



Whether Common or Not

By Will M. Maupin.

Content

I have no speedy private yacht,
No racing auto mine,
I have no diamonds rich and rare,
Nor brown stone mansion fine.
I have no power to corner food,
No railroads I control;
I can not force great tribute from
The poor who must have coal.

But I have what no gold can buy—
For loved ones watch and wait
Each evening as the daylight dies
Beside my cottage gate.
No gold have I, but better far,
I've health and conscience clear;
And what I have is e'er unsoiled
By blood or bitter tear.

I have no racing stable grand,
No mansion by the sea;
I have no cellars stocked with wines,
No servants wait on me,
No liveried footman stands on guard
To wait my beck and call;
No polished floor nor Persian rugs
Adorn each room and hall.

But I have something better far
That all these signs of wealth;
I've two strong arms with which to
work
And love and home and health.
A cheerful welcome waits for me
Each evening at my door;
And baby's playthings speak to me
When scattered o'er the floor.

I envy not their vaunted wealth,
I envy not their power,
For them the birds no sweeter sing,
No sweeter smells the flower,
No brighter shines the sun for them,
No softer blows the breeze—
And I am happy as a king
With loved ones on my knees.

Limerick

A young man in far Santa Fe
Fell in love with a maiden named Me.
When asked if she'd wed
The fair maiden sed:
"I'm compelled now to answer you
ne."

Very Common

"Saw a wonderful freak this morn-
ing."
"What was it?"
"A chicken with four wings, and
four legs and four heads."
"Hub, that was no freak. Such
chickens are very common. We have
'em right along at our boarding
house."

Resilient

"What are you looking at me for,
Willie?" asked Mr. Sophtleigh.
"I'm just waiting to see if you'll
bounce."
"Why, Willie; what on earth do
you mean?" exclaimed the big sis-
ter.
"Didn't you say you was a goin'
to drop him?" asked Willie. "I'm just
waitin' to see if he'll bounce, I said."

By Proxy

"I assisted in building a public li-
brary in my home town last week."
"I didn't know you had turned phil-
-anthropist."
"O, I've been doing that sort of
-thing for some time."
"It's strange I never heard of it
before."
"The reason you haven't is that I've
-been doing it by proxy."
"How's that?"
"Been contributing to the steel trust,
the meat trust, the wool trust, and all
the rest of them right along for
years."

Preparation

The manager of the big trust was nervous.

"The commissioner will begin his examination of my business tomorrow, and something must be done. What shall it be?"

Suddenly a smile illumined his features.

"Just the thing!" he exclaimed. Calling his superintendent into the office he said:

"Order three gallons of red ink and have the bookkeepers get the ledgers ready for an examination by the commissioner."

Brave

The commander of the advance guard wanted somebody to scout into the enemy's territory and locate his exact numerical strength.

"It will require a cool, brave nerry man," said the commander. "One willing to take his life in his hands. Who will volunteer?"

Immediately several men stepped forward.

"Thank you, my brave comrades. But which one of you shall I appoint?"

"Appoint me, sir," shouted one. "Have you any particular claim to the post?"

"Yes, sir; I once volunteered to officiate as judge at a county baby show."

Instantly the troops burst into loud applause, and the commander felt that he had found the man with requisite nerve.

The Pass Evil

Nebraska is not, perhaps, worse than many another state in the matter of railroad passes, therefore the following Nebraska incident may have been paralleled more than once in other states:

Not many months ago a man was drawn for jury duty, and immediately he sat down and wrote to the management of the railroad that traversed his town, explaining that he was drawn as a juror and asking for transportation. The pass was sent him and he used it to travel to the county seat. While in the jury box a damage suit against the railroad company was called, and he was objected to by the plaintiff on the ground that he has used a pass furnished by that railroad. The judge sustained the objection and the juror was dismissed from the panel, his honor making some strong remarks concerning the matter.

And while that judge was severely criticising the juror, that same judge had in his pocket an annual pass over that same railroad good for himself and family.

And here is another incident that actually happened in Nebraska:

A liquor dealer in a western city was arrested on the charge of having violated the excise law. When the jury to try the case had been sworn in and the taking of evidence started, it was developed that the defendant had sent a gallon of extra fine brandy to a juror in the box.

The judge immediately dismissed the jury, denounced the juror for having accepted the gift from the defendant, and then fined the defendant for contempt of court. When that had been done the judge called a case wherein a railroad corporation was interested. The case was tried, and the judge who had fined the liquor dealer for giving a gallon of brandy to a juror sat on the bench during the hearing of the railroad case with an annual pass in his pocket from the

railroad that was a party to the suit. If the liquor dealer was guilty of contempt or attempted bribery for having given some brandy to a juror, what about the railroad that gave an annual pass to the judge?

Choice

"I absolutely refuse to take any part in politics," said the Great Magnate in a tone of disgust.

Naturally we asked him for his reason, being interested in politics to a considerable extent.

"Because politics is a dirty business," replied the Great Magnate, "and I will not soil my hands with it."

We felt amply able to point out the error of his conclusions, but did not take time to do so, knowing that the Great Magnate was a busy man. Bowing we left him.

Then the Great Magnate, who would not soil his hands with politics, resumed his work of laying plans to corner the food crops of the world, and also gave orders that would crush a small rival who had the temerity to insist that he had a right to live and engage in business without the permission of the Great Magnate. A few blocks away a man committed suicide because he had been thrown out of work by the closing down of a factory by the Great Magnate, who wanted to limit production in order to raise prices. In police court a man was sent to jail for stealing a loaf of bread to succor his starving wife and children, having been forced to this desperate strait because the Great Magnate's greed for gold had closed down another factory in order to limit output.

But the Great Magnate was too honest and clean to take part in politics because it was too dirty a business.

However he took good care that a congressman should be elected who would prevent tariff revision and he owned a senator who could be depended on to thwart any legislation in the interests of the people and against the selfish interests of the other Great Magnates.

Knowing all this we wondered that men should hold such peculiar views of cleanliness.

Brain Leaks

Sin is sexless.

The real reformer begins with himself.

A man is never alone when he has the company of a good book.

We usually profit most from the sermon that touches our raw spots.

It is better to think a little first than to do a lot of regretting afterwards.

The man who looks at the world through self always has a blurred vision.

Considering his reputation for wisdom Solomon foolishly frittered away some wonderful opportunities.

It has come to pass that there is a vast difference between appealing to law and appealing to justice.

One way to foolishly waste time is to spend today planning to do tomorrow what should have been done yesterday.

If you told a man while he lived what you put on his tombstone after he dies, it would have helped him more.

Our chief reason for listening to Wagner music is that it makes us appreciate all the more the music always played as an encore.

We would like to experience the sensation of being able to throw a shoe at the alarm clock and then roll over and go to sleep again.

If our gardens produced as much during the summer as we plan they

MY BOOK AND MY SONG

I printed a book once—and wrote a song once. Now I want to sell both. To prevent any argument I will admit that book and song are both good.

The book contains poems and sketches that have been contributed by me to *The Commoner*. It also contains 275 pages. And, too, it contains a couple of hundred dollars that I have as yet been unable to get out. The price of the book is \$1, postpaid—and it is worth more.

The song is "A Picture of My Mother When a Girl." I wrote the words. Mr. Will O'Shea, now deceased, wrote the music. It is published in full sheet music form with handsome title page. The regular price of such sheet music is 50 cents.

BOOK AND SONG FOR \$1.00

I will send you both book and song for one dollar and pay the postage. This offer is good only during May. If you give me an order and think you have not received your money's worth, I'll return the money and you may return the book and song. Address

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shall when we pick up the hoe for the first time, the produce market would be glutted.

When some railroad man frames up a time card that the public can readily understand we will insist that he be presented with a Carnegie medal for heroism.

The man who is too selfish to pay his share of the expense incurred in securing the benefits he enjoys is not a fit associate for the men whose toil and sacrifice have brought about the benefits.

When it comes to pass that the balmy winds and warm sun of a spring day do not make you yearn for a day in the woods, it is a sign that you are thinking too much of the dollar and not enough of life.

TRICKY BRAIN CELL

The anatomy of the nervous system and consequently its physiology was regarded in the past as very simple. Cayal showed that the specific brain cell is an independent unit provided with multiple processes, by means of which it is capable of acting not through one nerve alone, but several. The independent brain unit or cell is called a neuron.

A simple illustration of how the neuron works is furnished by our not infrequent hunt for a name or an idea which we know we possess. We feel that the name is there, but we can not recall it. We get various names near it, beginning even with the same letter or the same vowel sound, yet only after minutes or even hours does it actually occur to us.

What is supposed to happen is that the particular cell of intellection which we are using throws out its process among the cells of memory for names and through this process is brought in connection with cells containing similar names; it is only after a more or less prolonged search that it hits on the right one. It is as if the telephone operator in the central office felt around blindly for the connection wanted and only after putting the plug into various holes eventually struck the proper one.—Booklover's Magazine.

NOT VERY SICK

But you will be if you neglect to get relief from those dizzy, faint and hungry spells, hot flushes, shortness of breath, etc., which tell you your heart is weak, and unable to purify the blood. Dr. Miles' Heart Cure will give such relief, by strengthening the nerves and muscles of the heart. It's so sure that it is sold on a guarantee to refund price if first bottle fails to benefit.