



At Forty-Two

I wish I were a boy again—
The sun shines bright and clear;
The streams are running free once
more

And "swimmin' time" is near.
The fishworms wriggle in the ground
A little ways from sight;
The old cane pole says unto me:
"I think the fish will bite."
Alas! Alack! What can I do?
I'm not a boy—I'm forty-two.

I wish I were a boy again—
I would a boy's joys feel;
The sunburned back, the yarn-tied toe,
The aching, stone-bruised heel.
Once more I'd like to wander down
The cool and shady lane
And hear the squirrel, quail and
grouse
Call to me once again.
But I must toil the whole day
through—
I'm not a boy—I'm forty-two.

I wish I were a boy again—
Once more on youth to draw;
To "knuckle down," "vent dubs" and
shoot
My favorite "lag from law."
Once more I'd like to kneel beside
The ring and "plunk" away—
Ah me! 'Twas many years ago,
Yet seems but yesterday.
But yesterday? The years pursue—
I'm not a boy—I'm forty-two.

I wish I were a boy again—
To stand with eager feet
Beside the parting of the ways
Where youth and manhood meet.
To grasp anew life's rugged tasks
With cheerful, trusting heart.
I'd do my best each passing day
To do a better part.
It can not be. I passed once through
The boyhood time—I'm forty-two.

I wish I were a boy again—
Alas, it can not be!
Those happy, joyful days of youth
Will ne'er come back to me.
A boy but once—'tis better so;
'Tis God's eternal plan.
And now 'tis only left to me
To do the best I can.
The best I can? That's what I'll do—
I'll keep on being forty-two.

The Ownership of the Ox

"But," we protested, "the people are
a unit in demanding that you support
this measure."

"I am a servant of the people, it is
true," haughtily replied Senator Grab-
all, "but I am in a position to know
that this measure is wrong—that it
will work a hardship on the people
themselves."

"But that's their business," we in-
sisted. "They pay the bills and cer-
tainly they have a right to their way."

"That's a wrong view to take. The
people should depend upon their ser-
vants for these things; for guidance
in their course of action. I am —"

"Senator," interrupted the private
secretary, entering the room. "I see
you have written here a sentence that
is not correct. I —"

"Sir, how dare you question what
I do?"

"But, sir; this —"
"No more, sir; let it go as written.
That is my business concern, not
yours, and I pay you to do my bid-
ding."

The secretary bowed low and re-
tired. Realizing the futility of trying
to show Senator Graball the incon-
sistency of his course we followed the
secretary.

A Little Fable

Once upon a time a man of means
bulldozed a beautiful office building
twenty stories high, fitting up the
rooms with great care, supplying safe-
ty vaults, fire escapes, tiled floors and
ornamental lighting fixtures. Then
he advertised for tenants.

"But you have provided no eleva-
tor," said the first applicant, "and you
have no stairway."

"Quite true," said the owner. "But
you will observe I have left several
shafts in which elevators may be run."
"But what is the good of that with-
out the elevators?" queried the appli-
cant.

"O, that's all right," said the own-
er. "As soon as I get a few tenants
I will give some man or corporation a
franchise to operate an elevator, leav-
ing him free to make all he can out of
the service."

With a scornful laugh the applicant
turned away and would have no more
dealings with the owner of the beau-
tiful building.

Moral: The people are rapidly grasp-
ing it. What is the difference between
an elevator that runs perpendicularly
in a building, and an "elevator" that
runs laterally through the streets?

Of Course

"It is not true that I receive rebates
from the railroads," indignantly cried
the great manufacturer and refiner.

"But I can manufacture and refine
as cheaply as you, and yet you under-
sell me and make a profit," com-
plained the small manufacturer.

"I reiterate that rebates have noth-
ing to do with it," insisted the mag-
nate.

After the complainant had retired
the magnate remarked sotto voice:

"Of course, the fact that I own most
of the railroads has nothing to do with
the case."

Smiling a knowing smile the mag-
nate proceeded to add to his reputa-
tion for philanthropy by drawing an-
other check.

Different Now

"The time hangs heavy on my hands,"
The poet sadly wrote.
'Tis different now. Since then he
signed

A promissory note.
And now the way days chase the days
Doth fill that poet with amaze.

Odd

"That fellow, Hardhedde, is a queer
sort of duffer."

"What makes you think so?"
"O, he graduated in my class, and
he had the nerve to insist that our
class motto be written in common
English."

Good Reason

"Why did you quit Beasley's res-
taurant and go to Bardsley's?"

"Well, because Beasley's cooking
was English and the bill of fare
French, while Bardsley's cooking is
French and the bill of fare English."

Brain Leaks

Policy honesty is akin to dishon-
esty.

Civic virtue must be grounded in in-
dividual honesty.

The man who believes is the man
who achieves.

Good nature rounds off most of the
sharp corners of life.

It does not take a man-made law
to define a moral wrong.

The man who fears death has not
yet begun learning how to live.

Some men are prone to attribute the
results of their foolishness to fate.

Some advocates of temperance are
very intemperate in their advocacy of
it.

The more you put into life the great-
er will be your returns on the invest-
ment.

Some people rest today as a reward
for the work they expect to do tomor-
row.

If dividing the swag made philan-
thropists, highwaymen could wear
halos.

The world is prone to look upon con-
science fund contributions as phil-
anthropy.

The crosses that we make for our
own shoulders are not of the kind that
will win crowns.

The ability to give coupled with
giving is not enough. There must be
a desire to give.

The man who makes his religion a
thing of dreariness and woe would
better be looking for another kind.

The man who is good merely in or-
der to gain a reward hereafter, loses
the larger share of the reward before
it is due.

The man who says, "O, everything
will come out all right," is not a true
optimist; he is merely an obstruction-
ist.

If the most of us were really hon-
est we would admit that we would
rather read about grand opera than to
hear it.

The average woman's conception of
a good husband is a man who can
enjoy the home dinner on house-clean-
ing day.

The older we get the more impatient
we become when we see a man who
covers himself all over with badges
when he goes to a convention.

The experienced housewife has a
poor opinion of the knowledge of the
man who first said that "a new broom
sweeps clean." She knows better.

If politics is a "dirty business" it is
not because a majority of the people
are dishonest, but because a majority
of the people are merely careless.

The church that fawns for the favor
of the rich need not ask the question,
"Why is it the laboring classes do
not attend divine services more regu-
larly?"

Speaking about "the good old days,"
the only kind we'd give a snap for
would be a return of those wherein
we were a barefooted boy, clad in a
roundabout and headed for grandma's
over Sunday.

The true reformer never worries
about results. The old colored man
betrayed the true faith when he said:
"If the Lord tell me to butt my head
through a stone wall, I'se gwine to
begin buttin'. Buttin' is my part of
the work; gettin' through the wall is
the Lord's part."

Judge Dunne in New York

Edward F. Dunne, Chicago's may-
or-elect, addressed a large meeting at
Cooper Union Hall in New York, on
the evening of April 7. The meeting
was held under the auspices of the
Municipal Ownership league of New
York city. The Associated Press re-
port says that Judge Dunne's speech
was enthusiastically received and that
the recent agitation in New York for
municipal ownership added interest to
his utterances. Following are extracts
from Judge Dunne's speech:

"Men of the east, we bring you tid-
ings of great joy from the men of the
west. The exploitation of public prop-
erty by private capital, with its at-
tendant greed, extortion, and corrup-
tion, has had its day in American
cities, but that day is about to end.

Next Monday Chicago starts upon her
mission of dislodging private capital
from the control of our street car sys-
tem. She has succeeded in the opera-
tion of her waterworks system, in pay-
ing some \$33,000,000 for its equipment,
has lent \$5,000,000 from that depart-
ment to the sewer system, is today
giving the cheapest water of probably
any city in America, and has a cash
surplus of nearly \$1,000,000. She has
so managed her electric light plant
that she has reduced the cost of arc
lamps from \$123 to about \$54 per arc
lamp per annum. She is operating
both departments as well as her pol-
ice, fire and educational departments,
without scandal, graft or corruption,
besides cheapening the cost of utilities
furnished to the public. She will have
the same record of success in relation
to her street car system.

"The citizens of Chicago have been
educated up to the fact that a munic-
ipality can operate any of the public
utilities with much greater satisfaction
to the people than can the same util-
ities be operated by private capitalists.
They have learned wherever a city in
any portion of the civilized world has
taken over the operation of its water-
works, gas plant, electric light plant
or street railway system, that in every
case, when fairly tried, the cost of this
utility to the public has been reduced,
the wages of the men who operate

them increased, the day reduced and
more efficient service rendered.

"The only two serious objections
raised during the recent struggle in
Chicago against public ownership of
public utilities are:

"That it would tend to build up a
great political machine. None of the
friends of municipal ownership in Chi-
cago or elsewhere advocates the own-
ership and operation of any utility by
municipalities unless in connection
therewith there is a civil service law
under which all applicants for posi-
tion, irrespective of politics, will be
treated exactly alike and under which
just and reasonable tests will be ap-
plied to public servants to ascertain
their fitness to perform the work en-
tailed upon them.

"The only other serious objection
urged in Chicago was that the munic-
ipality had no money. There is no
force whatever in the objection. The
operation of these utilities, either by
public or private persons, is a valu-
able privilege. We propose to raise all
the money necessary to purchase an
up-to-date street car system upon cer-
tificates which are special or limited
promises to pay out of the income col-
lected from the system.

"Under the law of the state of Illi-
nois these certificates are termed
street car certificates and are secured
in three ways:

"First—By the pledge of all of the
income of the municipal railway plant,
this income being unlimited as to time.

"Second—These certificates are se-
cured by a mortgage which conveys
all of the tangible property in the
transportation department of the city,
both real, personal and mixed, and
every kind of property used in the
transportation department.

"Third—These certificates are se-
cured by twenty-year franchise.

"This security, in my judgment, is
much better security than the private
companies in the past have been able
to offer, either to their stock or bond-
holders. Private companies in the
past have been able to sell stocks and
bonds aggregating in value \$117,000,-
000 when their tangible property was