

DOLLY'S "QUEER COWS"

By CATHERINE STONEMAN LONG

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All the members of the Winters family with one exception, were literary. The exception was Dorothy. Mr. Winters was editor-in-chief of one of the large city papers, Clarence was reporter for another, sister Mary was a schoolteacher, and sister Lucia wrote for the magazine. As for Mrs. Winters, she was president of the Brownings club, secretary of the Woman's club, and an active member of a variety of other clubs too numerous to mention.

It would seem rather strange that in a family so steeped in the atmosphere of books and newspapers there should be one black sheep; although to call Dorothy a black sheep were certainly a libel, for if there ever was a white, sweet, dearly loved lamb in any flock, she could lay claim to that distinction. The term is only used to convey the idea that she was different from the others. While they were all studious, thoughtful and serious in their tastes, she was the gayest, most careless and, so they all declared, the most frivolous little body in existence. Everyone loved pretty Dolly. She was so sweet-natured, so generous, so full of vitality and sprightliness, that it was impossible to do otherwise.

It never happened that anyone ever questioned the domestic talents and inclinations of Dorothy. It had been settled when she was quite a small child that Nature had intended her for a little housewife. She could make the most delicious desserts and the most toothsome confectionery; she had such beautiful taste in arranging the dining-room table and kept the house so fresh and orderly that no one ever suspected that she abhorred the dishpan, hated to make beds, or was made faint and sick by the sight of raw meat when she went to market to select her father's favorite cuts. Dolly never said anything about it. Naturally, no one could be supposed to know.

Now, it frequently happens that the careers laid out for us by our friends are not always the ones we should select if left to ourselves. This was the case with Dorothy. Secretly she longed to be literary, like the rest, instead of domestic. She did try to write sometimes, just as the others did, and worked hard over some extremely indifferent little stories which were destined to travel many weary miles between herself and various publishers.

Dorothy knew well enough that her writing was very poor, and soon ceased to hope to distinguish herself in this way. As a matter of fact, she did not like to write at all, and only did so because she hated to be a drone in this literary beehive. It was simply a bore to her, and she spent much of her time making sketches on the margin of her paper, as Tommy Traddles did in David Copperfield; only instead of drawing skeletons, she made curious brownies and grotesque animals that it certainly would have been no sin to worship, for they were like nothing on earth or in the waters beneath the earth. The family called them Dorothy's "queer cows."

At last she despaired altogether, and when the rejected manuscripts had all come back she tumbled them in a heap into a drawer, which she never opened without a very down-in-the-mouth sort of feeling. It is to be feared that just the least little bit of a grain of bitterness was in Dorothy's heart when she thought of the position of the household director to which she had been so summarily relegated by her affectionate friends. Still the old longing to do something kept pulling away at her, and when she began to beg to be allowed to take drawing lessons at the Art Institute, her mother said:

"Why not let her do it? The dear girl has a good many lonesome hours when we are all away or busy, even if she is so domestic. Looking after the house doesn't take all her time."

"Why of course," said Mr. Winters. "If there's anything in the world that I can do to give Dorothy a pleasure I'm only too glad."

"Oh, certainly," said sister Lucia. "It will give her something to think of, even if she doesn't accomplish much with it."

And so Dorothy was entered in one of the classes of the Art Institute, and then the family, absorbed in its own more important affairs, at once proceeded to forget all about it. No body ever thought to inquire about her work except Mr. Winters, to whom it occurred once in a while in a vague fashion.

"And how are the 'queer cows,' daughter?" he would ask, pinching her soft, round cheek.

"Oh, they're just as bad as ever," Dorothy would say with an answering smile. "They pop out on the casts and still life exactly as they did on the manuscript." She was a brave little soul, and if she felt hurt by this indulgent neglect she kept it to herself.

When she had been in the Art Institute for about a year without having ever seemed to accomplish anything to attract attention in the least, Mr. Winters began to talk very much about a new artist who had of late been sending in drawings as illustrations of current events. They were humorous in character, and a good many of them appeared in his paper.

Everyone said they were remarkably clever, indeed quite superior to any furnished by the staff artists. The family all enjoyed the pictures greatly, and they were the subject of much favorable comment after every issue of Mr. Winters's paper.

"I believe," he himself said one day, "that this Henry Page Esmond has the making of a great artist in him. Those sketches of his are just bubbling over with fun, and his wit is keen and delicate. I believe his art will find expression in something higher than caricature, too."

"I'll tell you what, Dot," continued her father, "I'm going to invite him to dinner some day—I've never met him myself yet—and then you can show him some of those 'queer cows' you used to draw."

The idea of inflicting these crudities upon the artistic vision of this rising man was execrably funny, and the family laughed loud and long, Dorothy most heartily of all.

And so it was agreed that Mr. Henry Page Esmond should be invited the coming week Wednesday for dinner. Mr. Winters wrote him an invitation to meet him at the office on that date, in response to which the young man—everyone seemed to take it for granted that he was young—sent a very polite note of acceptance.

The day's business was over, and Mr. Winters sat in his office awaiting the arrival of the young artist. He was just saying to himself that Mr. Esmond was going to be late when the office boy brought in a card bearing, in the familiar handwriting of that gentleman, his name.

"Show him in at once," said Mr. Winters in his most abrupt and editorial tones.

When he heard footsteps in the outer room he arose to his feet and made haste to arrange his features in their most cordial and engaging expression. The door flew open in a theatrical manner under the hand of the office boy, who announced, in a somewhat muffled tone: "Mr. Esmond," and in walked—Dorothy!

Mr. Winters's countenance was indeed a study to gaze upon. He looked at his daughter with eyes as round



In Walked—Dorothy!

as moons and opened his mouth several times without making a sound. In short, he was completely bewildered until Dorothy, her sweet face all flushed and quivering, half laughing, half sobbing, rushed into his arms, exclaiming:

"Oh, papa, dear, don't you understand? I am Mr. Henry Page Esmond!"

When her father had got her home at last, and they had managed to explain matters to the assembled company, the commotion which arose was wonderful to experience. Dolly was laughed over, cried over and passed around to be kissed until she was quite breathless, while the parlor fairly bristled with exclamations. Clarence whirled her around and around in a wild dance, and her mother could not stop asking questions. Lucia looked at her rather reproachfully as she slyly tucked her book out of sight; but Judge Whitman made her a most courteously and ceremonious bow, saying: "I congratulate you, my dear."

At last the heroine of this ovation escaped to her room to adjust her hair and gown, which had become sadly rumpled with embraces, leaving her friends to chatter and exclaim, and talk at the top of their voices all together. It was the proudest moment of her life. Maturer years brought other triumphs, but never one so glorious as this.

And thus it happened that Dorothy, while she by no means ceased to be domestic, did become an artist, and carved out for herself a career which had its beginning in the "queer cows."

A Fruitless Search.

Mama—What are you taking your doll's bedstead apart for, pet?
Little Dot—'I's lookin' for bugs.—N. Y. Weekly.

DRESSMAKER OF THE "40"



This woman, Mrs. Robert Osborne, designs and makes many of the dresses worn by a number of the leaders of Gotham society.

TO TEACH FARMERS.

INSTITUTES TO BE CONDUCTED IN MISSOURI TOWNS.

Will Be Held in Connection with State Normal—Two Weeks to Be Devoted to Discussions with State Aiding to Fullest Extent.

Columbia, Mo.—Missouri university is trying to bring instruction in agriculture direct to the farmers of the state. With this end in view, the agricultural college has sent its professors on lecture tours over the state, visiting the various organizations of farmers and delivering lectures. The college this year is working in conjunction with the state board of agricultural, the offices of which are in the agricultural building on the campus here. With this end in view, that of greater benefits to the present farmers, S. M. Jordan, of Stanberry, has been selected and made the director of farmers' institutes.

The plan heretofore has been to hold a day's or two days' session in some town or schoolhouse, and then do nothing to follow up after the people became well aroused and enthusiastic.

This year arrangements will be made to hold a two weeks' institute in conjunction with the various state normals. The arrangements have not been definitely concluded at all, but at the new normal at Maryville the plans are practically perfected.

The normal towns were selected in order to insure an audience even if the farmers fail to show the interest expected. The students preparing in the various normals to teach will be called upon to give instruction in scientific agriculture more and more as the study of it spreads through the public schools of the state. The lecture will be given in the courthouse

or in the school buildings as may be thought most practicable in attracting the men interested in tilling the soil and the raising of stock.

Five of the leading professors, all heads of departments in the Missouri school of agriculture, will give the lectures at Maryville, which is a type of what others will be. The course there will begin on December 5. One man will leave Columbia for that place and give three lectures a day for two or three days. Then he will be superseded by another one, who will lecture on a different field of work. This will continue until the close of the two weeks, when 35 or 40 lectures will have been given.

Mr. Jordan, the director of the work, is an authority on seed corn and will discuss corn breeding. He will show how corn may be so cared for and cultivated and crossed as to produce a grain of very fine quality as well as quantity.

Dead Swallows Stop Fires.

York, Pa.—Finding that he could not start a fire in his stove because of some obstruction in the chimney, Charles Keyworth, of this city, employed a plumber to locate the trouble. The plumber removed 315 dead swallows.

They had evidently been tardy in making their flight southward and, building in the chimney for warmth, had been smothered by Mr. Keyworth's attempt to start his fire.

"His Daughter's Voice."

Jackson, Mich.—While passing a saloon A. C. Oliver heard a phonograph giving a song in his daughter's voice, one that he had made a record of himself. He went inside and claimed the machine and took it home. The phonograph was taken from his home by a man while Oliver and his wife were visiting in Ypsilanti.

To Return to Use of Oxen.

Wisconsin Lumber Companies Decide to Replace Horses with Cattle.

St. Paul, Minn.—Again is the ox to be a factor in the logging operations of northern Wisconsin and Michigan. No less an authority than Senator Isaac Stephenson believes the lumbermen made a mistake when they made the horse take the place entirely of the yoked oxen.

Acting on that belief, the N. Ludington company and the I. Stephenson company, of which Mr. Stephenson is the executive head, are making arrangements to put to work a large number of oxen in the woods this winter.

The high price of horses and grain is the chief factor. Oxen cost about \$100 a pair, while a good team of horses costs about \$600. The cattle consume less grain, but aside from these reasons, which have directly led to the return to old style logging, Mr. Stephenson believes that in the rougher work of the camp they are more desirable. They will be used this winter in skidding and in hauling out of the swamps. In speaking of the change soon to be made, Senator Stephenson said:

"I believe the abolition of the cattle in woods work was a fad to a great extent. The horse has its place in logging, but for the rougher work in the swamps and for skidding the

ox is every bit as good and a cheaper animal in every way for loggers. The N. Ludington company and the I. Stephenson company are now preparing to send from six to eight yoke of oxen into the woods for work this winter and the number in use will be gradually increased."

DOG GNaws DOWN SAPLING.

With Leg Imprisoned and in Great Pain Drags Himself Home.

Marquette, Mich.—Caught by the leg in a trap set for wolves, a valuable bird dog belonging to Deputy Sheriff Richard Harcourt of Seney, east of Marquette, effected its release through a rare display of canine intelligence. The trap was fastened by a chain to a sapling. To gnaw this down was the canine's only salvation, and presumably after mature contemplation of its dangerous situation the dog undertook the task.

Evidently it was the work of many hours, but the animal persevered until it had accomplished the undertaking. Then, despite the loss of much blood, and notwithstanding the pain it must have been suffering, the dog made its weary way home, dragging the trap along. The manner in which the dog had secured its freedom was plainly apparent from the evidence visible at the spot where the trap had been set.

BEE-STINGS BANISH PAIN.

Bit of Cocaine Before They Puncture Rheumatism Fixes.

Harrisburg, Pa.—Cured of rheumatism by the stinging of a bee, a Delaware county woman has substituted a bee hive for her medicine chest. State Zoologist Surface, who first scientifically demonstrated that rheumatism may be cured by the sting of a bee, received a letter the other morning from the fortunate victim, telling how she had been cured. The woman, whose name Dr. Surface declines to disclose, states that her legs are entirely free from rheumatism since she has applied the bee-sting remedy.

"Every time I wash," she goes on, however, "I am troubled for a few days afterwards with rheumatism in my arms and shoulders. But I have found a way to overcome this. I have provided myself with a hive of bees, and after my week's washing I allow myself to be stung by bees on the parts where I have the rheumatism. The effect is marvelous; the rheumatism goes almost as quickly as it comes."

After stating her case further the woman asks Dr. Surface what he would suggest as a remedy for the pain caused by the bee sting. The doctor immediately wrote to her suggesting that she inoculate her arms and shoulders with a very low percentage of cocaine before allowing her bees to get busy.

RECORDS TELL OF ROMANCE.

Express Company Books Reveal Burning Passion of Youth.

Ottumwa, Ia.—An express messenger running on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad through this city has discovered a sad love affair, told in three chapters on the proaic records of the express company books.

The other day a sequel was written in another chapter. Tender sentiment is left to the imagination, but this is the story as told on the express company records, the names being changed:

CHAPTER I.

January 16, 1907.—Mr. Young Business Man to Miss Fluffy Ruffles, Minneapolis, one package, said to contain diamond, value \$150.

CHAPTER II.

September 1, 1907.—Mr. Young Business Man to Miss Fluffy Ruffles, Minneapolis, one package said to contain letters, value 50 cents.

CHAPTER III.

September 5, 1907.—Received from Minneapolis, consignor unknown; addressee, Mr. Young Business Man; one package said to contain letters and jewelry; value \$200.

CHAPTER IV.

October 21, 1907.—Mr. Young Business Man to Mary Lovey, St. Joseph, Mo., said to contain one diamond; value \$150.

HUGE LOSS BY BIRD DECREASE.

Audubon Society Chief Says Sum Would Total Big Amount.

New York.—Because of the decrease in birds, the United States is losing yearly without protest a sum larger than the capitalization of all the national banks in the country, was the statement made by President William Dutcher, of the National Association of Audubon Societies, at the annual meeting of the association here. The public, declared Mr. Dutcher, placidly allows agricultural crops valued at \$800,000,000 to be annually destroyed by insects, which destruction is entirely due to the rapid decrease in the number of insectivorous birds in the country.

"If a million or more dollars are lost through the management of a bank or other fiduciary institution," he said, "it creates a wave of protest throughout the entire country, yet a yearly loss equal to the entire capitalization of the national banks of the country creates no comment whatever, simply because the public do not realize what is going on."

Mr. Dutcher said that the association was in position to do good work along the line of protection to birds, but in order to successfully carry on its work it should have a larger endowment fund and a far larger membership.

BRITONS GREAT WRITERS.

Nearly 3,000,000,000 Letters Handled in Kingdom Last Year.

London.—Besides 2,804,490,000 letters, there were 831,490,000 post cards, 935,200,000 half-penny packets, 189,100,000 newspapers and 104,000,000 miscellaneous packages handled by the local authorities of the United Kingdom in the year ending March 1.

During the same year more than 89,000,000 telegrams passed over the postal wires.

These figures divided between England, Ireland and Scotland prove that the English people are far ahead of either of the other nations in the matter of letter-writing and mail-order business.

The postmaster general announces a system of voluntary deductions from soldiers' pay to be kept in the Post Office Savings bank as an experiment. Many other changes and improvements have already been inaugurated in the banking department and the increase over last year's business, which is about 20 per cent., will be greatly expanded in the coming year.

Nearly ten and a half millions of depositors of the three nations, representing a sum exceeding a billion dollars, was the record of the past year of the bank department.

AT THE FIRST MEAL

SOME GOOD BREAKFAST TABLE SUGGESTIONS.

Coffee Tastes Better if Made at the Moment Required—Hot Water Dishes to Keep the Food in Condition.

Here are some suggestions for the breakfast table that may be of use:

Coffee will be much better if it is made right on the table. There is a Viennese coffee pot which comes in copper or nickel. This is furnished with its own alcohol lamp, which boils the water as it percolates through the coffee.

The coffee can be made any desired strength. If the machine is started with boiling water coffee can be made in from ten to 15 minutes.

Tea should also be made on the table; you can then be sure that the water is freshly boiled and that the tea does not stand after being made.

There are some china teapots that have a sieve-like pocket in the top to hold the tea leaves. The boiling water is poured through them as many times as is necessary. The tea when made remains the same strength, as the leaves do not steep in it.

Food should be served in hot water dishes. These come in all sizes and at all prices.

The handsome Sheffield pieces have a covered dish on a stand, a hot water dish underneath it and an alcohol lamp that fits into the stand to keep the water hot.

These, of course, will last a lifetime and are expensive, but there are plenty of others that will answer as well and that are quite reasonable.

Food will keep hot in these covered dishes for a surprising length of time and does not dry up, as it does when put in the oven or over the stove. If you want to have a comfortable hot breakfast have several of these dishes in use.

China eggcups come with hollow bases, in which hot water is poured. A soft-boiled egg, when hot, is appetizing, but it never is by the time it is prepared in the ordinary eggcup.

If you like your dry toast crisp, it should always be served in a toast rack. Putting it on a plate and covering it up makes a steam that spoils it.

The juice of an orange squeezed into a small glass cup makes a very good fruit course. Many a hurried man will drink his orange juice to his pleasure and profit who would not stop to have an orange that he had to prepare himself.

After all, it pays to give the family a good start in the morning and a good hot breakfast is a great help.

HOMEMADE SHOE TREES.

In making shoe trees from old stockings filled with bran, as is the habit of the economical, there should be enough of the leg of the stocking left to allow the bran to be pushed up as the form is being put in. Otherwise, especially if the shoe is at all damp, it will be almost impossible to manipulate it.

Keep a tape fastened to the seam of the stocking so it can be tied or untied at a moment's notice. When putting the form into the shoe untie this tape, refastening it after pushing the bran down to hold out the shoe.

There is but one objection to this kind of shoe tree; mice like it as well as you do, and care should be taken to keep the shoes out of their way.

To Sew on Hooks and Eyes.

To sew on hooks and eyes to the band of a skirt place the eye on the right side of the band with the loop at the end of the band. Hold firmly and sew over and over through the little rings on the eye. The little rings may be buttonholed to the material covering the metal if one desires. On the under side of the band at the end opposite to the eye and a quarter of an inch from the edge place the hook. Sew through the rings in the same manner as the eye is sewed, and under the hook part put a few stitches to hold it down.

Russian Mince.

This is a good way of using up scraps of a joint. Cut up a pound of cold meat into dice. Chop up also any vegetables, ham, bacon, or sweet pudding. Fry all lightly in a little dripping. Season highly with pepper, salt, finely-chopped onions, parsley and a tablespoonful of vinegar, stir all together over the fire, and serve very hot. Garnish with sippets of toast.

Potatoes a la Maitre.

Wash and pare four medium-sized potatoes and cut them in halves. Boil in salted water until done. Have ready a quarter cup of chopped parsley. Drain the water off the potatoes and shake them dry. Pour the egg and parsley over them while you are shaking the potatoes held above the fire. The egg will cook over the potatoes in the hot kettle. Serve hot.

Brighten Picture Frames.

Gilt picture frames may be freshened and brightened by washing them with a soft brush dipped in the following mixture: Put enough flour of sulphur into a pint of water to give it a yellow tinge, add two onions cut into pieces, and let them boil; strain into a dish, and when the liquid becomes cold it is ready for use.

Corn Fritters.

Two cups sweet corn, either canned or fresh, one egg, two tablespoons milk, two of flour, salt, pepper, a pinch of soda and twice as much cream of tartar. Fry in hot fat. Delicious.