

GIBBY, THE EEL.

By S. R. CROCKETT.

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Naturalists have often remarked how little resemblance there is between the young of certain animals and the adult specimens. This tottering quadrangular arrangement of chewed string remotely and inadequately connected at the upper corners is certainly the young of the horse. But it does not even remotely suggest the bear cub sniffing up the trail from afar. This little eye ball of feathers with the steel-blue mask set beneath its half-opened eyelids is most unlike to the magnificent eagle which (in books) stares unblinded into the very eye of the noonday sun.

Like manner, the young of the learned professions are by no means like the full-fledged expert of the mystery. If in such cases the child is the father of the man, the percentage is by no means apparent. To how many medical students would you willingly entrust the application of winking plaster to a cut finger or the care of a half-guinea umbrella? What surgeon would you not, in an emergency, trust with all you hold dear? You may have preferences and even prejudices, but as a whole the reputation of the profession is above censure.

There is, perhaps, more continuity about the legal profession, but even there it is a notable fact that the older and more successful a lawyer is the more modest you find him, and the more different of his inflexibility. Indeed, several of the most eminent judges are in this matter quite as other men.

But of all others, the divinity student is perhaps the most misunderstood. He is misapprehended by the world, he knows himself, and when he dons tweeds and takes to collars which fasten behind and a clerical coat, he is apt to disown his best self, and often succeeds in persuading himself that he is now, diligent, sedate, zealous of good works, so far removed from the vulgar that he is almost ashamed to be known as a student.

Only sometimes, when he has got his Sunday sermons off his mind, and two or three of the cloth are gathered together, will he venture to lift the veil and show the end of ancient jest and prank not wholly sanctified.

Now, there ought to be room in a gallery which contains so many ministers for first and two students of divinity, faithfully portrayed. And of these the first is Mr. Gilbert Denholm, a boaster of arts, scholar in theology, to his class-fellows more colloquially and generally known as Gibby the Eel.

At college we all loved Gilbert. He was a merry-hearted youth, and his mere presence was enough to make glad the countenance of his friends. His father was a minister in the west, with a large family to bring up, upon a stipend of surprising tenacity. So it behooved Gilbert to keep himself at college by means of scholarships and private tuition. His pupils had a lively time.

It was our one point of resemblance to the primitive church. One day the doctor, peering over his bill, discerned the meek face and beaming smile of Gilbert the Eel in the center of bench—immediately beneath him.

"Ah, Mr. Denholm, will you read for us this morning—beginning at the 23rd verse—of the chapter under consideration?" And he subsided expectantly into his lecture.

Up rose Gilbert, signaling wildly with one hand for the class "Bagster" to be passed to him and meantime grasping at the first text he could see about him. By the time he had read the Greek of the trouble was overcast. Her head in his hands the key of knowledge and translated and passed like a Cunningham Fellow—or any other fellow.

"Very well, Mr. Denholm—very well, indeed, you may sit down while I expound the passage which the Eel ungraciously pitched the faithful 'Bagster' on the bench and disappeared under the seat on a visit to Nicholas McFeat, who sat in the middle of the classroom.

Five minutes—ten—fifteen, the gentle voice droned on, the word 'Herministic' discharging itself at intervals like the pleasing gurgle of an intermittent spring. Then the professor returned suddenly to his Greek textbook.

"Mr. Denholm, you construed very well last time. Be good enough just to continue at the place you left off." Mr. Denholm, where is Mister—Mister Denholm?"

And the moonlike countenance rose from its eclipse behind six volumes of Owen (folio edition), while the two smaller moons in the room shrank and faded themselves upon the vacant place in bench I from which Gibby the Eel had translated so glibly with the efficient aid of "Bagster."

And all through the disastrous exhibition the professor did not withdraw his gaze from the wretched Eel, but continued to rebuke him, as it seemed, for the astral nature of his body.

No better proof can be adduced that the Eel had become temporarily deranged than the fact that now, when it was obvious that the long latent suspicions of the gentle Herministic was at last aroused he refused to abide in his benches, but scornful all strategy and even the unconditional promise of the dress suit, proceeded to crawl down the gallery steps in order to regain position No. 1 in the front seat under the professor's nose.

"Quem Deus perdit vult, prae demerita. Memento, class, at first raised to a state of ecstatic enjoyment by the Eel's misfortunes, then growing a little anxious lest he should go too far, was again subsiding into its wonted peaceful hum like that of one who had been contented but not suddenly became aware that the professor was on his feet in the midst of a stern and awful silence.

"My eye has fallen," he began solemnly, "on what I did not expect to see—I hope the gentleman will remember where he is—and who I am."

During the pronouncement of this allegation, the professor arm was extended and a finger, steady as the finger of Fate, pointed directly at the unhappy Gibby, who, prone in the dust, appeared to be meditating a discourse on the text, "I am a worm and no man."

His head was almost on a level of the floor and his limbs extended far up the gallery stairs. To say that his face was fiery red gives but a faint idea of its color, while a black streak under his eyes proved that the charwomen of the college were not so whitely more diligent than the students thereof.

"What happened after that is a kind of maze, I suppose that Gibby procured a seat here and there and that the lecture proceeded after a fashion. The door was now for certain bursts of unwhispered mirth forced their way through the best linen handkerchiefs rolled hard and used as eyes.

QUESTIONS FOR BRYANITES

Band of Six Handed the Fusionists by a Philippine Soldier.

PRESIDENT POLK AND THE MEXICAN WAR

Quotations from His Messages Applied to Present Conditions—Marked Similarity of War Problems.

ATLANTIC, Ia., Oct. 18.—To the Editor of The Bee: My claims are being made in the acts of the present administration in relation to the questions growing out of our late war with Spain are un-American and without precedent, and as the gentleman who now control the machinery of the democracy are acting just exactly as President Polk and his administration acted during the progress of and at the close of the Mexican war.

In his third annual message to congress December 7, 1847, President Polk, in speaking of the acts of the present administration in relation to the questions growing out of our late war with Spain are un-American and without precedent, and as the gentleman who now control the machinery of the democracy are acting just exactly as President Polk and his administration acted during the progress of and at the close of the Mexican war.

Then again, in submitting the treaty which was finally adopted with Mexico, President Polk, in his special message to the senate on July 6, 1848, said:

The extensive and valuable territories ceded by Mexico to the United States constitute indemnity for the past, and the brilliant achievements before us are the future by convincing all nations that our rights must be respected. The results of the war with Mexico have given to the United States a national character abroad which our country never before enjoyed.

Similarity of Conditions. In answer to the question are we told that we cannot compare the Mexican territory to the Philippines, because Spain was about to lose its power over them and that but for us they would have before now, perhaps, been free from its control.

Enforced by the Army. Again the supporter of Mr. Bryan comes forward and says that the military is enforcing his measures by aid of the army; he is maintaining a military form of government, a thing he has no moral or legal right to do. And again I call attention to the opinion of President Polk, who, in meeting the same argument, in his second annual message, said:

By the laws of nations a conquered country is subject to be governed by the conqueror during his military possession and until there is either a treaty of peace or he shall voluntarily relinquish it. It is the duty of government to maintain its independence and to provide for the maintenance of civil order and the rights of the inhabitants.

and according to the laws of war, been established. It may be proper to provide adequate appropriation for the purpose of erecting fortifications and defraying the expenses necessary incident to the maintenance of our possessions and authority over them.

Party Commendation. From these statements of the great war president, for whom the democratic party has always professed so much respect, we see that the policy of President McKinley is not an exact copy. Both took territory from a conquered foe as indemnity for the expense of war, the territory in both instances might have soon passed beyond the authority of that foe by reason of other causes; neither thought it necessary to ask the inhabitants of that territory if they were willing that the change might be made, and both employed the military power at their command to uphold the temporary governments which they established.

Resolved, That the war with Mexico, provoked on her part by years of insult and injury, was commenced by her army crossing the Rio Grande, attacking the Mexican troops and invading our sister state of Texas, and upon all the principles of patriotism and the laws of nations it is a just and necessary war on our part, in which every American citizen should have shown himself on the side of his country.

Resolved, That we would be rejoiced by the assurance of peace with Mexico, founded on the just principles of indemnity for the past and security for the future, but that while the ratification of the liberal treaty offered to Mexico remains in doubt it is the duty of the country to sustain the administration and to sustain the country in every measure necessary to provide for the vigorous prosecution of the war.

A Gunshot Wound. Some years ago I was shot in the left leg, receiving what I considered only a slight wound. It developed into a running sore and gave me a great deal of pain. I was treated by many doctors, and took a number of blood purifiers, but none of them seemed to do me any good, and I concluded to give it a trial. The result was truly gratifying.

SSS. The Irish Times, Dublin, Ireland: "It will be recognized, we have every reason to say, not alone throughout the American continent, but in all English-speaking parts of the Old World, also as an authority from its fulness, discrimination, variety and ample erudition. It is a monument of American learning and industry. From 'y' publication of the Standard Dictionary, America may date a new period of the country's history."

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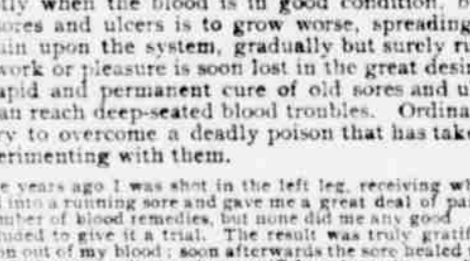
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1848, why is it wrong for President McKinley to take territorial indemnity from Spain in 1900?
2. If every American should have shown himself upon the side of his country and neither morally nor physically by word or deed given aid or comfort to the enemy" in 1848, how can you justify yourselves for aiding both by word and deed the enemy in 1900?
4. If it was "the duty of the country to sustain the administration in every measure for the vigorous prosecution of the war" in 1848, why should it not be the duty of all loyal Americans to sustain the administration in such measures in 1900?

Author is Bankrupt. CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 1, (AP)—The author, yesterday filed a petition in bankruptcy, scheduling liabilities of \$12,750 and assets of \$125.
W. B. EMMERSON.
Mr. F. Richards, recently, the caricaturist on Judge, the New York comedy weekly, will appear at the Press club here Friday afternoon. Mr. Richards is a prominent member of the German Press club of New York City.

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