

OUTSIDE THE GATE.

BY DONALD ALLEN.

"My, what is that!" A girl lying in a hammock under a tree on the lawn of a country house heard a scream in the direction of the highway.



It came again and again, and she tumbled out of the hammock and ran down to the gate just as a colored woman came staggering up, and just as a big black goat was disappearing down the road.

The colored woman was Aunt Tilda, the cook, and the goat was a goat unknown.

"Oh, Miss Ruth!" gasped the cook as she fell on the grass.

"For the land's sake, Tilda, but what is it?"

"It was a grizzly b'ar, Miss Ruth, and he was gwine eat me up!"

"Tilda!"

"I declar' to goodness it was!"

"I saw a black goat fleeing down the road."

"Wall, mebbe it was a goat, but it is the same thing as a grizzly b'ar. Lemme git up to de veranda an' I'll tell you all about it. Now, den, I went ober to Morton's didn't I?"

"Yes."

"To see Hanner, de cook?"

"Yes."

"Well, I saw her. She was in good speerits. She axed me when you was gwine to git married."

"The impudent thing!"

"Dat's zactly what I said to her. She said she wasn't, but she had had a dream dat you was gwine to fall in love wid somebody and git married. She said dat sunthin' wid horns on was gwine to bring it about. And goats have horns, and dar you am!"

"Go to your kitchen!"

Two hours later Miss Ruth Parsons took a little saunter up the highway. She had not progressed over ten rods when she heard a snort and saw that black goat bearing down upon her.

She had just got inside the gate and swung it to when the horns of the goat struck it. She had screamed once or twice en route, and the cook was on the veranda.

"Befo' de Lawd, but dar's de sunthin' wid horns dat de Hanner woman dreamed of!"

At ten o'clock next forenoon Miss Ruth had a caller. He was a young man who gave his name as Charley Ashley, and he explained his errand by saying:

"I am at my sister's, eight miles away, on my school vacation. She is rather eccentric about pets, and has a big black goat which is a nuisance. He broke the rope with which he was tied the other day and disappeared, and I am looking for him. We have heard that he was seen this far away yesterday."

"Yes, he was here," was the reply. "He wanted to kill me, but I was fortunate enough to escape."

"I am sorry if he annoyed you."

"I was going to have him shot if he hung around here."

"Very proper. Of course, you don't know which way he went?"

"I was too frightened to take notice."

The conversation began at the veranda steps and ended at the gate, where the young man had his auto waiting. With the remark that he would go on a mile or two further, he raised his hat and stepped outside the gate, and there was the goat! He had been in ambush. He came for the gate head down and heels up, and snorting like a grampus at low water.

Mr. Ashley exclaimed, "Thunder!" and leaped into his machine.

Miss Ruth yelled "Oh, my!" and ran for the veranda.

By all the rules of logic this goat ought to have sprung into the auto after the young man, but he did nothing of the sort. He took after the girl instead, and half way to the house she went down under his catapult.

Mr. Ashley was not a man to beat a retreat in the face of the enemy, but just the man to rush to the rescue of a forlorn damsel. He rushed. He didn't have a gun handy in his hip pocket, and so the goat had the advantage. He turned from the prostrate maiden and met the hero half way.

It was bad for the hero. A ton of brick struck him in the solar plexus, and after a grunt and a gasp he retired to the land of nothing and nobody. When he recovered, consciousness he was lying at the foot of the steps, whither he had been dragged by Miss Ruth and the cook.

"I hope the goat didn't do you any serious injury," he said.

"No, not serious," replied the girl. "Are you much hurt?"

"Only the breath knocked out of me for the time being. Do you happen to have a firearm in the house?"

"I have a revolver, but no cartridges for it."

"Then I will wait to get him home to kill him. Sorry to have brought about this annoyance."

"But it jest had to be brung about," answered the cook.

Mr. Ashley called three days later. The goat had been shot.

As Tilda put it when he went away after a long call:

"Now, honey, you hain't got nuthin' to do but fall in love and git married, and you go right at it!"

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OUR EARLY FLAGS

Colonial Emblems That Led Up to the Stars and Stripes.

THE STORY OF OLD GLORY.

Twice Has the Design Been Changed Since the Official Adoption of Our First Flag in 1777—The Stars and Stripes.

The American flag is a growth rather than a creation. Its history can be traced back to the twelfth century, or nearly 600 years prior to the first "flag day," June 14, 1777.

During the first crusade in 1195 Pope Urban II. assigned to all of the Christian nations as standards crosses varying in color and design, emblematic of the warfare in which they were engaged. To the Scotch troops was assigned the white saltire, known as the white cross of St. Andrew, on a blue field. The British used a yellow cross, but a century and a quarter later they adopted a red cross on a white field, known as the red cross of St. George.

When James VI. of Scotland ascended the throne of England as James I. he combined the two flags and issued a proclamation requiring all ships to carry the new flag at their mainmasts. At the same time the vessels of south Britain were to carry at their foremasts the red cross of St. George and the ships of north Britain to carry the white cross of St. Andrew.

The new flag was known as "king colors," the "union colors," of the "great union" and later as the "union jack" and was the one under which the British made all their permanent settlements in America.

The people in the New England colonies were bitterly opposed to the cross in the flag. In 1635 some of the troops in Massachusetts declined to march under this flag, and the military commissioners were forced to design other flags for their troops with the cross left out. The design they adopted has not been preserved. In 1632 a mint was established in Boston. Money coined in this mint had the pine tree stamped on one side of it. The pine tree design was also used on New England flags, certainly by 1704 and possibly as early as 1635.

At the outbreak of the Revolution the American colonies had no flag common to all of them. In many cases the merchant marine flag of England was used with the pine tree substituted for the union jack. Massachusetts adopted the green pine tree on a white field with the motto, "An Appeal to Heaven." Some of the southern states had the rattlesnake flag with the motto "Don't Tread on Me" on a white or yellow field. This flag had been used by South Carolina as early as 1764.

In September, 1775, there was displayed in the south what is by many believed to be the first distinctively American flag. It was blue with a white crescent and matched the dress of the troops, who wore caps inscribed "Liberty or Death."

The colonists desired to adopt a common flag, but they had not yet declared independence and were not at first seeking independence. They took the British flag as they knew it and made a new colonial flag by dividing the red field with white stripes into thirteen alternate red and white stripes. This is known as the Cambridge flag, because it was first unfurled over Washington's headquarters at Cambridge, Mass., on Jan. 1, 1776. It complied with the law of 1707 by having the union jack on it; it also represented the thirteen colonies by the thirteen stripes.

As the colonists gradually became converted to the idea that independence from the mother country was necessary they began to modify the flag, first by leaving off the union jack and using only the thirteen horizontal stripes. The modified flags were not always red and white, but regularly consisted of combinations of two colors selected from red, white, blue and yellow. The final modification was the replacement of the union jack by the white stars on a blue field.

The stars are the only distinctive feature of the American flag. The charming story which credits Betsy Ross with making the first flag of stars and stripes is still accepted by historians. When Washington suggested the six pointed star she demonstrated the ease with which a five pointed star could be made by folding a piece of paper and producing one with a single clip of the scissors.

The official adoption of our first flag was in 1777. On June 14 of that year the Continental congress passed an act providing that "the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." The thirteen stars were arranged in a circle to symbolize the perpetuity of the union of the states.

Vermont was admitted to the Union in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792. It was felt that these two new states ought to be recognized on the flag, so in 1794 congress passed an act making the flag fifteen stars and fifteen stripes.

This remained the flag of the United States throughout the war of 1812, until there were twenty states in the Union. In 1816 an effort was again made to modify the flag so that all the new states would be represented on it. To be continually adding stripes would make the flag very awkward in shape and appearance, so after arguing the matter for two years congress decided to return to the original thirteen stripes and one star for each state.

Why the Leaves Turn Red.

"Ankis, why do the leaves turn red in the fall?"

It was Fritzie who asked the question, one October afternoon, of his friend Ankis, the Indian, as they were walking through the woods.

"Haven't I ever told you?" answered Ankis in surprise. "It is one of the old legends of our tribe. And, as they seated themselves under a maple tree that blazed with color, Ankis began:

"Long, long ago there were a great many more trees than there are now, and a great many more birds too. And the trees loved the birds, for the little feathered people sang from early dawn till late at night, and flashed their blue and yellow and brown wings everywhere through the green forest. And the trees said to one another: 'O, how dull it would be if we didn't have our birds!'

"So the trees spread out their limbs like great loving hands to hold up the tiny nests, and they covered the bird homes with thick foliage to hide them from the prowling squirrels until the fledglings should have grown up and flown away."

"But one night, in the month of the harvest moon, when the feathery thistle ships were no longer sailing the ocean of the air, a messenger came running down from the White Country in the north, and whispered into the ears of the trees. He was a little Frost Boy, and his words were:

"Beware! The Chief of the Cold is coming? And he has with him a great snow army? And all their quivers are full of ice arrows!"

"Then the trees made ready to meet the army of the Chief of the Cold, and wrapped their bark close round their bodies and the bodies of their frail children. Suddenly some one thought of the birds."

"Do they know the snow army is coming?" And the trees tried to warn their friends, but trees cannot talk very loud, and the mother-birds were so busy teaching their children to fly and sing that they heard nothing of what the trees whispered.

"O, how can we make the birds hear?" the trees cried in agony. Then a maple tree said:

"I know! Let's light a fire signal as the Indians do, and when the birds see the flame they will come to ask what it means; then we can tell them."

"And they did so, and the next morning the fire signal had been set a-burning among all the leaves of the forest, and everywhere the trees were red and crimson. So sure enough, the birds hastened to learn what it meant, and the trees told them that the Chief of the Cold was on his way. And when the birds heard it, they swiftly rose on the wing and started off for the southland."

"Since that time every fall when the Frost Boy brings his warning to the trees, they light their fire signal of red leaves. And whenever you see those red leaves, Fritzie, watch carefully, and you will find the birds every night and morning flying southward to escape the ice arrows of the snow army."—Sunday School Times.

For Borrowed Books.

So many books were borrowed and never returned from the writer's home that she purchased a script stencil bearing her own name and a "please return." To date this plan has proven satisfactory in returning her books in due time.

Medical.

In Bellefonte

THE EVIDENCE IS SUPPLIED BY LOCAL TESTIMONY.

If the reader wants stronger proof than the following statement and experience of a resident of Bellefonte, what can it be.

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True to Traditions.

They reached their seats just as the fourth and last part of the movie play was thrown upon the screen. "Oh, goody!" exclaimed the girl delightedly. "It's just like turning to the last chapter of a story first to see how it comes out"—Boston Transcript.

There is a certain languid, dull feeling which overtakes an energetic man sometimes. He wonders what can be the matter with him. He has no ambition. He loses interest even in his business. In such a case the man usually stirs up his liver with the first pill or potion which comes convenient to his hand. But stirring up is not what he needs. He needs building up. Unconsciously he has put into his work more strength each day than could be made up by each day's food and each day's sleep. So that with every day there's an increasing overdraft

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

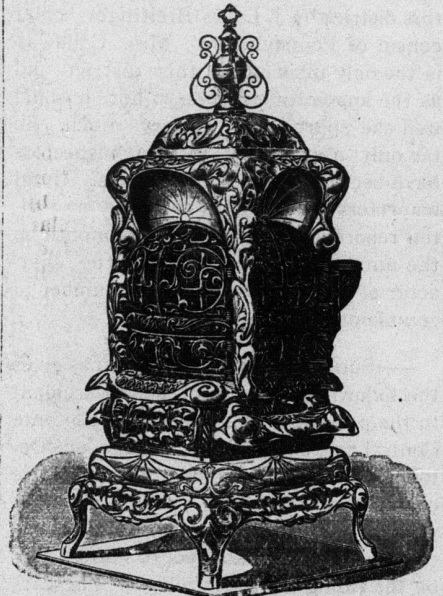
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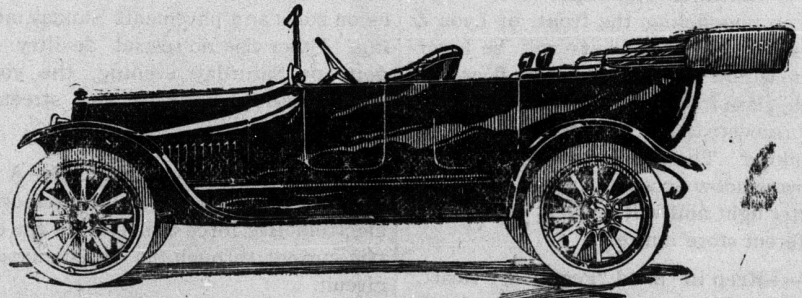
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