to keep from making a fool of himself.

## MARYSVILLE HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST

Marysville, Dec. 30.—The many friends of Mr. Joseph Dolphin will be sorry to hear that he is confined to his home with a bad cold.

Mr. Elbridge Staples is able to be out again after a short illness.

Mrs. E. J. Brogan with Miss Annie Brogan who spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Brogan at St. John, have returned home.

Mrs. Alfred Nichols is suffering from a severe cold which confined her to her home.

Miss Lena Dunbar who has been spending Christmas with her sister Helen Dunbar at Boston has returned home.

What promises to be a very interesting bowling match will be rolled off at Dawson Club tomorrow night, all making over \$0 for the last month will be entitled to bowl. A large number will likely take part, the winner will get a nice fat 13 pound turkey, needless to say all will do their best.

Mr. Aaron Peterson lost a valuable mare on Christmas night, it died very suddenly.

Mrs. John N. Flood of St. John who spent Christmas with her parents Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Clayton has returned home.

Miss Lois Pugh has been engaged to fill the vacancy on the teaching staff of Grade I on the Eastern side of the river.

On or about the 10th of January the Vocational School will be opened Dr. J. A. McIntyre has been appointed director of the school. The courses taught will likely be English, Millinery, Dressmaking, and Motor Mechanics. Miss Zulu V. Hallett has been chosen to teach English and her room in the school house will be used for the purpose, and it is now being wired for electric lights. Mr. J. Dolphin, manager of the Cotton Mill has offered them two rooms in the new hotel free of charge.

Our hockey team got away in the Whooper yesterday morning where they play Chatham tonight. We wish them the best of good luck.

## SCHOOL BOARD GIVES ADDRESS TO MR. SAMPSON

(Continued From Page Eight.)

on record our appreciation of the efficient and faithful service you have rendered to the Board since the time of your taking office in April 1877.

"We realize what a valuable officer you have been and how much you have done to carry on satisfactorily the work of the Schools.

"Your very name has stood for faithfulness and integrity, and now that you are about to retire from the office you have so ably filled, we wish to assure you of the high esteem in which you are held by us both individually and as a Board.

"Please accept our best wishes and the assurance of our continued interest in your welfare.

Signed on behalf of the Board,  
 G. CLOWES VANWART,  
 Chairman.

Mr. Sampson was visibly affected by this formal and genuine expression of appreciation of his long service in the city schools. The teachers and even the little children seem to regret his dropping out of the schools.

## INVESTIGATION POSTPONED

Police Commission will meet Monday afternoon to hear Yerxa charges

Chairman William McKay of the Fredericton Police Commission announced this morning that the session of the Commission for the purpose of investigating certain charges against Patrolman Ford Yerxa, had been postponed until Monday afternoon at 2.30. The original time of hearing had been this afternoon.

Patrolman Yerxa, who has been under suspension for several days, it is understood, will defend himself. He is reported to have made statements that he will give information to the Police Commission concerning conduct of other members of the force, when his case is heard.

There is always somebody who, to fit his own case, wants to attach a reservation to every law.

## TENDERS FOR GRAVEL

Sealed tenders marked "Tender for gravel," will be received at the office of the Town Clerk for the Town of Devon up to Saturday, the 8th day of January, 1921.

Gravel to be a good quality road gravel and to be delivered on side of road. Tenders to state separate prices for the following divisions:

Nashwaak River to Neill Street.  
 Neill Street to St. Mary's Street.  
 St. Mary's Street to Friel's Creek.  
 Friel's Creek to town line.  
 Devon, Dec. 27 1920.

WM. JAFFREY,  
 Town Clerk.

## John J. Weddall &amp; Son

are offering the balance of their  
**McClintock's Down Puffs at 1-3**  
 off their Regular Price.

## John J. Weddall &amp; Son

Agent for Pictorial Fashions. December Review on Sale.

## ON THE LINE BY NINE

Yes, this is possible every week  
 in the year if you use the

## BLUE BIRD

## Electric Clothes Washer

In a small space such as this we can only mention a few of its chief features. It's supremely efficient—built to last a lifetime—handsome in appearance.

Has no exposed parts or dangerous cogs as an ever-present menace to operator and children playing about.

The cost of operation is negligible—just a few cents a week. Let us demonstrate the BLUE BIRD to you and you will understand why it is no different from day to the BLUE BIRD.

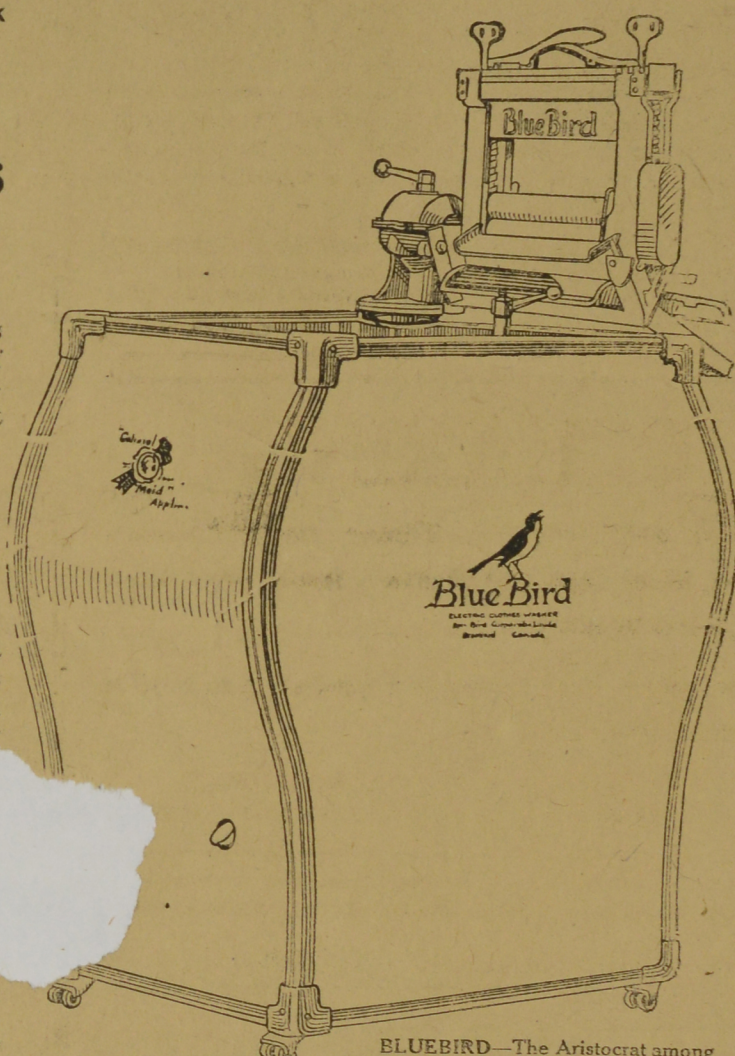
## R. CHESTNUT

LIMITED

53,000 Square Feet of  
 use supplied

## CHESTNUT'S SERVICE

During Jan., Feb. and March our store will close at 6 o'clock Sat. evening.



BLUEBIRD—The Aristocrat among all Electric Clothes Washers.



OH, GIRLS, we have a Gift that never went wrong with men.

Put these articles on your Gift List now.



## STAPLES' PHARMACY

ALONZO STAPLES, Prop.

NEW HIGH RECORD.

Halifax Recorder: Christmas key sold as high as ninety cents pound at Fredericton.

## AT THE GAIETY

Wednesday-Thursday

## BIG DOUBLE PROGRAMME

## LARRY SEMON

VITAGRAPH'S MILLION DOLLAR STAR

## "THE SPORTSMAN"

THE BIG DRURY LANE "THE HOPE" ALL STAR CAST

4 Shows Daily—at 2.30, 3.45, 7.15 and 9.40.

Fri.—"THE 14TH MAN," With ROBT. WARWICK and BEBE DANIELS

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

For your kind and valued patronage of 1920, we thank you, and in the future may it be our privilege to serve you as in the past.

THE REXALL STORE DIBBLEE'S DRUG STORE  
 Opp. City Hall.