

IS STUDENT WONDER

BOY WILL END COLLEGE TERM AT AGE OF FOURTEEN.

Norbert Wiener, Son of Cambridge Professor, to Graduate from Tufts in June—Also Good in Athletics.

Boston.—At Tufts college a boy will graduate next June at the age of 14, and we will have to take off our mortar board caps to him. He is Norbert Wiener, the son of a Harvard professor. This remarkable boy was born in Columbia, Mo., November 26, 1894. He could repeat the alphabet at the age of 11 months, could read and write at three years, and at the age of eight he was fitted for college in mathematics, philosophy, modern languages and the sciences.

It required less than three years of schooling after donning short trousers for him to prepare for college. Here seldom do this in less than ten or 11 years; usually it requires an even dozen, and often longer.

When Norbert Wiener entered Tufts in the autumn of 1906 he had gone farther in chemistry and philosophy than the average senior. He was required to take several entrance examinations, mathematics among them, in which he was found to be far in advance of the freshman class.

So as a freshman he did upper-class work in the theory of equations and in determinants, while in philosophy it was found necessary to place him in a class by himself. He had read Spencer, Haeckel, Darwin, Huxley and many others. Now he has read Locke, Hobbes and other English philosophers; he has translated Homer and several plays of Aeschylus, as well as a similar amount of Latin.

In mathematics he has delved into the Galois theory of equations and has completed differential and integral calculus. He will continue this branch this year and will study the philosophies of Leibnitz, Spinoza and Kant.

In Greek he read Herodotus and Sophocles; the rest of his time will be taken up by biology and organic chemistry. In June, 1909, he will have completed the regular four-year course in three years, receiving the degree of bachelor of arts before he has reached the age of 15. But the work he has covered will equal the amount usually completed by a candidate for the degree of doctor of philosophy.

In the autumn following his graduation at Tufts college he will enter the Harvard Graduate school, where he will elect work in higher mathematics, with a supplementary course in biology or chemistry. After receiving the doctor's degree at 17—an age when many students are not yet contemplating the entrance examinations—he will spend two or three years in Germany or France, devoting himself to philosophy or science.

That is, at an age when the average boy has still two years of work ahead of him for his bachelor's degree young Wiener will be doing advanced scientific work among the gray-haired savants of a German university.

Prof. Leo Wiener of the department of Slavic languages at Harvard is of Russian parentage; the boy's mother is a native of Missouri. The other children of the family do not differ from other boys and girls of their age.

Apart from the fact that his capacity for learning is phenomenal, Norbert Wiener is like other boys. His physical development is excellent; he is a good tennis player and an expert swimmer. He is a tall boy and a strict vegetarian. His head is normal in size, but his blazing, black eyes are almost uncanny in their power. Personally he chooses mathematics as his favorite study. Philosophy he calls his "fairland."

AGED 79; WILL START ALL OVER.

Near Octogenarian is Soon to Wed and Begin Life Anew.

West Orange, N. J.—At the age of 79 years, with a grown family to his credit and a job of 40 years standing in his grip, Elias Ball, who lives on Watching avenue, has announced that he was going to throw all aside and start life anew—get married and start in the cobbling business for himself, a trade at which he had worked half his life. Miss Ella Jenkins of South Tenth street, Newark, is the bride-to-be. She is many years his junior.

Mr. Ball makes fight of his years. He says he feels as young as he ever did, and he might as well get married again—his first wife died two years ago—as any of "the younger fellows." He is in no haste about the matter, however. Next summer is the time set for the wedding, and in the meantime he will start in business near his home.

He has a family of three children and five grandchildren, two of the children making their homes with him. They have not offered any objection to the coming event.

Ball is a veteran of the civil war, and was wounded three times in the service.

Soldiers Must Wash Teeth. Washington.—Soldiers in the Philippines must hereafter brush their teeth thoroughly at least once a day, according to orders issued by Maj. Gen. Weston, in command of the division of the Philippines.

"And it is made the duty of the squad leaders or other responsible non-commissioned officers to see that this is done," says the order.

A monthly inspection by a medical officer is also prescribed.

THEY GROW TALL IN MONTANA.

Combined Height of Ten Members of One Family Nearly Sixty Feet.

Helena, Mont.—A singular rivalry has arisen between two Montana towns as to which possesses the tallest family. Libby, in Flathead county, professes to have more tall people than any town of its size on the continent.

Ten members of one family have a combined height of almost sixty feet. The father weighs 215 pounds and is six feet 2 1/4 inches tall. The mother weighs 225 pounds and is five feet six inches tall. The children size up as follows: First son, six feet 2 1/4 inches tall, age 21 years; second son, six feet four inches, age 19 years; first daughter, five feet eight inches tall, age 17; third son, six feet four inches, age 16 years; fourth son, five feet ten inches, age 14 years; fifth son, five feet, age 11 years; second daughter, four feet two inches, age nine years; sixth son, three feet ten inches, age four years. The head of this proud family is Herman Bockman.

Red Lodge takes exception to Libby's claim to the supremacy and calls attention to the fact that in that city four members of one family are taller than any four members of the Bockman family. W. A. Talmage and his three sons are probably the tallest of any quartet in the city. Mr. Talmage is six feet 4 1/4 inches tall; Earl Talmage, age 18 years, is six feet eight inches tall; Elmer Talmage, age 19 years, is six feet 7 1/2 inches tall; and Nathan, the youngest, who is only 12 years of age, measures five feet six inches. This makes a total of 24 feet 3 1/2 inches. Then the average height of the father and three sons will unquestionably compare with that of any other family in the entire country.

THEY CAUGHT THE GOOSE.

Des Moines Bridge Workers Have an Exciting Chase.

Des Moines, Ia.—Workmen on the new Locust street bridge were treated to a thrill which would set the gallery wild with excitement if utilized as the climax to a ten-twenty-thirty melodrama and in the end captured a mammoth goose, which would afford a substantial basis for a charity dinner.

About 8:30 o'clock in the morning a large gray goose was sighted off the starboard quarter of the new bridge by one of the workmen, and the alarm was given. The bird was steering due north, all sails set, in the teeth of a spanking breeze. A rowboat was quickly manned and the men set out to intercept the strange craft. When the boat became visible to the goose it tacked and started down the river at full speed, but all its efforts were in vain, and it was captured just under the Walnut street bridge, where a large crowd had gathered, encouraging the flight of the fowl with lusty shouts.

The question over the distribution of the one bird among the half a hundred workmen has not yet been settled.

TRUNDLES BARROW 4,650 MILES.

Pedestrian Must Go 4,340 More With In Time Limit to Win Bet.

San Francisco.—J. A. Krohn of Portland, Me., has arrived in this city on a walk of 9,000 miles, which he is to make on a wager in 400 days. According to the conditions of the bet, Krohn, who is better known as "Colonial Jack," must push a wheelbarrow en route and cover 4,650 miles, an average of 26 miles a day. To complete the walk on schedule time he must walk about 20 miles a day, and in spite of 11 days lost on account of illness he is far ahead of his schedule.

The Sphinx, the wheelbarrow which the pedestrian trundles on his long walk, is covered with the postmarks of 635 post offices. It also has a speedometer attached to register the number of miles covered. The wager on the outcome of the walk is \$1,000 against 2,000 copies of the book which Krohn will write on the completion of his walk.

LONG TRUSTEE OF PENKNIFE.

Delaware Man Formally Completes Strange Duty.

Dover, Del.—Men have served in Delaware as trustees of trolley companies, poor estates and assenting corporations, but John Morgan, a farm man farmer, has served as trustee of a pocket knife.

Eighteen years ago, Victor Durand, a prominent citizen and a brother-in-law of Dr. Presley S. Downs of Dover, sent for John Morgan and turned over to him a penknife of special value and family associations, which he commissioned Morgan to keep until his (Mr. Durand's) infant son became of age, when it was to be given to him.

"Nobody knew anything of the incident until last week. John Morgan fulfilled his mission and turned over the penknife to young Durand, who had reached the required age. Morgan now conducts the farm of Mr. Downs near Cheswood.

Dogs Carry Mail Bags.

Yeadon, Pa.—W. R. Evans, who is the postmaster and justice of the peace of this borough, is the owner of two valuable and intelligent collie dogs. When the daily mails arrive at Fernwood station they can be seen waiting for the mailbags, which are given to them, and they trot with them to their master, who is always on the lookout to see that no one attempts to take the bags away from them.

AIR FLIGHT IS LIKE COASTING.

Companion of Wright in Aeroplane Tells of Sport in Trips.

New York.—C. F. Cortland Bishop, who for the third time has been elected president of the Aero Club of America, and Frank S. Lahm of Paris, father of Lieut. Frank P. Lahm of the United States signal corps, who, while an officer of the Sixth cavalry, won the international balloon race from Paris, arrived in this city from Europe the other day.

Frank S. Lahm, who has lived 30 years in France, described his experience in making a flight with Wilbur Wright.

"It was very delightful," said Mr. Lahm. "It was rather an exciting experience, as it was really the first time Wilbur Wright had flown above the heads of hundreds of people, automobiles, carriages and horses, the latter frightened by the whirr of propellers and the buzzing of the engine.

"We came down at the rate of nearly a mile a minute, which would have worried me very much had I not been there so often and seen so many landings. As it was, I feared we would get a hard shock. Just as we got close to the ground Mr. Wright paralleled the soil, causing a happy disappointment.

"As for my sensations it was like coasting down a hill with no shock whatever. It was like sailing on an ocean steamer when the sea is absolutely calm and going through a medium that is much more liquid than water. It was like sitting in an armchair and allowing the breeze to go by you fast.

"What I have seen there in the last ten days has impressed me most, because I saw Wilbur Wright fly above 300 feet. I saw him soar from the ground without the aid of his wings; I saw him parallel the soil, not much higher than a man's shoulder; I saw him fly at night when lights in the camp had to be used; I saw him come down in spirals, and I saw him take up a man weighing 208 pounds.

Mr. Lahm said that by spring he expected to see aeroplane flights made across the English channel and back.

SUITOR MUST PAY THE BILLS.

Court Decides Girl May Recover Money Advanced in Courtship.

Los Angeles, Cal.—If a girl pays the incidental courtship expenses of a young man who is seeking her hand and he afterward fails to marry her, she may recover through the courts the total amount she is out of pocket on the proposition. Such a case has just been decided by Justice Selph of Los Angeles, who ruled that Mrs. Albert A. Jones, formerly Miss Bessie May, was entitled to recover \$37.50 from Emil Fernholz, the sum representing a total of expenditures which the young woman made for the joint entertainment of herself and Fernholz in the period of his unfruitful courtship.

Mrs. Jones, who since her affair with Fernholz has been married to Mr. Jones, testified in court that she advanced the money for various things because Fernholz did not have it. She kept a diary of her expenditures, jotting down dates, occasions and amounts. Some of these were:

- "September 14, trip to the beach, five dollars."
- "September 21, visit with friends, five dollars."
- "September 28, trip to the beach, five dollars."

Once she loaned Fernholz \$20 with which to purchase some new clothes. Fernholz denied he had borrowed any of this money. "I told her I was not in a position to bear the expense of going out," he testified, "and she said she would foot the bills. We took the trips all right and she spent the money, but I didn't get it." The court held him liable for the total amount.

BOOK DEDICATED TO CAT.

Mistress of Prize Winner Tells of Pet's Wonderful Smartness.

Chicago.—A 200-page book dedicated to the memory of a dead cat has been published by Mrs. Laura W. Greene of Berwyn, a prominent club woman and vice-president of the American Cat fanciers' association.

The cat whose fame is thus perpetuated is the late Tom Willoughby Greene, three years old, black, orange-eyed, and four times winner of the blue ribbon at the annual cat show in Chicago. Tom Willoughby was entered for the show to be held next January, but contracted a severe case of pneumonia and passed to cat heaven.

The book is a volume of stories about cats and kittens, including several of which T. W. Greene was hero. Tom had his own bed, with sheets, pillow and quilts. He tucked himself in carefully each night. At the side of his bed an alarm clock was set for eight a. m.

When it rang, Tom got up, went to the bird girl's room and aroused her, gently tapping her face with the tip of his tail.

Makes Knives of Copper. Luray, Va.—John P. Kibler, a mechanical genius of this county, has at last discovered the method of welding copper and iron and copper and copper.

His secret has never been divulged, and Mr. Kibler is very reticent about the discovery. He is able to temper the metal to any degree of hardness, and has often made knife blades from it. It was recently stated that a similar discovery had been made by a blacksmith in Warren county, Va., which recalls the fact that Mr. Kibler's discovery was made several years ago.

IRELAND'S NEED OF FORESTS

Like United States, She Is Late in Waking Up to Her Sins.

Ireland has awakened to the national value of her forests, but so late that radical measures will now be necessary to make up for past neglect. A commission appointed by the crown to investigate the condition of Ireland's forests and to suggest measures for bettering it has just made public its report.

The commission outlines and vigorously urges the adoption of a large scheme for the state to plant about 700,000 acres with forest trees. This, with the 300,000 acres of existing forest, would give Ireland 1,000,000 acres of forest land, an essential for the agricultural and industrial requirements of the country.

About 20,000 acres of this would be purchased by the state in mountainous and rough regions and managed as state forest, says Harper's Weekly, while 500,000 acres, chiefly in small blocks, would be planted by the state but managed by private owners or by county councils.

The fact that under the land purchase acts much woodland formerly held in large blocks is being sold in small parcels and lumbered and that there is now opportunity for the government to acquire woods and land suitable for forests make it specially urgent for the state to take immediate action.

To show that such a scheme of land acquisition and planting is not impracticable the commission cites the case of Denmark, an agricultural country half the size of Ireland, which since 1881 has increased her forests by 175,000 acres.

ELECTRICAL POWER FROM PEAT.

Ireland's Bogs Likely to Prove Source of Vast Wealth.

From peat to electrical power is the story of a new enterprise in Ireland. The scheme is to erect a central station upon the Grand canal, about 24 miles from Dublin, to produce blast furnace gas from the peat which will drive huge gas engines, these in turn propelling electric generators of sufficient capacity to furnish electrical energy over Kings county and Kildare. The process to be exploited is that of a German inventor, whose large factory near Munich has been operating successfully for about two years. Peat containing as much as 50 per cent moisture can be used satisfactorily, the moisture becoming an essential ingredient of the water gas and preventing too rapid combustion. An elaborate plant is to be installed for by-products, such as sulphate of ammonia, tars, and tar oils, etc., which in themselves are of appreciable commercial value. In the German factory the process is of a dual nature. Peat from which 75 per cent of the moisture can be evaporated is converted into peat coke, which is used as a fuel in the German navy and many industrial concerns, while the raw material, which retains half its moisture, is for producing the gas from which the by-products are extracted.

Dogs of Luxury.

The appearance of little dogs as objects of luxury goes back to the most ancient times. Documents are not wanting to show that Greek and Roman women had pet dogs which they idolized. Even men, particularly among foreigners, were not ashamed to walk the streets of Rome with pet dogs under their arms. Plutarch relates that Julius Caesar, seeing one day in Rome some strangers thus loaded with their dogs, asked them ironically whether the women of their country did not bear children. Tertius, the daughter of Lucius Aurelius Paulus, was so fond of her dog that in the moment of bidding farewell to her father, who was about to leave his country and his family to wage war against Perseus, king of Macedonia, she frankly admitted that the sadness imprinted on her face was due to the death of her pet dog Peraus.

Copying an English Law.

Largely owing to the indefatigable efforts of Maj. Baudren of that city, the board of education of Bridgeport, Conn., has adopted what in England is known as the "Conscience Objectors' Act." Henceforth any parent who has a prejudice against vaccination may obtain the admission of his children to the public schools without submitting them to vaccination by merely notifying the superintendent of his scruples in writing.

Luxury.

Stranger (in Dressyhurst)—Is there a place here where I can get a square meal?

Uncle Welby Gosh—Yes, sir; there's a restaurant round the corner where you can get the best meal this side of Chicago if you don't mind its being a little expensive. They'll sock you for 35 cents, but, by gum! it's worth it!

The Modern Way.

She listened with haughty air. "I must have a man not of words, but of deeds," she said.

So next day he brought her his deeda, so her father's lawyer could examine their titles.

A Technical Mixup.

Author—Look here, Mr. Editor, at this proof. I question that query. Editor—You do? Author—Yes, I do. I tell you, it won't answer.

MODEL ONLY LOOKED THE PART.

Was Different When He Came Down from the Pedestal.

The model had sat, with the necessary rests, for three hours in one position, the pose of a splendid senator of Washington, elegant, aristocratic. He had a fine head. He was quite noted for that. He had been model for illustrations of many heroic figures.

But the model with the fine head wore about the rustiest suit of clothes you ever saw. His cuffs were frayed. His collar stayed up with difficulty. It was so old.

When the three hours were up he gave a sigh of relief, for posing is hard work. There is no work harder. The artist drew forth his wad and paid him. The model thanked him with a grateful smile.

"He is down and out," said the artist when he had gone. "He hadn't a penny to get his lunch with."

And he looked at the picture he had drawn of him as a splendid senator of Washington with a complacent smile of satisfaction with the fine dignity of it.

BEAR REVELED IN LUXURIES.

Bruin's Feed Somewhat Expensive to Railroad Company.

A large brown bear, the property of the traveler, Count Schoenborn, was being taken by train to his master's estate in Saxony, when he broke the bars of his cage and turned his attention to the contents of the luggage van. He smashed two egg boxes and sucked 112 eggs, and then exploited four butter casks. What he did not devour he smeared over himself and the sides of the van.

Some crates containing poultry for market next attracted bruin, who consumed three fat geese and several ducks and fowls. He quenched his thirst with a hamper of cherries and was discovered at Halle in the act of sampling some cheese.

The officials, threatened by bruin, fled for their lives. A long time elapsed before the animal was persuaded to re-enter his cage, during which time the train was delayed.

Worth That Much.

I was standing in front of one of the "paper from home" stands in Broadway recently, when a seedy gent with a feeble eye stepped up and bought papers from Oshkosh, Kalamazoo and Wheeling. My curiosity overcame my manners and I ventured to inquire regarding the purchase. He only slipped rapidly away and I followed. Finally, after a chase of two blocks, he stopped and made a motion of mystery.

"Sh-h," he whispered, "are you a confidence man?"

"No, I merely want to know why you purchase papers from such places?"

"Oh, I do that to throw any confidence men that may be following me off the track," he retorted.

He only got my ingersawl. It pays to carry them—Beau Broadway in New York Telegraph.

How Men and Women Face Death.

How do men and women face death when the sentence is pronounced by the doctor? A medical man tells us his experience. Tell the man of higher type and greater intelligence, he says, that he is facing death, and he begins to fight, demands a consultation, talks about going to specialists, and fights grimly to the finish. Tell a woman the same facts, and she lies back to await her fate. All women are fatalists. On the other hand, tell a man that he has one chance in a thousand to recover if he will undergo an operation, and he will trust to his own strength and endurance rather than undergo the knife. The woman will choose the thousandth chance, and submit to the operation with astounding calmness.—Chicago Journal.

Momentarily at a Loss.

The eminent detective had found a clue to the mystery he had been trying to unravel.

"Ha!" he exclaimed. "I have it at last! And now—"

Here he hesitated. Mopping his perspiring brow, he took out his pocket edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories and eagerly scanned its pages to ascertain whether the proper course after having discovered a clue was to follow it up or to run it down.

Grammar His Forte.

A Kansas school ma'am had a world of trouble in teaching one of her charges the intricacies of arithmetic. The job finally became so arduous that she complained to the child's father.

"Oh," said the fond pater, "never mind my Jimmie about that. He comes by it honestly. I always was a good grammarist, but a mighty poor arithmetician."

Too Much of It.

Chauffeurs are ticklish things, and the millinaire would proceed cautiously.

"But," he said to the applicant, "have you had much experience?" "The ruddy young man laughed loud. "Experience!" he cried. "Expertness! Why, I've held down 17 different jobs in the last nine months."

Then Some One Would.

"If you continue in the way you are going no one will ever be sincerely sorry for your death."

"Oh, I don't know, my wife may marry again."—Houston Post.

BEARS KINCLY SIGNATURE.

Document, Signed by George III. When Blind, in Sale.

New York.—A document signed by George III. of Great Britain when he was blind is in a collection of interesting literary and political autographs which will be sold at Anderson's. It is a two-page folio, for the protection of an American ship, and is dated 1808. It reads:

"Ships of War and Privateers are directed not to molest the said vessel on her voyage from Liverpool to the United States of America, either on account of the existing war or of any other hostilities which may take place."

There is a letter, two full pages, octavo, written by Donald G. Mitchell ("Ik Marvel") and dated Edgewood, January 12, 1886. "I find it hard," he says, "to put myself in the mood of writing—merely for the sake of making an article, or even for the money (tho' sorely needed); yet I do have many notions—longish and shortish—notions about books, about art, about homes—about this or that craze of the day, making game of things like a very pot hunter. What should you say to a series of such 'Through Country Eyes'?"

There are several interesting letters by the late E. C. Stodman, the banker-poet. In one of them he defends Lord Byron against the criticism of Swinburne, as follows:

"Swinburne made a wild onslaught on Byron (whom he himself resembles in certain traits)—though falling desperately short of Byron's manliness in one of the great English reviews last year. To this reply have been made, and there has been a Byron controversy. Swinburne's article was a comment on Matthew Arnold's comparison of Wadsworth, Byron, etc."

SUIT OVER 12 CENTS IS ON.

Costs Already \$27. Appeal Taken to Common Pleas Court.

Philadelphia.—With costs already amounting to \$27 the litigation over 12 cents was carried another step upward by Henry J. Scott, attorney for C. G. A. Loder, a druggist, taking a writ of certiorari to common pleas court No. 1, from the judgment of the magistrate in the suit of Henry C. Terry to recover the 12 cents. The suit was based on the allegation that Mr. Terry had purchased a bottle of tooth wash, but when he came to open the bottle it contained but about a teaspoonful of the preparation. He demanded another bottle or the return of the price paid, but was refused. He then sued Loder before a magistrate and obtained a judgment in his favor.

In support of the certiorari it was contended that the judgment was wrong because Mr. Terry had brought the suit in his name for the Salvation Army, and he admitted that he had no authority to act for the army, but did it for "charity," and further that the judgment was excessive, as he admitted that there was some of the preparation in the bottle and that would reduce the loss to about 15 cents.

MACHINE WILL ANSWER PHONE.

Michigan Man Incorporates Company to Manufacture His Device.

Detroit, Mich.—J. E. Land, an expert known throughout the country in his business, has begun the manufacture of a device which will answer the calls of telephones when the party called is out. It will repeat twice, to each call of the phone, any message the person expecting to be called desires to impart to it.

Mr. Land has incorporated his company. The usefulness of the device was explained by the president of the company, E. M. Hopkins.

"There are many things about the annunciator that commend it to the public," said Mr. Hopkins. "See what a convenience it will be to the doctor. He leaves his office at times when there is nobody to answer the telephone. This phonograph arrangement is told the piece to speak and during his entire absence it answers the telephone. No matter how many calls, it tells when the doctor will be back, perhaps it tells where he is, if he wishes to impart that information."

Finds Egg Laid Sixty Years Ago.

Youngstown, O.—For 60 years an egg lay in a small stream under the henhouse of a Wesley Van Auken, whose farm is not far from this city. The petrified egg was found by Van Auken, and the discovery cleared up a mystery that has remained with Van Auken all these years.

When he was a lad on his father's farm a favorite Plymouth Rock hen laid an egg each day in a nest under the henhouse. One day there was no egg there. Never before or after that, until the time of its death, did the hen fail to leave an egg in the accustomed place. The loss of that egg was an episode in Wesley's life. He never forgot it.

When he found the egg it was solid stone.

Reunited After Sixty-Three Years.

Kittanning, Pa.—After a separation of 63 years, Mrs. James Hawley of Kittanning and her sister, Mrs. Katch Besse of Felix, Somerset county, were reunited here. Both were born at Scalp Level, Pa., but in girlhood they drifted apart.

For years neither knew whether the other was living, but finally, through a stepbrother, who had learned of Mrs. Hawley's residence here, correspondence was begun. Mrs. Hawley is now 75 years of age and Mrs. Besse is nearly 79.

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