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By the Greatest American Humorists

THE MILLS OF THE GODS

By RICHARD S. GRAVES

When it was first mentioned that the mills of the gods grind slowly I have no doubt it was true. Everything was slow in those days. The mills had always been grinding slowly when those words were first written, perhaps as slowly as some of the courts grind at this time, and there was no reason to believe they would ever improve.

The observer added as a sort of consolation that they grind exceedingly fine, and let it go at that. Even that is more than can be said of some courts, to continue the comparison between the mills and the courts.

The mills of the gods were very slow at one time. There is no doubt about it. There was an era when men stalked around covered with armor, firm in the belief that they were warriors, and the kind of conversation they carried on with each other, if the historical novelists have reported it correctly, was sufficient provocation for throwing them into the nearest and fastest mill.

There was another period when men wore knee trousers and powdered their hair. Those who wore armor and the others who dressed themselves like clowns are all dead now, but they were allowed to live out the usual span of life.

At a later time people listened to stump speeches and allowed the speakers to live. Considering some of the speeches history has preserved for us it is almost certain the mills of the gods must have been undergoing repairs just then.

It is impossible to doubt that the mills ground slowly after taking one glance into the past. We may reconcile this condition to the crying need of those days by the reflection that all machinery is imperfect at first. If Robert Fulton could come back now and be present at the anniversary celebration he would have to admit that the steamboats he used to build were dinky.

The mills of the gods may not have advanced as rapidly as steamships and automobiles in recent years, but they still are grinding. I think they began to improve some years ago. I have noticed several of the grists that have been turned out and as far as I could see they were all right. Neither could any complaint be made by a reasonable person about the celerity with which the work was done.

There was a brass band in a country town a few years ago, the members of



"Practicing in a Room Back of the Livery Stable."

which practiced five nights each week, and it will serve as an illustration of the work the mills of the gods have been doing. The practicing was done in a room back of the livery stable. The building had been a corn crib and was open, but the roof was good. The rehearsals were rather public and this was called to the attention of the players but they did not care. The noise they made would have torn the sides out of any other building, so it did not matter.

The instruments were placed in a large chest and left in the building when the band was not practicing, but it was not often that they were in the chest.

One night a fire broke out in the corner of the building where the chest stood, somebody having carelessly poured a lot of coal oil there. Before the fire could be quenched the instruments were reduced to blackened and worthless brass. They were a total loss, there being no insurance. The town never raised enough money to replace the instruments.

Nobody thought of it at the time, but I know now that the grist was turned out by one of the mills of the gods. I wish I knew which mill. There are other grists I would like to take there. Anybody can see that the grist was exceeding fine, and that is evidence that it was from one of the mills. It may be circumstantial, but still it is evidence.

Those who have listened to the music of a band hailing from a small town will readily agree with the position I have taken. The fact that about a barrel of coal oil was spilled in the corner of the building may or may not be taken into consideration. The result is the same in any event.

It is useless to try to convince me that the mills of the gods do not grind faster now than they used to years ago. The band had been practicing only 30 days.

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NOTARY IN OFFICE

LEGAL NOTICE.

Jennie R. Pyle, Plaintiff,
v.
Edward S. Pyle, Defendant.
To Edward S. Pyle, non-resident defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff, Jennie R. Pyle, did on the 19th day of July, 1909, file her petition in the district court of Richardson County, state of Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is to obtain a decree of divorce from the bonds of matrimony now existing between her and you upon the grounds of desertion for more than two years continuously and for non-support during said time, and praying for a further decree giving her the custody of the two children named in her petition as the fruit of said marriage who are both minors and of tender age.

You are further notified that said plaintiff has asked in her said petition that the court grant an order of sequestration of certain real estate owned by you in Richardson County, Nebraska, to wit: part of the northeast quarter of Section 20, Town 1, Range 17, containing about twelve acres, and a final decree assigning said real estate to her for her support and that of her children and that the decree making such assignment shall stand as a conveyance of your title therein to the plaintiff, Jennie R. Pyle, and a further prayer for such other and further relief as plaintiff may be entitled to, agreeable to the equities of her case.

You are further notified that unless you plead, answer or demur to the petition of plaintiff filed in said cause on or before the 6th day of September, 1909, the same will be taken as confessed and a decree entered in favor of plaintiff accordingly.

REAVIS & REAVIS,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.
First publication July 23—4 times.

Legal Notice.

In the Richardson County District court, State of Nebraska.

Walter M. Baker vs. Nicholas V. Bilby.

To Nicholas V. Bilby, non-resident defendant:

You are hereby notified that Walter M. Baker, the plaintiff above named, did on August 2nd, 1909, file his petition in the district court of Richardson county, State of Nebraska, against you, the object and prayer of which is to obtain a judgment against you for the amount of a certain check by you drawn on the American National Bank of Holdenville, Oklahoma, for the sum of \$362.26, dated November 10th, 1905, but payment of same was refused by said National Bank, for the reason that you had no funds in the Bank for the purpose; and to recover interest on said amount from November 10th, 1905, and a further and second cause of action, said plaintiff prays judgment against you on account for work and labor, material furnished and money laid out and expended to your use in the further sum of \$50.51, which several sums, with interest added on the amount of the unpaid check for \$362.26, amounts to the sum of \$501.75.

And you are further notified that on the same day, to wit, the 2nd day of August, 1909, said plaintiff sued out of said court in said cause, an order of attachment directed to the sheriff of Richardson County, Nebraska, commanding him to attach sufficient property belonging to you in Richardson county, to satisfy plaintiff's demand and the costs of said action.

And on the same day to wit, August 2nd, 1909, the sheriff levied said order of attachment on the following described property belonging to you to wit:

The undivided one-half of the fractional part of the southwest quarter of Section one (1) Township two (2) Range Seventeen (17), east, in Richardson county State of Nebraska, containing eighty acres, more or less.

You are further notified that unless you plead, answer or demur to said petition of plaintiff on or before the 13th day of September, 1909, the same will be taken as true and judgment entered against you accordingly.

REAVIS & REAVIS,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.
First publication Aug. 6, 1909—4 times.

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South Bound

Tr. 104—St. Louis Mail and Express 1:23 p. m.
Tr. 106—Kansas City Exp. 3:41 a. m.
Tr. 132 x—K. C. local leaves. 7:30 a. m.
Tr. 138 x—Falls City arrives 9:00 p. m.
x—Daily except Sunday

North Bound

Tr. 103—Nebraska Mail and Express. 1:52 p. m.
Tr. 105—Omaha Express. 2:23 a. m.
Tr. 137 x—Omaha local leaves 6:15 a. m.
Tr. 131 x—Falls City local arrives. 8:45 p. m.
x—Daily except Sunday

Local Frt. Trains Carrying Passengers

North Bound

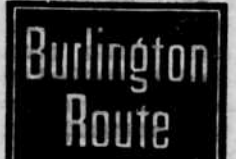
Tr. 192x—To Atchison. 11:10 a. m.

South Bound

Tr. 191x—To Auburn. 1:23 p. m.

J. B. VARNER, Agent

Burlington Route



West Bound

No. 13—Denver Exp. 1:10 a. m.
No. 15—Denver Exp. (Local). 1:40 p. m.
No. 43—Portland Exp. 10:17 p. m.
No. 41—Portland Exp. 2:25 p. m.
No. 121—Lincoln Loc. via Nebraska City. 5:00 a. m.

East Bound

No. 14—St. J., K. C. & St. L. 7:38 a. m.
No. 44—St. J., K. C. & St. L. (Local) 4:11 a. m.
No. 16—St. J., K. C. & St. L. 4:22 p. m.
No. 42—St. J., K. C. & St. L. 7:00 p. m.
No. 122—From Lincoln, via Nebraska City. 8:45 p. m.
E. G. WHITFORD, Agent.