



Whether Common or Not

By Will M. Maupin.

L'envoi

I shot a rocket into the air;
It fell to earth, I know not where.
But ere it whizzed away from land
It burned a blister on my hand.

A roman candle, too, I shot—
The feat will not soon be forgot.
For ere it lighted up the air
It burst and singed off all my hair.

I lighted up my long punk sticks
To fire crackers for kiddies six.
And, bless their precious little souls,
I burned my shirt plumb full of holes.

It was a mighty glorious day
They'll hold in memory always.
But Dad, well Dad is here to shout
That he's all in, and down, and out.

His face is full of powder stains;
His body full of aches and pains;
Hands full of blisters, and what's
worse,
Not one cent left within his purse.

But what's the use? Fun unalloyed
The kiddies six all day enjoyed.
And blisters, burns, and aches and
pains
By Dad are counted as clear gains.

Hail glorious day! Here's hoping I
Will live through many a hot July,
And from the morn till evening late
Have kiddies help me celebrate.

Literally True

Native born Americans love to remark that they "were born under the folds of the American flag." Every Fourth of July orator repeats it, and perhaps it is theoretically true. But last Fourth of July the Architect heard an orator who was born under the folds of the flag, literally. In 1857 a party of Ohioans moved into the then wilderness of Nebraska and settled in Dodge county, along what afterwards became the military road between Omaha and Denver. It was along this road that the tide of emigration flowed for so many years. The first thing this little colony of Ohioans did after providing shelter was to erect a tall flagpole made from cottonwoods that grew profusely along the Platte river banks, and from the top of this pole was flung a flag sixteen feet wide and thirty feet long. It flew day and night, and being easily seen for many miles from all directions it became a beacon to the emigrants, telling of rest and comfort and protection.

Among other members of this colony was John Mason Smith and his young wife. They, like their comrades, were poor. Their sod and log houses were cool enough in summer, but rather poor protection against the blasts of winter. And the winter of 1857-58 was a hard one. On the night of December 31, 1857, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Mason Smith, and they called him Roderick Cottrell. The mother lay on a bed illy provided with covering, and the wintry blasts swept over her. It was seemingly impossible to keep enough fire in the stove to even take the chill off the room. What to do with the sufferer was a puzzle. For bedclothing was scarce, and some had to be left for other women and children, some of whom were ill. Finally Matthew Cottrell, the head of the colony, hauled down the flag for the first time, and the tender hands of women folded it and laid it over the bed of Mrs. Smith. An hour or two later Roderick Cottrell was born

—literally and truly under the folds of the old flag.

Fifty-two years and six months later that flag-accouched baby was the orator at Wymore, Neb., and living in peace and comfort, less than a hundred miles away, his father and mother, hale and hearty, spent the day—their fifty-third in Nebraska.

Queer Logic

After having spent a million in erecting a modern office building in the heart of the great city, Mr. Bounderly was hailed before the lunatic inquiring by friends who feared for his mental capacity.

"What makes you think Mr. Bounderly is mentally incapacitated?" queried the chairman of the commission.

"Well, he has just completed a million dollar twenty-story office building, and a few days ago announced that he was ready to rent office rooms therein. I went to look at the rooms and found that the building had no inside stairways, and that while there were elevator shafts there were no elevators. I asked Mr. Bounderly why this was so. His answer convinced me that he was crazy."

"What was his answer?"
"He said that as soon as there were enough tenants to make an elevator profitable he would grant a franchise to some corporation to operate it, providing further that as the need increased the number of elevators should be increased. He added that the tenants could meet and establish a maximum charge for elevator service. I knew at once that poor Bounderly's mind had given way under the strain of overseeing the construction of such a great office building."

After duly considering the matter the commission decided that Bounderly should be put under restraint and his property managed by a guardian.

A few weeks later the proposition that the city should acquire the ownership of its street railway system met with the determined opposition of Bounderly's friend and every member of the commission. They said it was preposterous.

But they had committed Bounderly to the asylum for holding exactly the same opinion.

For, after all, what is the difference between an elevator that runs horizontally and one that runs perpendicularly?

Kings and Kings

King George V has just been crowned with great pomp and circumstance. Of course, to be king of Great Britain and Ireland defender of the faith and emperor of India, is to be some pumpkins. But what's all that by the side of being the only boy in your grammar school class who can throw a curve? And what boy who can walk on his hands and throw a back summersault for the delectation of admiring young girls with their hair in pig-tails would trade places with George V?

They make an awful fuss over this king business, but what does it amount to? People hi-hurrah when one goes by, then proceed to forget him. But who forgets the husky lad that carries the ball across the goal line, or slams the horsehide for a home run when the bases are full? The kind who can "put something

on the ball" that keeps the batter from coming within a foot of it has got any old king backed off the boards for popularity in his domain. He is constantly sought after by admiring friends and satellites, while the king is sought after by men who want jobs or long for a chance to slip a dagger under his fifth rib.

Talk about the king business! George V has got a mighty small job on his hands compared with a lot of baseball and foot ball kings in this glorious republic of ours.

Cautious

"How in the name of sense could you join in a verdict of 'not guilty' when the prisoner's guilt was as plain as a pikestaff?"

"Huh! That was easy. The presiding judge beat me in a real estate deal while he was a lawyer at the bar, the prosecuting attorney caught me unawares in a legal contest and cinched me for costs I did not owe and which he could not have collected from the other fellow, and five of the twelve good men and true in the jurybox have been owing me money for from five to eleven years and won't pay a cent. And I didn't propose to help sting a man with the help of a bunch of that kind."

Time's Whirligig

A week or two ago we sent a special envoy over to dear ol' Lun'on to assist in putting a crown on a King George. Last week we celebrated the 135th anniversary of the feat of putting the rollers under another King George.

Time's whirligig cuts some peculiar capers, and usually averages things up pretty well. We opine that there were quite a few John Hays Hammonds during the time of George III.

Kismet

As one who is not at all satisfied with the way a democratic congress is tackling the tariff, we confess to some measure of satisfaction over one thing.

The congressmen who are giggling back on us are compelled to remain at work in Washington. If you have ever been sentenced to a summer in Washington you will realize what this means.

Easy Time

"Bankerly looks like a man who has been enjoying a long vacation and complete rest in the mountains. I thought he was in some trouble."

"He was, and he was sentenced to sixty days imprisonment by a federal judge, the imprisonment to be in a county jail where the sheriff was his friend. That's why he looks so thoroughly rested and refreshed."

Foolish

Mrs. Harduppe—"I see by the evening paper that the Pacific coast states are suffering from a famine of silver coins."

Mr. Harduppe—"It beats all what some editors think is news. I've been in that fix for twenty-seven years, but I never thought it was worth sending over the wires as a press dispatch."

Making His Way

"What did Schemerly accomplish during his first term in congress?"
"He framed up a mighty good machine to accomplish his re-election."

Same Thing

"Judge Bunk seems to be a pretty big man in this community."
"Well, he has all of a big man's ways, and that seems to amount to about the same thing these days."

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