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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 22, 1908.

THE SEGO LILY.

In pioneer days, during early spring, the people of Utah used to dig the bulbs of the sego, *Calochortus Nuttallii*, as a choice article of food. Not more than twenty years ago, sego digging in spring was still a favorite pastime of boys and girls.

For those who wish to taste the bulb of the sego, which served in some cases in early days to avert actual famine, we may state that the bulb of this delicate lily, Utah's state flower, will soon be at its best as a toothsome and dainty morsel. The plant grows on every sagebrush hill. It may be known from its slender, grass-like stem and leaves, at this season, resembling a bluish wire-grass, about six inches high, and consisting usually of only two leaves.

It may finally grow to twelve inches. It always bears only a few, usually three, linear leaves, which clasp the stem at the base. The lower leaves are alternate, but later there is an upper, small, opposite pair. From these arise two main branches each bearing a flower. Occasionally there are three or four flowers, or only one.

The flowers usually appear about the beginning of summer. When fully expanded, they are bell-shaped, symmetrical in outline, and are white, striped with mottled green and tinged with purple on the outside. Within, the color is nearly white marked with purple above and yellow below in a large bearded and spongy spot near the base. The flower measures about an inch and a half each way. The three petals are heart-shaped, but each has a small point above. The three sepals are lance-shaped, tapering, sharp-pointed, and finally spreading outwards. The heart, the lance, the arrow—Cupid's paraphernalia—all appear in its make-up.

The bud from which the flower expands is also an interesting object. It is cone-shaped and tapering, finally becoming nearly an inch long. Its sepals, or outer flower leaves, are somewhat imbricated, the edges very slightly overlapping; but the petals, the inside flower leaves, are convolute or rolled about each other in the bud. These six flower leaves form the perianth, or flower divisions, and opposite each segment is a stamen with a blunt, arrow-like anther. The pistil is three-lobed, narrowly oblong, and several to many seeded. It is a question whether or not the sego is reproduced from seeds or whether it arises always from the little bulbs that form at the roots after the flowering is over. Some of these small bulbs may have been formed from the seeds of previous years, but some, at least, are renewed from the old root.

On account of its rare and delicate beauty, its fragrance, and the entire absence from this choice specie, of any aspect of weediness, it seems a pity that it has never been successfully domesticated. It is literally all flower, and has no weed-like remainder after blooming.

The thread-like stem, white and glistening beneath its papery underground coat, goes into the soil about six inches or more, and there expands into a tender scaly bulb, which is sweet, mucilaginous and nutritious before the plant flowers; but after flowering is dry and tasteless. This bulb is usually about three-fourths of an inch long and less than half an inch wide.

The edible bulb of the sego, *Calochortus lily*, need never be confused with the poisonous one of the so-called "poison sego," *Zygadenus paniculatus*, which is much larger, coarser, and covered with several rough, black, scaly coats. *Zygadenus* is a much larger plant, its bunch of numerous two-ranked or folding leaves rising like a fountain and spreading outward in sickle-like curves to the ground. This dense and deep-green foliage of sickle-curved leaves finally becomes a foot high, and need never be mistaken for the two or three slender leaves of the sego; yet the two have often been confounded when young, and cases of poisoning were reported in early days from eating the bulbs of *Zygadenus*. These bulbs contain an albuminous acid which is exceedingly dangerous if eaten. It is said, too, but we do not know that this has been verified, that the leaves are poisonous and are sparingly eaten by cattle, which are sometimes poisoned in this way. The scaly bulb of the poison sego is black outside, and when full grown is an inch and a half thick and two inches long. A dense fibrous root system springs from below the bulb. The flowers of the poison sego are individually small and form a mass aggregated into a spike cluster of greenish white flowers, the six yellow anthers giving to the flowers a yellowish cast. But the state flower and its poisonous relative belong to the family of lilies, but are of different genera. They grow side by side, the sego lily often preferring the rich soil and shaggy shelter of the sage brush, while *Zygadenus* prefers the open. They are like types of good and evil, of beauty and beast, of virtue and vice, flourishing in the same environment.

ST. LOUIS TIMES.

A fine anniversary number of the St. Louis Times was published April 15, consisting of 76 pages, put out by a paper which on that day was just one year old.

A feature of the number is a series

of letters wishing the paper well from the public men of Washington. Senator Reed Smoot's note of congratulation is as follows:

"It is seldom in the history of this country that a daily paper within the short period of one year, becomes a recognized power in the journalistic field and acquires a circulation of which older papers would be proud; but such is the case with the St. Louis Times and all connected with the paper are to be congratulated."

"I have admired the frank and fearless position taken by the Times on national questions; the editorials are written in a logical and instructive manner. St. Louis should be proud of her new paper. May the St. Louis Times grow even greater than the fond anticipation of its friends."

"People wanted decency, accuracy, independence and optimistic spirit," declares the leading editorial of the paper in explaining its phenomenal growth in a single year. Here we find one of the reasons that contributed to the success of The Times. There never has been a moment when The Times swerved from its course of independence in politics. The fact that The Times has told the truth about politicians of all parties, some of it pleasant, some unpleasant, has been the subject of much contemporary editorial comment. The news of The Times has been printed without color. Partisanship has been kept out along with sensationalism and indecency."

Letters from editors the country over express kindly sentiments toward the paper and its independent viewpoint to which they attribute its success. One of these is from the Editor of the Deseret News.

SWEDENBORG AS A SCIENTIST.

We have already noticed the growing interest in the peculiar philosophy of Swedenborg. His labors as a scientist are also beginning to be recognized, as is set forth in an interesting article in the Boston Transcript of April 14. He was ahead of his age in everything.

According to the writer in the Transcript, Dr. Max Neuburger of Vienna in 1901 delivered an address entitled "Swedenborg's References to the Physiology of the Brain." Dr. Neuburger pointed out some of Swedenborg's most important conclusions in the field of cerebral physiology. Thus he says: "He leaped a whole century ahead of his age by the announcement of another discovery, for he was the first one to show that the cortical substance of the brain is the exclusive seat of the higher or psychical activity, the point of attack of the soul." The address concluded with the warmest expression of appreciation of the great genius of Swedenborg in this field of research.

Following up this interest in Swedenborg, Dr. Neuburger addressed a communication to the Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, in which he expressed his regret that Swedenborg's extensive manuscript on the brain, which is preserved in the library of the Academy of Sciences, had not yet been published. This led to the appointment of a committee to investigate the matter. The investigation resulted in the discovery of a remarkable array of scientific and philosophical works, many of which had never been published. They included treatises on mathematics, chemistry, metallurgy, magnetism, ontology and cosmology, geology, paleontology, psychology, anatomy and physiology. There are over eighty titles, many of them bulky treatises, in which Swedenborg seemed to grasp the hidden causes of things. By his principles of vibration, degrees, series and order he reduced the various domains of science into a unified whole. Moreover, he anticipated by a century some of the scientific discoveries of the nineteenth century, especially in the field of anatomy and physiology. The scientific works of Swedenborg will now be published. The first volume has appeared and contains his contributions to the science of geology. Volume II will contain treatises on chemistry, physics and mechanics; and volume III on Cosmology. Four other volumes are planned, two on the brain and two on physiology.

It seems that Swedenborg, and not Laplace, is entitled to the honor of being the author of the nebular hypothesis of the origin of the universe. A few years ago the astronomers Nyren and Holden proved this. Dr. Retzius says: "In the first volume of his 'Opera Philosophica et Mineralia' he explained among other things, his new hypothesis of cosmogony, a nebular hypothesis, in which—long before Kant and Laplace—he represented in word and illustration the formation of the planets in the solar system. Laplace himself informs us that he had received his first ideas on this subject from Buffon, and Buffon, as is known, had Swedenborg's work in his library."

Swedenborg early propounded the theory that all forces in nature, including our vital force, consist mostly of minute vibrations or tremulations. He carries this principle all through his scientific and philosophical treatises. Electricity, magnetism, light, heat and even gravitation, according to his principles, are vibrations of the ether in its degrees. In the human body the motions of the brain and the lungs produce series of motions which are of vital importance in the economy of the system. Another principle which is of universal application in his philosophy is his doctrine of degrees. He shows that as we ascend from gross matter to the finer and subtler forms of nature we come to more perfect forms and forces, which are the causes of those things manifested in the solid matters of the earth. This applies in the sphere of nature and its atmosphere, and in the human body and its finer tissues and fluids. There is thus an ascent in perfection in the body itself, but the ruling power in the body is the mind and soul within, and this ruling power or organism was the ultimate goal which Swedenborg endeavored to reach, and some of the most sublime of his investigations in physiology and psychology are in regard to the influence of the mind on the body and the display of its forces in nature.

In whom does the paper trust?

Mrs. Anna Gould is the merry divorcee.

To make the desert blossom as the rose—irrigate.

There are no lemons in Los Angeles

for the sailor boys, only oranges and flowers.

Doubtless Senator Fulton looks upon him as a sponge cake.

Rather odd that rear admirals are always to the front.

The wood pulp investigation seems to be in the protoplasmic stage.

Some men work for their living while some work others for their living.

Castro has just put forth an important statement, which fact is not important.

Prosecution of the Kansas City theater cases for violating the Sunday law turns out to have been a great farce.

The stenographer who is suing the "See America First" association for salary due, would like to see the money first.

Senator La Follette is credited with the statement that the United States is owned by ninety-seven men. Who are they?

Samuel Gompers says that the United States Supreme Court is behind the times. It is also behind the Constitution, fortunately.

Was it the purpose of the burglar who entered the First Presbyterian church to steal the liver of heaven to serve the devil in?

An uneducated delegate, like the Scotchman, is open to conviction, and just like the Scotchman, he would like to see any one convince him.

A scientist announces that the dragon fly flaps its wings twelve thousand times per second. There is a great deal of flapdoodle about such a statement.

Prince de Sagan describes his experiences in America as "torture." But he can find consolation in thinking of how he added to the gaiety of the nation.

Woodford D. Harlan, the general land office clerk who admitted that he had taken hundreds of dollars to expedite lieu land selections, evidently believes that money makes the mare go.

Dick Eldins says that the Duc d'Abruzzi is a bully good fellow and "away above the average foreigners who come over here seeking wives and incidentally fortunes." He certainly is when it comes to climbing mountains.

Of course the taxpayers of Salt Lake City will be overjoyed to vote for a \$500,000 bond issue when they recall that the party in power that wants it for "improvement" voluntarily gave the contractor who constructed the Big Cottonwood conduit \$75,000 for fixing up the conduit when it needed no fixing whatever. The only thing the people will complain about is that the issue isn't large enough.

SENTENCES FROM JEFFERSON.

New York Sun.
On April 13, 1743, Thomas Jefferson was born at Shadwell, Albemarle county, Virginia. Though his name will be toasted, his wisdom extolled and his virtues proclaimed by thousands of Americans, the sentences from his voluminous writings may be read with peculiar appropriateness in every legislative and executive chamber in the land on this the one hundred and sixty-fifth anniversary of his birth.
"I can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under pretence of taking care of them, they must become happy."
"I think we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious."
It is unlikely that we shall hear these sentiments echoed by many admirers of Thomas Jefferson today. Yet who can question the truth of the principle on which they are based or their applicability to the conditions that exist in the United States in the year 1908?

MALARIA AND HISTORY.

Philadelphia Ledger.
Science, nominally cold, passionate and restrained, sometimes introduces us to strange temptations of the imagination. An investigator has just published a book to show that malaria explains many of the ups and downs in Greece and Rome which we have known as military history and statecraft. Malaria, then called fevers and plagues, changed the destinies of population and produced debilitations which are now supposed to have led to easy defeats. This century is expecting transformation of the tropics from the subjugation of this same malaria. In the United States it is of record that the disease held back many developments in the south and west, and changed the lines of highly productive settlements.

RAISE THE MAINE.

Springfield Republican.
The mystery of the Maine has been last taken up by the New York Sun. What its motives are, one can judge as well as another. Whom it has in mind in asking certain questions can only be surmised. At least the chances are that it has struck a new Roosevelt scent—for Mr. Roosevelt was assistant secretary of the navy in the spring of 1898. Old and murky war record before the real war began. In our opinion, Mr. Roosevelt was in no degree responsible for the finding of the naval board of inquiry into the causes of the explosion of the battleship in Havana harbor. But it is certain that the old bulk should be raised and carefully examined in order that the exact facts as to the causes of the blowing up may be finally established. If the ship blew up from the inside, history has a right to the truth; and the Spaniards merit this belated vindication of their national honor.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Young's Magazine for May has a novelette entitled "Princess," in which the heroine is a victim of innocence and sophistication. "The Revolt of Roxanna," by Maud Fuller Hopkins, is a strong piece of fiction. "Pierette," by "Gyp," is a love and mystery tale, crisp and sparkling characteristic of its author. A buoyant, bracing tale is "The Genesis of Billy Wynn," by Catharine Wynn. And many a tale of man, hungering for wealth and substituting in his role of clown to the rich, aims to win an heiress. A racing story alive with the color and action of the track is "The Painting of Excellence," by Forrest Halsey. It is blithely told by a trainer and ripples with humor. An appealing, human little tale touched with a delicate flavor of realism, and spiced with comedy is "The Strength of the Weave," by Gilbert Coleman. "The Obstinate Visit," and "The Girl and the Problem" are from the French—114-116 East 25th street, New York.

JUST FOR FUN.

Real Breakfast Food.

There is a village in England which clings fondly to the customs of the past and has small regard for innovations. Not long ago an old resident died. The lawyers who went up to settle the family affairs stayed over night at the little inn.

He was a dyspeptic, and ever cautious about his food. Therefore he looked searchingly at the waitress as she stood at the breakfast table the next morning to serve him.

"I'm—er—obliged to be very careful of myself," he said solemnly. "My diet is extremely limited. What sort of food do you have here? That is all I take in the morning except dry toast." "We have apple, squash and mince," said the girl, regarding him in kindly and sympathetic fashion. "You can take your choice, or have all three, if you wish."—Youth's Companion.

The Child's Advice.

Little Arthur stood peering down into the countenance of his baby sister, whom the nurse was singing to sleep. "Say, nurse," he finally whispered, "it's nearly unconscious, isn't it?" "The nurse nodded in the affirmative, and sang on.

"Then don't sing any more or you'll kill it!"—Lippincott's.

In Luck.

Today—Jennie tells me young Woodby proposed to her last night. "Viola—I don't think I know him. Is he well off?"

Today—He certainly is. She refused him.—London Tit-Bits.

The Exception.

Miss Gushley—I like people who are always the same, don't you?

Mr. Lausley—Not if they're uniformly disagreeable.—Smart Set.

A Second Thought.

Time hastens on from wintry scenes—and yet we capture thrills. For every month that passes means another bunch of bills.

—Washington Star.

Naturally Slow.

Customer—Walter, where is that turtle soup I ordered? What makes it so slow?

Waiter—Say, boss, what you speck's of a turtle, anyhow?—Chicago News.

Odious Comparisons.

He (savagely)—Mother-in-law certainly makes a lot of trouble. She (sobbing)—You needn't talk. You haven't half the trouble with yours that I have with mine.—Baltimore American.

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