



Whether Common or Not

By WILL N. MAUPIN.

The Patriot's Prayer

I know oft times the way is hard
My feet must tread,
My journey thorns and rocks retard,
And nets are spread,
So give me, Lord, the strength that
Thou alone
Can give to make my burden light.
Give me, I pray, a faith that will abide,
A faith that I shall see, whate'er be-
tide,
The final triumph of the right.

Though gloomy clouds obscure the sun
And blot the day;
And small doth seem the tasks I've
done
Along the way,
Yet still I pray that Thou, O Lord, will
give
My weary eyes a clearer sight
That I may seek beyond the clouds and
see
With eyes of hope the final victory
And triumph of the right.

Plant in my heart a deep, abiding love
For fellow men;
And teach me, Lord, to put their rights
above
My ease—and then
Give me the faith and hope to do and
dare
That I may labor with my utmost
might;
Give to my heart a love abiding, deep,
To make me for my weaker brother
keep
In mind respect for ev'ry human
right.

In Doubt

"Have you made the acquaintance of
Webberly yet?"
"Yes. What does he do?"
"Well, I am in doubt. Every time
I meet him he smells of gasoline and
I don't know whether he owns an au-
tomobile, drives a tank wagon or has
been cleaning his clothes."

Sarcastic

"What do you think my wife did the
other night when I came home so late?"
"Lectured you good, eh?"
"Nope. She opened the door, let me
in, and then handed me the dictionary
without so much as opening her
mouth."

The Ownership of the Ox

The Prominent Citizen stood shiv-
ering on the corner, waiting for the
10:10 car.

"Not much!" exclaimed the P. C.
"I am opposed to municipal ownership
of public utilities. Private corporations
can manage these things much better."

"But do you not think that —"
"Think nothing!" shouted the P. C.
"Private ownership is the thing. Now,
if we had irresponsible public owner-
ship during this severe weather where
would we be? With no responsible
management the cars would be irregu-
lar and we—where'n Sam Hill is that
car? I've been here twenty minutes,
and we are supposed to have a ten
minute service."

"But with private ownership and a
monopoly, don't you see that we are
at the mercy of —"

"No, sir! No public ownership for
me. We get good service when pri-
vate corporations have control and—
confound that car! I'll be late for
lunch. What's the matter?"

"Flake o' snow fell on a rail up
street," piped a small boy. "Stuck the
cars."

"That's just the way," growled the
P. C. "These public utility corpora-

tions have no regard for the rights of
the people. It is time that we teach
'em a lesson. We ought to —"
"Have public ownership, eh?"
But the Prominent Citizen had piked
off through the snow, muttering to
himself.

In Season

He bought a stove for fifty plunks
Of the self-feeding kind.
Since then he's found his coal account
Is running far behind.
And now he's making earnest search
And hoping that he soon
Can find another kind of stove.
And feed it with a spoon.

"By Special Cable"

"Consuelo has an earache!" Thus the
fateful news was sped
O'er three thousand miles of cable
laid upon the ocean's bed.
"Consuelo had an earache," and it
gave her such a twist
That she had to leave the table and
throw up her hand at whist.
To an obscure page was shunted news
of Russia and Japan;
For St. Petersburg and Moscow news
I vainly search and scan.
For some news of vaster value had the
right of way, you know—
"Consuelo had an earache"—and the
cable told us so.

"Consuelo had an earache!" Kuropat-
kin, to the rear!!
What are campaign plans, I ask you,
by dear Consuelo's ear?
"Consuelo had an earache!" Nogi,
hike to you rear seat!
You're all right to make a filler, but
our duchess has you beat.
Wars and riots are back numbers,
great reforms take second place;
Czar and peasants are forgotten, we've
some sad news from her grace.
And we seize our daily paper and its
columns we peruse—
"Consuelo had an earache"—and the
cable told the news.

"Consuelo had an earache!" And the
vaunted "open door"
May shut fast and smash our fingers
and we'll never make a roar.
"Consuelo had an earache!" What are
tariffs, trusts and rates?
'Tis such news from o'er the ocean
that our being agitates.
Shrieking headlines charm no longer,
double-leaded stuff we shun,
And adown the printed column anx-
ious eyes now quickly run,
For our souls are sick with anguish
and our hearts chock full of
woe—
"Consuelo had an earache"—and the
cable told us so.

Of Course

The group around the radiator in the
hotel had been discussing things in
general for a couple of hours and the
topic of conversation gradually drifted
around to government supervision of
railroad rates.

The cattleman, the representatives
of the wholesale grocery and dry goods
houses, the retail merchant, and the
half-dozen consumers were unanimous
in declaring that the government
should exercise supervision.

"Gentlemen, such a proposition is
revolutionary, socialistic, anarchistic,
contrary to the fundamental ideas of
our government, subversive of states
rights, dangerously near centralization
and unjust to vested rights," exclaimed
the pompous and well-fed man sitting

closest to the radiator. "It means the
destruction of private enterprise, the
withering of private initiative, and cal-
culated to build up a governmental ma-
chine that will enable the administra-
tion in power to perpetuate itself and
breed a monarchy."

This and more did the pompous gen-
tleman say. When he paused for
breath the cattlemen asked:

"Pardon me, sir; but might I en-
quire who you are?"

"Yes, sir!" said the pompous gentle-
man. "My card."

As the card was passed around the
assembly read:

P. MIERPCNT JORGAN

Traffic Manager
D., Q. & X. Ry.

Brain Leaks

There is no honor among thieves.

Honor is easier retained than found
after once being lost.

The longest way around the bar room
is the shortest way home.

We would rather have the reputa-
tion of some men than their character.

There is a vast difference between
being a cross bear and a cross bearer.

Some politicians who think they are
fooling the people are merely fooling
themselves.

The wise merchant believes in signs
—and uses them in the shape of ad-
vertisements.

A man may be sure that he is grow-
ing old when he begins wondering if
he looks his age.

Those who work hardest to get
something to eat are the ones who
most enjoy eating.

It has been said that the great poets
are all dead—and the others are hav-
ing a hard time making a living.

Not all the funny sayings attributed
to children have their origin with the
funny papers. A Lincoln little girl sat
down to the breakfast table the other
morning and plaintively remarked:
"O, mamma; I'm getting so tired of
these milkweed cakes."

A Good Almanac

The Baltimore Sun, with its usual
promptness, has placed its almanac for
1905 upon the market. It contains a
great deal of interesting information,
including the platforms of the vari-
ous parties and the election returns
of last year.

The Other Way Round

"Does your annual salary never dis-
turb you?" asked the conscientious cit-
izen. "Do you feel that you are giving
the voters anything for your money?"

"I confess," said Senator Sorghum,
"that I never thought about it in that
light. I have been interested in see-
ing whether the voters could be per-
suaded to give me anything for my
money."—Washington Star.

A Coal Eater

The total coal production of the
United States is now at the rate of
1,000,000 tons per day, and the con-
sumption of coal by railroads is equal
to 40 per cent of this, or 400,000 tons
per day. The fuel bill of a railroad
contributes about 10 per cent of the
total expense of operation and 30 to
40 per cent of the total cost of run-
ning the locomotives. A locomotive
will consume on an average \$5,000
worth of coal per annum, and for a
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comotives the coal bill is approximat-
ely \$5,000,000.

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