

"A Christmas Snowball"



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We and Our Neighbors

Battles Won.
In time of battle it is often found that the deserters in the rear are men who have left home to keep from supporting a wife and family. General Grant resigned his commission in the regular army because his salary was inadequate for the support of his family. In this

SEEKS AID IN THE COURTS



The sympathies of nearly every fireman in this country are with Fire Chief Edward Croker of New York, who is making a fight in the courts against his deposition by Fire Commissioner Sturgis.

matter, he endured the censure of friends. A friend said in speaking of the matter:

"We all at this time regarded Grant as a failure."

But there was one who did not consider him a failure, for with his own hands Grant built a home for his wife, and often rode into St. Louis on top of a load of wood to gain money for the support of his family. At Mt. McGregor a fortune-teller foretold the death of Grant on a certain day. At four o'clock the postman brought a letter containing the first draft in payment for his memoirs. Someone spoke of the fortune-teller's prophecy. "I had forgotten it," said Grant. "I have been thinking all day of the future of my wife."

Through long days of suffering he labored on his memoirs in order that, after death, his wife might be raised above want. It was a long hard battle, but Grant won. For many long years Mrs. Grant reaped the benefit of the loving forethought of that faithful heart.

The Little White Bird.

Mrs. J. N. Barrie must have issued a household edict that her husband shall never immortalize her as a character of his books. Years ago, a Scotch review said:

"Barrie is a man who would make 'copy' of his grandmother."

A few months after this criticism, Barrie wrote "Margaret Ogilvy" for the acknowledged purpose of preserving a faithful portrait of his mother.

In his last book "The Little White Bird" he has been obliged to resort to many roundabout and tedious ruses in order to keep his wife out of the book. It would have been much easier could he have pictured her directly, and more interesting to us who have a natural curiosity in regard to the wives of celebrities.

"The Little White Bird" is the characterization of a child. Barrie has described with faithfulness the heart of the mischievous boy in "Sentimental Tommy," the struggles and ambitions of the man in "Tommy and Grizel." In "The Little Minister" he shows that he well understands the heart of a girl.

After these more pretentious heroes and heroines, he turns to a little child and represents the thoughts of his heart with the same faithful touch that in other books has caused us to pause and say: "Did I not at one time in my life think these very thoughts?"

"The Little White Bird" is a book for the mothers of toddling little ones. For the average reader it fails to hold the charm of "The Little Minister" or "A Window in Thrums." The book shows the lack of careful pruning and revision bestowed on earlier works, as though having the assured ear of the public, it becomes possible to take liberties of careless writing. The book lacks the sharply cut clearness of Barrie's previous work. The peculiarities of his style increase with age. In this book he allows his peculiar whimsicality full play. His Barrieisms are thick on every page. Underneath all this caprice is recognized the same warm heart that sees the nobility of soul in a battered old weaver, and the best side of all men's natures instead of their worst qualities. The villains are rare who stalk through the books of J. M. Barrie. Even men of doubtful character are represented with lovable traits. This touch of realism makes Barrie's characters seem of flesh and blood, for in real life none are wholly good or bad, but each a mixture of the two.

It took Barrie four years to write "Sentimental Tommy," and four more years to write "Tommy and Grizel." Is the public to wait four more years for the next Barrie book?

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"BILL" SEWALL

Bill Sewall, the famous old Maine guide, and warm friend of President Roosevelt, has been invited to visit the president at the White House. Mrs. Sewall is included in the invitation. The visit will be made in February and the old couple are now the proudest pair in New York.