



Daddy's Evening Fairy Tale

MARY GRAHAM BONNER

THE XMAS DAYS

The days were much excited. "Oh," said Monday, "I can hardly wait."

"I have been waiting for this for quite a few years now."

"And that was very true. For Father Week's children, the Days, were talking of the times they each had in the joy of being Xmas."

"I remember," said Tuesday, "that one year I had an especially interesting time. For some time I had seen two little girls giving their dolls Xmas presents."

"One little girl's name was Alice and she made the little friend's doll a small knitted skirt and a cap and a long petticoat and long dress. For the friend's dolly was a baby dolly still in long clothes."

"The friend's name was Margaret. Well, I had not noticed, especially for a number of times, and there was a good long time between each occasion when I appeared for Xmas—whether Alice and Margaret still gave each other presents. For I had heard them say when they were rather grownup that they were going to give each other presents instead of to their dolls."

"I wondered if they still kept it up. And the last time I appeared I gave a point of seeing."

"And sure enough, Alice had given Margaret—quite a grownup lady—a lovely little dish with a narcissus bulb in it for her to watch and grow, and Margaret had given Alice a little paper cutter and a chocolate Santa Claus."

"It rejoiced my heart to see them still keeping up the happy Xmas spirit."

"I remember," said Wednesday, "of the last Xmas I was doing duty. Oh, what a day it was. There was a gorgeous sunrise in the morning."

"Now when I speak of the beauties of the day, everyone knows I am not conceited, for it was Old Weather Boy and King Snow and Mr. Sun, and all the other friends who made it so beautiful a day."

"In the afternoon before the sun went down there was a gloriously rich golden amber glow over the snow, and in the very air it seemed."

"Oh, such a gorgeous light as it was, so rich and perfect. And then came a beautiful sunset, and in the evening the stars came out and the Diamond

"All in Readiness."

Brothers, the Sky's own jewelers, you know, and there was the greatest Snow Sparkling Festival there had ever been."

"Some people had a tree out in their yard and on it were red and green and yellow and blue lights, and on top a star was lighted up, too."

"Well, King Snow was anxious to see what was going on. Now, as he came looking about him the lovely robe that he wears dropped some fragments and pieces about, and these flakes of snow fell on the tree."

"How lovely they did make it!"

"And everywhere King Snow did the same so that just a little snow was scattered here and there on everything. Such a perfect Xmas as it was!"

"Last year," said Saturday, "it got cold just before Xmas. I remember that it blew up cold and everyone was so pleased."

"And it blew up cold just in time, too."

"Well," said Monday, "I must be all in readiness. Sunday will be coming back now."

"Oh," said the other days, "what fun it will be to hear what Sunday has to tell us, for Sunday has been Xmas Eve this year."

"And when you both get back and start talking of all you have seen and heard what a time we will have."

"And you mustn't do all your talking before I get back," said Tuesday. "We must all hear the Xmas news."

"Oh yes," said Monday, "we will tell all every bit of Xmas news—but it must be off now. And oh, what joy it will be to be the day again upon everyone says: 'The Xmas!'"

Method. "It raining, little boy," said the man; "why do you carry your umbrella? You don't think it's raining?"

"Not shining."

NOT A HERO TO OLDTIMER

Veteran of Hannibal Could Not Be Forced to Admit Greatness of Mark Twain.

A scribe in search of Mark Twain material was pestering some of the gray-beards of Hannibal. He found one who confessed to being a few years older than the famous humorist. In their boyhood days they had attended school together, foraged about on Pirates Island, climbed Holiday hill and pushed big stones over the brink, and carried out pretty faithfully the program as described in "Tom Sawyer."

But while the visitor was asking questions he noticed the old timer was not impressed. So he asked: "Innocents Abroad" was a great book, don't you think?"

"I reckon so—I never read it."

"And everybody says 'Huck Finn' was a masterpiece?"

"Uh-huh!"

"And 'Tom Sawyer,' the visitor said, 'was practically a story of Hannibal—you certainly liked that?'"

"Oh, I guess it was all right for kids," admitted the boyhood chum, "but grownups don't see so awful much in it from what I hear."

"Don't you think Mark Twain was a great man?"

"They say he was," evaded the old timer. "But I beat him once in a spellin' match."—Kansas City Star.

PROTEST MADE BY MUSCLES

Important Parts of the Human Body That Occasionally Cause Trouble by Going "On Strike."

When the brain calls upon any particular group of muscles to perform the same action over and over again they are apt to show their dissatisfaction by declaring a strike.

A typical case in point is "tennis elbow," from which complaint most ardent devotees of the game have suffered at some time or other.

The symptoms vary from mere stiffness of the elbow joint to severe cramp, culminating in some instances in temporary inability to use the arm for any purpose. Sometimes, too, there is a painful swelling of the forearm.

A kindred complaint is "tennis leg," which affects in a somewhat similar manner the muscles of the calves and the knee joints. Another example where the leg muscles are the victims is afforded by "riders' sprain," a complaint to which polo players are found to be peculiarly liable.

Then, again, there is a complaint which is called "bowler's side," brought about through straining the abdominal muscles.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Modifying Goldfish.

Many of the grotesque forms which mark some of the popular types of goldfish are the outcome of centuries of laborious work by the patient, persevering and ingenious Japanese, in taking advantage of some curious freak of nature. It is a well-known fact if fish eggs be given a jarring at a certain stage, or, more specifically, about the "eyeing" period, monstrosities may be produced. This occurs frequently among brook trout, the most common irregularities being hump-back and looped. It is said that when the Japanese discovered this peculiarity they selected from their golden camp a pair of the most pronounced monstrosities, similar in form, reared them and bred from them. The most marked of this progeny were again selected and bred, and this process continued until a desired type was produced and fairly fixed by hatching without the jarring. Thus were produced the fringed-tails, the balloon shape, the telescope, and some other of the outlandish forms seen in aquariums.

Spotting a Future Politician.

I observe a group of small boys in a West End street. One had been annoying another who was a little bigger. Finally the bigger boy chased the smaller one, who ran for protection to the biggest boy in the group.

The smaller boy obviously deserved chastisement, but his pursuer was much stronger than he was. The biggest boy thought it over a moment, then rendered judgment: "No hard hittings!"

Value of Gypsum in Land.

Edmund Rollin, one of the early soil experts of the United States, said in 1832: "All other manures, whatever be the nature of their action, require to be applied in quantities far exceeding any bulk of crop expected from their use. But one bushel of gypsum spread over an acre of land fit for its action may add more than twenty times its own weight to a single crop of clover."

THE ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Russel Taylor, Pastor

It was a glorious Easter and enjoyed by the usual congregation at St. Paul's. The music was one grand united volume of praise entered into by the entire congregation. The choir was in its place and rendered good service. Three were welcomed into full communion during the day. May every member enter upon the new church year with determination and energy.

Sunday morning the pastor will have for his sermon topic, "Jesus the Life and Light of Men." The evening service will be given over to a song service and the discussion of the "Christian Endeavor topic, 'What are the Wise and Unwise Uses of the Lord's Day?'"—Isaiah 58:8-14. Pa. 118:24. Mr. Elbert M. Taylor will lead the meeting.

No "Old Maids" in Russia.

A Russian girl of much over twenty who is unmarried (unless she is a nun) feels herself, and is thought to be, deeply disgraced. In Russia there are no old maids. Every woman in Russia marries or pretends to marry, be she princess or peasant. When a Russian girl realizes that no one is coming to woo her, she leaves home. The peasant girl goes on a pilgrimage, settles in some distant district as a widow, or returns home saying that she married while away, and that her husband died during the honeymoon.

The young lady goes upon far travels. In a year or two her friends hear that she has married abroad—

an Englishman, an Italian, or an American. A year or two more and she returns to Russia, an inconsolable widow. And she is never asked embarrassing questions. For in Russia nothing is considered in worse form than to mention a dead man to his living widow.

Civil War Conscription.

During the Civil war both sides resorted to conscription. May 3, 1863, the Federalists passed a law calling every able-bodied citizen of military age into service. However, many persons were able to buy themselves off in payment of \$300, or by obtaining a substitute. In July of the same year the Union called all men between eighteen and forty-five into active service, without provision for exemption. In February, 1864, the law was amended to include all between seventeen and fifty. Unpopularity of conscription caused draft riots in New York and other places.

The first Confederate conscription law of April, 1862, annulled all contracts for volunteers for short terms, holding them for two years, and made every white male between eighteen and twenty-five liable to service at a moment's notice. In September, 1862, the law was extended to all men between eighteen and forty-five.

Animal Sees Itself in Mirror.

A mirror is one of the toys which monkeys delight to play with. All animals can see a reflection in a glass, if it is held in the right position, that is, at an angle at which their eyes can focus upon it. Even hen, however, it may not recognize the image. The reflection has, it is true, form, but it lacks other characteristics, such as smell, and many beasts will turn away bored from that looks something like an animal, but obviously isn't. On the other hand, another animal will recognize the image as one of its kind, and will exhibit every symptom of curiosity, fear, or hate. But in no case does the animal appear to recognize the reflection as that of itself.

JOHN ADAMS, ATTORNEY

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

In the County Court of Douglas County, Nebraska. In the Matter of the Estate of Jennie M. Kinney, Deceased. All persons interested in said estate are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in said Court alleging that said deceased died leaving no last will and praying for administration upon his estate, and that a hearing will be had on said petition before said Court on the 20th day of April, 1923, and that if they fail to appear at said Court on the said 20th day of April, 1923, at 9 o'clock A. M. to contest the said petition, the Court may grant the same and grant administration of said estate to Horace Kinney or some other suitable person and proceed to a settlement thereof.

BRYCE CRAWFORD, (3t-3-2-23) County Judge.

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