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### The Biggest Boy

The biggest boy is not at home—He "flew the nest" last night. I knew the day was bound to come, And yet tears dim my sight. The biggest boy has said goodbye, And gone to play his part On life's grim battlefield, and I Am lone and sad of heart.

The biggest boy said, "Goodbye, Dad!" And "Dad" said, "Goodbye, son!" And then the boy with head erect, Went forth—his work begun. And over in the corner there "Dad's" eyes will fall upon The biggest boy's now vacant chair, And miss the boy that's gone.

The biggest boy gulped back a sob When on his lips was pressed The little mother's goodbye kiss, When mother's hands caressed. And then he smiled and went his way To fight and win, or die; While "Dad" and mother could but say, "God bless you, son; goodbye!"

The biggest boy is in the ranks Of that great fighting band That seeks by arts of toil and peace To rebuild this fair land. And "Dad" and mother fondly hope As only parents can, The biggest boy will do his part, And do it like a man.

### Here They Are

Clinton, Ill., March 15.—Dear Mr. Maupin: I have been a reader of your articles in The Commoner for the past five years. Of course I enjoy them or I wouldn't read them. The men at the head of your column have become good friends of mine. I notice they were not in the issue of March 12. Won't you please put 'em back?

THOMAS J. WILSON.

Here they are, Thomas. They were merely taking a vacation. The one doing the talking was merely resting his mouth, and the other fellow was having his ears treated for concussion. They are both good fellows, and when I told them of your friendship they were immensely pleased.

You may not know it, but when I get a letter like yours from one of the boys or girls of The Commoner family it makes me feel "all swelled up." Mr. Bryan and Mr. Metcalfe can have all the flattering letters from the "grown ups" if only now and then I can get a letter from one of the boys or girls.

Of course you must understand, my young friend, that you can not always tell one's age by the number of birthdays one has had. Some of the youngest men I know are gray-haired, and some of the sweetest girls I know today are grandmothers. I frankly confess that I have seen forty-five birthdays, but every now and then a little girl who is a few years under my age, but yet old enough to be the mother of a girl twelve years old, compliments me by telling me I'm the "biggest baby she ever saw." Of course she doesn't mean it for a compliment, but I take it as such.

By the way, Thomas, the writer of this department used to live in your county. It was a great many years ago, figuring in years, but only yesterday figuring by memory. Ever been down to Farmer City? Is

Uncle Dick Lemon still living in Clinton? If he is still in the land of the living—and here's hoping—I wish you'd call on him and give him the kind regards of a touseled-headed schoolboy who used to live in the same block and used to go over to his house and revel in the delightful books in his library. That was when he lived in Farmer City.

By the way, is Clinton county still boasting of the same old ramshackle and tumbled-down court house it had thirty or thirty-five years ago?

Here's our old friends again and if they come up missing any week during the next year, come in and you and I will go over to the print shop and have it out with Fred and Henry. They'll be to blame. Thank you for your kind words, and my hope is that I can do well enough in future to merit another pleasant letter from you. W. M. M.

### The Difference

In a western city recently a man was sentenced to jail for several months for obtaining goods under false pretenses. It developed that he was out of work, his family destitute and no job in sight. In desperation the man went to a store and told the proprietor that he was working at a certain place, receiving so much per week, and that he wanted a few groceries, for which he would pay the following Saturday night. The merchant took the order and said he would look the matter up and if everything was all right he would deliver the goods. Then the man went out, and going into a telephone booth near by a half-hour later, called up the merchant and represented himself to be the employer. "Just deliver the goods and I'll see that you get your money," said the jobless man, pretending to be the employer. The goods were delivered. A few days later the deception was discovered. Arrest and conviction followed.

A few months ago a number of men were elected to congress on the platform, "let the people rule." They said they were democrats. They declared they were the employes of the people; that they would serve the people. What they wanted was some goods." The people delivered the goods in the shape of votes and these men were sent to congress.

On March 17 twenty-three of these men stultified themselves, disgraced their party and proved themselves to be the possessors of goods fraudulently obtained.

The poor fellow who lied in order to keep his wife and little ones from hunger is now in jail.

What should be done with twenty-three men who have admitted their guilt—not the guilt of lying in order to get bread, but the guilt of having betrayed every promise and pledge, of having deceived the people who trusted them, in order to get committeeships and serve corporations that are gripping at the throat of the nation?

Does it look fair that the one should be in jail and the other twenty-three a parading down Pennsylvania Avenue?

As our good friend Togo would say, we inquire to know.

### Brain Leaks

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