

INSPIRATION OF FAMOUS HYMNS



Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me!
The great hymns of the world that have touched the hearts of many thousands have usually been the expression of a vital individual experience. They have not been written as mere pieces of literary composition; they have been the crystallizing of personal sorrow, personal faith, or personal realization. They have been the summing up of years of hope and struggle, focused in an instant of expression, as the century plant stores up vitality for decades to be evidenced at last in a sudden flowering. The circumstances that inspired some of our great devotional hymns must deepen the interest in both the song and the singer and reveal that mighty kinship of human souls, that divine sympathy, that confers deathless fame on a few simple verses, soul-biographies living in song.

This greatest of hymns was written in 1775 by Rev. Augustus Toplady, a very learned English divine, who died at the early age of thirty-eight. The hymn has the rare, wondrous spiritual ecstasy he revealed in his daily life. In his last illness he said: "I cannot tell the comforts that I feel in my soul; they are past expression. It will not be long before God takes me; for no mortal man can live after the glories which God has manifested to my soul." The marble tablet over his grave says: He Wrote "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me."

The Sweet By and By.
In 1867 this hymn, known as "The Sweet By and By," was written at Elkhorn, Wis., by S. Fillmore Bennett, who was associated with J. P. Webster in arranging a new collection of hymns. Webster was nervous, sensitive and easily discouraged. One day, when very blue, he went into Bennett's office, and when asked "What's the matter, now?" answered "It is no matter, it will all be right by and by." The idea flashed into Bennett's mind, as he then expressed it, was "The Sweet By and By." Why wouldn't that make a good hymn? Turning to a table he at once wrote the words; Webster jotted down the music as it inspired. Half an hour later two musical friends entered the room and it was sung by the quartet.

Nearer, My God, to Thee.
Of the many hymns written by Mrs. Sarah Flower Adams, the only one that has survived is this hymn, based on the Bible story of Jacob's vision at Bethel, the imagery of which narrative it follows most faithfully. It first appeared in a volume called "Hymns and Anthems," published in 1841. The chief criticism made against this hymn is that it does not mention a Saviour. Rev. A. T. Russell added a stanza covering this lack, but the new lines are rarely used and they never became popular.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul.
One day Charles Wesley was sitting by an open window, looking over the beautiful fields, when he saw a little bird pursued by a hawk. The poor thing, weak and frightened, in seeking to escape from its enemy, flew into the room and found refuge in Wesley's bosom. As the poet was then in great trouble and needed the safety of a refuge, the consolation of help from a higher power than his own, the incident seemed to him a divine message,

and, thus inspired, he wrote the famous hymn.

Hold the Fort, for I Am Coming.
In October, 1864, Allatoona Pass, a defile in the mountains of Georgia, was guarded by General Corse with 1,500 men. It was a strong strategic point and, moreover, a million and a half of rations were stored there. Fresh, the southern general, with 6,000 men, attacked the garrison and drove the defenders into a small fort on the crest of the hill. The battle was fierce; the northern soldiers fell in such numbers that further fighting seemed folly. But one of Corse's officers caught sight of a white signal flag fluttering in the breeze on the top of Kennesaw Mountain, across the valley, fifteen miles away. The signal was answered, and then came the inspiring message from mountain to mountain: "Hold the fort; I am coming."—W. T. Sherman. Cheer after cheer went up, and though hopelessly outnumbered they did hold the fort for hours until the advance guard of Sherman's army came to their relief. Six years later, P. P. Bliss, the evangelist, heard the story in all its vivid detail from a soldier friend, and then wrote the words and music of this famous hymn.

From Greenland's Icy Mountains.
On Whit Sunday, 1819, Dr. Shipley, an English clergyman, was to preach a missionary sermon. On the day preceding, Dr. Shipley requested his son-in-law, Bishop Reginald Heber, to write "something for them to sing in the morning." Heber retired from the table, around which a group of friends were assembled, and in a corner of the room wrote this hymn at one sitting.

Artificial Silk.
The manufacture of artificial silk, it is reported, has become quite a thriving industry in Germany, although it seems there are only certain purposes for which it can be used, but still there are very numerous. The output of the Elberfeld district alone, it is said, amounts to \$125,000 monthly. Certain disadvantages connected with the product, among which is its highly inflammable character, having acted as a deterrent to its manufacture, but an improvement in the process has recently come into use in France which avoids most of these disadvantages. According to this method dry nitro-cellulose, india-rubber solution and a salt of tin, preferably stannous chloride, are mixed together in the proportions of 100 pounds of the first to 7 pounds of the second and 5 pounds of the last. To this a suitable solvent, like benzine, is added in such quantity as will bring the mixture to the desired consistency.

Lemon Juice of Barrooms.
Now that the sale of a bogus lemonade has been forbidden by law, it would be interesting to know what action would follow an investigation of the compound used as lemon juice in many of the barrooms that pretend to be of the first rank and are entitled to a place in that category so far as their prices can put them there. The mixture commonly used in drinks requiring lemon juice possesses only one quality of the real thing. It is sour, but it suggests the fruit in no other particular and tastes of foreign ingredients too strongly to deceive the most inexperienced.—New York Sun.

Allow Time for Play.
The all work and no play woman soon becomes scarcely more than a machine, a machine that too often runs without the wheels being greased—in a hard, grinding, squeaking way, requiring much more strength and time than if a little lubrication had been given in the shape of occasional pleasant moments snatched by the ways, says the Jacksonville Times-Union. There is one thing certain; it is better to try and be content with little, doing without some things that we may have a great desire for, than to so wear our-

self out body and spirit in their attainment that we lose the power of enjoyment, too tired to care for anything. So the wise woman, though, like the woman in the Bible, she rises "while it is yet night," she yet makes sure of a little time every day—perhaps not more than a half hour—which is her very own, and with which stranger or friend "intermeddeth not."

Fools and sensible men are equally innocuous. It is in the half fools and half wise that the greater danger lies.—Goethe.

Passing of Horse Hausage.
The conversion of the tramway system of Glasgow from horse haulage to electric traction is now almost an accomplished fact, and soon the horse cars will be a thing of the past. The electric cars, unlike those operated on this side of the Atlantic, are double-deckers.

Scotland Gets Grievance Redressed.
Scotland has got one grievance redressed. The commission that was appointed by the private legislation procedure (Scotland) act a short time ago, to consider Scottish applications for what are called "provisional orders" has been sitting in Edinburgh, and has disposed of much legislation relating to towns, harbors and railways. Before the new act came into force, every private bill from north of the Tweed had to go to London to be considered by a committee of parliament, and a mile of railway could not be built without the London lawyers getting their "pickings" from it. The new act abolished all this, and now Scotland is able to settle its own affairs in its own country.

Will Sell Ex-President's Jewels.
Carlos Ezeta, ex-president of Salvador, who has lived in California ever since he fled from his native country, some time ago negotiated a loan on his own and Mme. Ezeta's jewelry, and, being unable to redeem the valuables, will soon sell the lot in San Francisco. His wife is the daughter of a wealthy Guatemalan, who refuses to give her any financial assistance because she refuses to return to the land of her birth. Senor Ezeta left Salvador because a price had been placed on his head.

Clergyman on Jonah.
Rev. Dr. Gaston, a Baptist clergyman of Santa Rosa, Cal., has invited a trial for heresy by declaring that Jonah died in the whale's belly instead of being thrown out upon the shore and proceeding upon his missionary expedition, as related in the Bible.

Economist Retired for Age.
Professor John Bascom, professor of political economy at Williams College, has been retired for age. He was graduated from Williams with the class of '49. He was president of the University of Wisconsin before he joined the faculty of Williams in 1881, and is the author of several religious, philosophical, and economic works.

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While the structure of the music of stridulating organs of beetles is extremely simple, they sometimes possess contrivances for varying the pitch. The general structure of such an organ is a hard surface covered with striations, over which some other member of the body furnished with a rasping edge or area is rubbed. When the striated surface is divided into parts with finer and coarser markings, variations of pitch can be produced.

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DANGER OF THE PLAGUE.

American Cities Are by No Means Immune to the Disease.

In the absence of a federal health board it becomes the proper business of all municipal health officials, especially at the seaports to be prepared to resist the possible approaches of the bubonic plague. That the world is by no means free from the menace of a great epidemic of this "black death" is the declaration of a man who speaks with authority. Dr. L. F. Barker is a pathologist who was at one time a member of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins university, and who now occupies the chair of pathology at the Rush Medical College, Chicago. Two years ago he was sent to India and China by the former institution to study the plague conditions, and later was appointed to investigate the plague cases in San Francisco for the government. Probably there is no American who is better qualified to speak on this subject than Dr. Barker. In a recent address before a medical society Dr. Barker announced that American cities are far from immune as to the "sneaking pestilence," which is spread chiefly through the agency of rats. In the great epidemic of the fourteenth century, which cost 25,000,000 human lives, it was a characteristic of the plague that it developed by bounds. Before there was time to take precautions a vast proportion of a community would be in the grasp of the disease, while the remainder would be terror-stricken. Hindu writings 80 years old note the fact that a visitation of the plague was always preceded by a great mortality among rats. Dr. Barker noted that in India he saw dead rats everywhere, and the same phenomenon has been observed in Japan. It is believed that if the rodents could be exterminated, as the government of Japan has proposed, the danger of an epidemic of the plague would be much reduced.

ART OF WALKING.

Common-Sense Footwear Makes Good Pedestrian of American Girl.

The American girl is learning how to walk. For many years she has been a martyr to French high-heeled shoes, the toothpick toe and the wafer sole, but now common sense footwear is the vogue. It took a long period of discomfort, if not actual suffering, to convince woman that she could wear a sensible shoe and not detract from her personal charms, comments the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune. Now that she has been convinced of the error of her ways more interest is manifested in the correct style of walking and the proper manner of holding the skirt. In correct walking there is the poetry of motion, the delicacy of poise and the scientific adjustment of the weight of the body which the ancients knew so well, but which the moderns slur, if they do not absolutely ignore. The girl who walks correctly is a joy to herself and all who behold her. She has some purpose in life. She is, nine times out of ten, neatly dressed, bright-eyed and healthy. Watch her and you will see that the ball of her foot is the center upon which the weight of the body swings; and that upon the heel and the toes there is an even balance of the strain, if such it may be called, the heel not being called upon to do more than the toes or the toes more than the heel, while the sole is the medium between the two extremes. In correct walking the foot is placed evenly upon the surface, with the pressure first upon the heel, then upon the ball of the foot, and then upon the toes. From the ball of the foot, and the toes the impetus and elasticity of the stride originate.

A Traficker in Vanity.
There are many queer pursuits in the world, but of them all it is doubtful if any rank higher in the "Land of the Odd" than the traffic carried on by an enterprising Yankee in New York. He has his place in the basement of one of the office buildings on lower Broadway and deals in labeled trunks and traveling bags—that is, trunks and traveling bags that have seen service abroad and that bear the labels of foreign hotels. A man going to Europe, if he works judiciously, can on his return get twice what he paid for his bag or trunk at starting. The enterprising Yankee who conducts this queer traffic meets the passengers of incoming steamers. He sizes up his people with an accuracy born of long experience, knowing instinctively who it is that has probably exhausted his funds on his trip on the other side and who will be very willing to accept a good price for his beleveled traveling appurtenances.—Baltimore Sun.

What It Costs to Fight Fire.
The cost of the New York city fire department, the efficiency of which is unchallenged, is \$3,500,000 a year. Chicago, which has suffered more severely from a great conflagration than any other large American city, expends \$1,500,000 a year for the maintenance of its fire department, and Boston, which has suffered severely in the same direction, though very much less populous and a more compact city than Chicago, expends \$1,200,000. Southern cities generally spend little on their fire service, and it has been found generally that the ratio of cost increases as the population becomes more compact.

Modern Transportation Devices.
Two modern transportation devices have been invented by a British engineer, who has constructed a trolley automobile line, similar to that exhibited at the Paris exposition, at Ederswalde, a small city near the German capital. In this system the automobile receives its motive power from an overhead wire, by means of a trolley, which is connected with the automobile by a movable cable. This shows the vehicle to turn out at any place on the road. The line has been favorably inspected by experts, and the system is expected to meet with general favor in Germany.

Co-Operative Cooking at School.
In the rural districts of France every pupil, boy or girl, takes to school in the morning a handful of vegetables and puts them in a large pan of water. They are washed by one of the older pupils, who take turns at performing this duty. Then the vegetables are placed in a kettle with water and a piece of pork, and are cooked while the lessons are going on. At 11:30 o'clock each member of the co-operative association, has a bowl of hot soup. To cover the cost of fuel and meat, those pupils who can afford it pay from two to four sous a month.

LIGHT STREET COSTUMES.

Comparatively New Fashion, Although Started Some Years Ago.

Wearing light costumes on the street is a comparatively new fashion, although the fad started two or three seasons ago. At present the fashion has been carried to such an extent that the plain dark gowns are conspicuous by contrast. Not only are the smart gowns of this season light in color, but in texture, and gauze veilings and silks that were at one time only considered appropriate for midsummer, and for garden parties, then, are now worn for shopping and going about. Foulard gowns, always appropriate, always useful, are extremely fanciful in design and most elaborately trimmed with lace and embroidery, and made in the lightest or most brilliant colors. The smartest dressmakers make for their best customers the quietest of gowns—to come in town for a day's shopping—the black and white check silk mohair, a light wool, the dark blue, a gray veiling, with a touch of color or with lace collar or revers, no lace on the skirt; mohair gowns trimmed with the same material or taffeta in flat folds or bands, lines of stitching, either white or the color of the gown, and the only attempt at lightening the somewhat severe effect is to be seen in the front of lace. Dark color or black taffeta silks are made also for street wear, but also very plain, with short jacket and skirt trimmed with stitching in tucks and folds. Striped or checked silk gingham, made quite plain, are also smart for street wear in summer or for a day's shopping. These are on the lines of the tailor gowns and are made without lace or embroidery, excepting what is used in trimming the waist.

INSANITY FROM COFFEE.

A St. Paul, Minn., Woman Insane from Its Use.

A Mrs. Lindberg of St. Paul, Minn., was recently adjudged by a probate court to be insane. On investigation she was found at her home in a state of maniacal excitement so great that she could only with difficulty be restrained from tearing off her clothing. According to her husband's statement and the facts which were elicited by the investigation, it appeared that the cause of Mrs. Lindberg's insanity was the use of coffee. Mrs. Lindberg had for some years been accustomed to the free use of coffee for the relief of headache. The headaches had greatly increased in severity, and the amount of coffee was gradually increased. Recently she had been taking thirty or forty cups of coffee daily. Tea produces the same effect as coffee. Numerous other cases have been reported in which a complete breaking down of the nervous system has resulted from the use of tea or coffee. Tasters and coffee-tasters furnish many illustrations of the deleterious effect of these beverages. Mrs. Lindberg was simply a coffee drunkard, and was as much addicted to her beverage as any toper was ever addicted to liquor. She kept her coffee-pot boiling continually, and devoted her whole attention to the brewing of her favorite beverage.

A Famous Apple Tree.

The American Cultivator says that the original greening apple tree is still standing on the farm of Solomon Drown at Mount Hygela in North Foster, R. I. The tree was a very old one when the farm was sold in 1801. The seller informed the purchaser that it was a pity the old tree was going to decay, as it produced the best fruit of any tree in the orchard. The purchaser determined to see how long he could keep it alive, and it still survives after almost another century has been added to its venerable years. But it shows signs of final decay, and the parent of all the famous Rhode Island greenings, which has set its graft on the orchards of almost all the world, will soon be but a neighborhood memory. It is doubtful if there is a more famous apple tree to be found in all Pomona's groves from end to end of the earth.

South's Granite Quarries.
The granite quarries of the south are not only numerous, but are rapidly coming into competition with the quarries of northern states," observed T. H. Binder of Atlanta, at the Riggs in Washington recently. "A contract for 65,000 cubic feet of curbing from Georgia has recently been put down here in the District of Columbia several days in advance of the stipulated time, whereas the contracts from the northern quarries are very often filled considerably after the time limit has expired. The granite of Georgia now goes as far north as Philadelphia and as far west as Chicago. The state contains an inexhaustible supply. Stone mountain, a short distance out of Atlanta, is seven miles in circumference and three miles in diameter, rising 1,500 feet high and forming one of the geological wonders of the world. It is without a flaw and without seams of any kind.

Spinning Wheel Fad.
Warning is given to anglomaniacs that the coming summer must be spent looking for the old-time spinning wheel. Queen Alexandra has a fondness for the spinning wheel, it is stated on excellent authority, and amuses herself upon occasions by spinning. She is fond enough of her spinning wheel to have had her picture taken with it. Could anything more be said to prove the truth of the statement? Old spinning wheels are still to be found, but if they once get into the shops they cost as much as if they were to be used only for queens and princesses for spinning cloth of gold.—New York Times.

Rev. Forbes Phillips, better known to the reading public by his nom de plume of "Athol Forbes," has a very vivid and distinct personality. He is not in the remotest sense of the word a conventional cleric. A thorough bulldog to look at, very broad and thick set, with a tremendous head, a massive, clean shaven face and twinkling, humorous eyes, he is the picture of one of Lever's Irish priests. He is not popular among some of his brother parsons, whose composure he has a trick of ruffling at times, while his defiance of the higher powers has often fluttered Episcopal devotees. He is a hero among the fisher-folk with whom his lot is cast, and when he comes to London is a prime favorite in his own bohemian literary set. If ever it were true that a house-to-house-going parson makes a church-going people, it is true in the case of the vicar of Gorleston, whose church—a very large and beautiful building—is crammed from end to end every Sunday morning and evening. Mr. Phillips is a fine preacher, thoughtful, interesting and original, with a quiet penetrating voice and an imperturbable manner that compels and rivets the attention of his hearers. "One pleasing little custom when I first arrived at Gorleston," he once wrote to a friend of mine, "was to threaten the vicar with a horse-whipping when he offended any of the local big-wigs. I had not been long here before I fell into disgrace by finding fault with the management of a public institution. The chairman came up to me at a meeting and said, shaking his fist in my face: 'Unless you at once withdraw your statement and write me an apology and give £5 to the institution of which I am head, I will give you a d—d good horse-whipping.' 'Thanks,' I replied, 'I'll take the horse-whipping, and if I don't send you home in a cab I will apologize and give you £10 for your precious institution.' This was something quite new in the annals of Gorleston and horse-whipping as an institution in the parish has since died quite out of fashion."

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A BUILDING CEMENT.

A VERY IMPORTANT DISCOVERY BY THOMAS A. EDISON.

He Expects to See His Cement Drive Out Quarried Stone as Building Material—Invention Will Practically Do Away with Carpenters.

Thomas A. Edison has discovered how to make "Portland cement" at an extremely small cost, says a recent New York dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald. This statement, at first thought, seems to be comparatively unimportant. Yet Edison knows the immense value of his discovery. He expects that his cement will drive out quarried stone and brick as building materials. He foresees as the result of his discovery that it will cost very little to build houses, and that therefore rents will be very low. He also foresees that these same houses will be as nearly fireproof as concrete and steel frames can make them.

With cement so cheap a house will be "poured," not builded. And the "pouring" of the house will occupy but a few days. The house will be habitable when the concrete solidifies. For several years Mr. Edison has been working on the recent problem and the problem of making cheap and practical storage batteries. Both inventions have now been perfected. Insurance Engineering, which will be published tomorrow, will contain an interview of its editor with Mr. Edison. The inventor says cement, combined with steel, will be the building material of the future, and continues: "My impression is that the time will come when each contractor will have standard forms of houses, twenty or thirty varieties. The forms will be made of wood, and a contractor, using one of the standard shapes, will simply go out and 'pour' a house. There will probably be hundreds of designs. The contractors will put up their concrete fixer and have their beams and forms ready. They will pour the form for the first story and so on. To do that all they will require will be common labor—a few men and one boss. That is what I think will be done eventually. And such a house can be made very cheaply. It seems to me there will not be much use for carpenters then. There will be cabinet makers, to be sure. Why, even the floors and stairs will be made of concrete." Mr. Edison was asked if Portland cement would be cheap enough for general use. "Yes, I think so," he said. "When the price of cement gets to be \$1 a barrel or \$5 a ton, and people know they can get it for that there will be enormous quantities of it used."

The inventor said that one part of cement, three parts of sand and five parts of broken stone would be the mixture for concrete, and that broken stone was better than brick. In reply to a question as to the thickness of walls in the ordinary house he said: "The bottom course ought to be of Portland cement, twelve inches up to the first story, and eight inches above the first story. The roofs will be of cement also."

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CHIP ON PARSON'S SHOULDER.

Noted English Clergyman Always Respected by the Bullied.

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PRESIDENT LAURA D. GILL.

New President of Harvard Is a Native of Maine.

The choice of new women college presidents, Miss Woolley, Miss Hazard, Miss Gill, signifies as much as anything that has yet occurred regarding the future standards for college education, notably for women. Here are three college presidents that are intellectually, socially, progressively the equal of any three men of their years who have ever occupied the chair of college president in this country. They are scholarly and womanly, have high ideals, and are well balanced, have deep convictions, and yet retain a charming personality and withal are skillful administrators. Miss Laura D. Gill, Harvard's new president, is but forty years of age, a native of Maine, a graduate of Smith, has studied at Leipsic, at Geneva, and at Sorbonne. When the recent Spanish-American war broke out Miss Gill went to Cuba under the auspices of the Red Cross Society, and was sent at once to the fighting lines. She acted as nurse and as manager of hospital affairs in Cuba and later at Montauk Point. At the close of the war she took charge of the Cuban orphan asylum under the direction of Gen. Francis V. Greene. She taught after graduation with Miss Capen in the Burnham school at Northampton, and has always been eminently successful as student and teacher.—Journal of Education.

How Emigration is Promoted.

It is reported at Bucharest, says a correspondent, that an English company is arranging for the establishment of a direct line of steamers from Constantza, the Rumanian Black sea port, to Halifax, Quebec, Montreal and New York. The new line will bear the name "Atlantica Romana." Specially cheap passages are to be arranged for emigrants, and it is hoped in this manner to induce emigration among the population of Eastern Europe, already much overcrowded. Very low fares in connection with the steamers will also bring Austria and Hungary's emigrants to this line, which hopes to compete successfully with the Hamburg line.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

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