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**JOHN M. STAHL, Dept. CO QUINCY ILL.**



**Waiting**

Waiting, only waiting, till the buds begin to swell;  
Till the birds are once more flitting, and singing through the dell;  
Till the springtime casts upon me its rejuvenating spell,  
And the bass and croppie rise to take the bait.  
Yearning for a chance to wander once again through leafy wood;  
Down the stream to where last summer on the bank I gladly stood,  
Throwing out my line and finding fishing was extremely good,  
And I find it awful hard to sit and wait.

When at last from icy prison all the shining streams are free;  
When they sing their songs of joy-time as they hasten to the sea,  
Then its glad goodby to toiling and its to the streams for me  
With my tacklebox and trusty rod and reel.  
Down the winding stream I'll wander till the sun is lost to sight;  
Then to home I'll be returning in the waning hours of light,  
Limbs aweary, care-free, happy, and enormous appetite,  
And the joy that only fishermen can feel!

oft when wintry winds are blowing and I see the drifting snow  
To the attic room I wander in the twilight's fading glow,  
Joint the old steel rod and gladly set it swishing to and fro,  
Thinking of the care-free days that soon will come.  
In my dreams I see the waters as they ripple on the shore;  
In my dreams I feel the breezes of the summer days of yore,  
And in dreams I hear the music of the singing reel once more  
As the taut line 'neath the strain begins to hum.

Waiting, only waiting, till the woods are clothed in green  
And the sun upon the water shines again in silv'ry sheen,  
And the love birds in the branches in their gladness coo and preen,  
And Dame Nature clothes the world in love and joy.  
Then I'll lay aside my worries and forget that I am gray;  
I'll forget my weary burdens and go laughing on my way;  
Politics and trade and barter I'll forget and for a day  
I'll throw off the gathered years and be a boy.

**Memories of Spring**

The springs are not what they used to be. There is something lacking. When the trees begin to leaf we miss the old-time feeling of joy. Perhaps that is due to sluggishness of the blood superinduced by advancing age. Wonder if some of the old-time spring remedies would not help?  
There's sassafras tea, for instance. It makes us sick at the stomach to think of it, but it might help some. Do you remember the old days of spring when mother began making sassafras tea and made us drink it by the quart every morning? It was the sovereign blood remedy in those old days. The theory was that during the winter the blood became thick and sluggish, and that unless it was thinned and purified in the spring the summer would go awfully hard with us.  
So about the first of March we

were put on the sassafras tea diet, and we were kept there until our blood was so thin we'd bleed at the nose at the slightest exertion. Then we were considered in good shape for the summer.

Then some one was seized with the idea that sulphur and cream tartar made just the right kind of a spring medicine. So mother made a peck or two of the mixture and fed it to us with a tablespoon. Uh! how that stuff used to cake against the roof of the mouth and make us choke until we were black in the face!

Then, for a change, we had to take sulphur and molasses. We've had to take that stuff until the thoughts we had would have smelled like the sulphur had we given expression to them.

The children are beginning to talk about Easter now. While the grown girls are thinking about new bonnets and gowns, the grown boys are wishing they could sneak the eggs from the nests and hold them out until Easter morning. Then, if they could they would chase off into the damp woods and build a fire somewhere out of sight, and either roast the eggs in the ashes or boil them in an old tin can. Somehow or other eggs always tasted better when procured in that way and cooked over a fire in the woods on Easter morning. The boy who could eat the greatest number was the hero of the gang until some other stunt fastened itself upon the boyish minds. The grown boy who is indulging in these memories remembers of having gotten outside of twenty-two eggs one Easter, but he was an awfully poor second to Ace White, who passed the thirty mark.

Wouldn't you like to throw off about two-thirds of your years and spend another week in the sugar bush? Gee, when the sap begins to run and "tap time" is at hand, we get so nervous thinking of the old sugar bush—the Owens' bush in central Illinois—that we can hardly keep from running away.

We go down to the grocery store and buy a cake of alleged maple sugar and then try to make maple syrup from it. Bah! What insipid stuff it is, to be sure, compared with the delicious syrup we carried away from Owens' grove. A jug of it would make a modern epicure sit up and take notice.

But what's the use of harking back to those old days? If we want a spring medicine we have to buy some patent dope put up in a bottle. And Easter is chiefly an anniversary that means millinery bills. And maple syrup is a modern impossibility.

**Signs of Spring**

- Garden Seeds For Sale.
- Large Package of Sassafras, 5 cents.
- Winter Underwear at Greatly Reduced Prices.
- Use Squidgem's Sarsaparilla.
- Onion Sets.
- Fur Overcoats at Reduced Prices.

**Not Dangerous**

"Gracious, Cumso! What makes you look so blue and discouraged?"  
"I fear my mind is decaying."  
"O, I trust not, old man. What makes you think it is?"  
"I can not see any humor in the comic supplements."

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