

CONSOLATION.

By Sunie Mar.

They've grown to be men and women, Those little boys and girls,— Whose cheeks were dirty and dimpled, Whose hair was in tangled curls; Who had always a frolic for papa, For mamma a squeeze and a kiss, They have lost their childish affection— Their loving caresses we miss.

A DIGEST OF THE STATE'S AUTOMOBILE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

No motor vehicle to be operated on any street or highway until same has been properly registered with the State Highway Department.

No motor vehicle on which the manufacturer's number has been omitted, obliterated or defaced shall be registered without special permit from the State Highway Commissioner.

The registration plates shall be rigidly attached to the motor vehicles so that they cannot swing or oscillate, one on the front and the other on the rear; the rear tag shall not be underneath any part of the body more than twelve inches from the rear and there of; nor shall they be covered, obscured, bent, altered or defaced in any manner, and the lower edge of rear plate shall not be less than 15 inches above the ground.

The registration plates shall be kept clean and free from all grease, dirt or other substance likely to impair the legibility, and, between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise the rear plate shall be so illuminated that it can be plainly distinguished.

No motor vehicle shall be operated under any other plates (tags) than that of its own registration.

No person shall permit the use or shall use the plates issued under a dealer's registration on any other motor vehicle than those owned by such dealer and operated by such dealer or his employee, or for any other purpose than demonstrating, testing or removing same from storage or to the place of delivery before or after sale.

No person under the age of sixteen years or who is mentally impaired or who is physically incapacitated, shall operate any motor vehicle on any highway or street in this Commonwealth.

No person who is owner or custodian of any motor vehicle shall permit any person less than sixteen years of age, or who is not a licensed operator or paid driver or holder of learner's permit to operate any motor vehicle, or permit any such person to operate any motor vehicle for pay or hire who is not eighteen years of age and a paid driver.

No person shall operate a motor vehicle as a paid driver without first taking out a paid driver's license.

No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any streets or highways in this Commonwealth until such person shall have been issued a license by the State Highway Department. That no license shall be issued under any circumstances to a person under sixteen years of age. That no paid driver's license shall be issued to any person eighteen years of age, unless he has had at least five days' experience as a driver of a motor vehicle. Any person other than a registered owner or paid driver wishing to operate a motor vehicle shall first obtain an operator's license.

Any person operating a motor vehicle must stop upon signal from any officer and exhibit his registration certificate or driver's license.

No person shall throw any missile at any motor vehicle, or place any substance upon any street or highway injurious or damaging to a motor vehicle or the tires thereof; no unauthorized person shall sound any horn, handle the levers, set in motion or otherwise tamper with or deface any motor vehicle standing upon the public highways.

No person shall operate a motor vehicle on the highways of this State in a reckless manner or at a greater rate of speed than is reasonable and proper, having regard to width of street, traffic and use of highway.

Remember that you can be driving at a rate not exceeding twenty miles per hour and still be driving in a reckless manner, operating motor vehicles at fast rate of speed and refusing to dim your lights is operating in a reckless manner.

The speed limit is one mile in two minutes, except in built-up sections, schoolhouses, churches, play grounds or sections, marked 15-mile speed limit, when the speed shall not exceed one mile in four minutes.

Every motor vehicle using electric lights of more than four candle-power not equipped with a permanent deflecting or diffusing device shall be provided or equipped with some practical and efficient means whereby the front lights of the vehicle may be dimmed or lessened at the will of the operator to such an extent that such electric light or the reflection thereof will not interfere with the sight of or temporarily blind the vision of driver of approaching vehicle.

It shall be the duty of all drivers and operators of motor vehicles using electric lights to dim the forward lights so as not to interfere with the driver of the approaching vehicle. So remember to dim your lights when approaching a motor vehicle coming in the opposite direction.

Every motor vehicle, whether standing or in motion is to display one rear

red light from an hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

No lights of more than 32 candle-power shall be used on any motor vehicle, and all lights in excess of four candle power shall be so arranged that dazzling rays of light shall not at a point 75 feet or more ahead of lights rise more than 42 inches above level surface on which vehicle stands.

All additional or supplemental lights, including spotlights, shall fully comply with these restrictions, and the rays of any such light shall at no time extend to the left of the centre of the highway.

Every operator of any motor vehicle shall sound his horn or other device, giving reasonable warning of his approach whenever necessary, to insure the safety of other users of the highway. Remember to sound your horn at all curves and other dangerous places.

All operators of motor vehicles when having injured any person shall stop at once and render all assistance possible.

No motor vehicle of any description shall be operated on any highway unless the engine be muffled so that the explosions thereof shall not constitute a nuisance.

Remember to keep on the right side of the road. When two motor vehicles approach the intersection of two highways at the same time, the vehicle approaching from the right shall have the right of way.

That all vehicles, including wagons, etc., shall from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise, except agricultural machinery and such as are propelled by hand or loaded with hay, display at least one light which shall be clearly visible for a distance of 200 feet from both the rear and front of such vehicle. This light must be displayed on all vehicles except as stated, whether standing or in motion.

Try not to delay traffic by killing your engine. Don't over-inflate your tires.

SHORTER DAY ON FARM.

The federal employment service at Washington reports a shortage of agricultural and common labor in southern and western States. It also reports a surplus of men of professional and technical training and a surplus of clerks.

This condition is not in the least surprising when one checks up on what industry has been through in the last few years. It has undergone the biggest shake-up in the nation's history.

Munition plants offering dazzling wages took the laborer from the ditch and the plowman from the field. Men who had been used to hard work found out there was an easier way and that the easier way was more profitable to them personally.

Such was the case especially with the farm hand. It took war to teach him that instead of working long hours at small pay he could work short hours at bigger pay, so when war closed he quit the munition plant to hunt up some other factory job.

Negroes were taken from the South in droves and they tasted of the new life that makes the old undesirable.

Training for war service took many men out of their original lines of effort into something entirely new. The government trained them in specialties, and when war closed they wanted to apply this service specialty to practical civilian life.

The draft took thousands of country boys to the city for the first time. Many of them will not want to go back to the country to live.

What promises to deepen the farm labor problem more than anything else is the tendency to shorten the working day. Before the war farm labor pay was lower than any other kind, considering the hours and strenuousness of service. The farm laborer today who works from four in the morning until six or eight at night hears of the "forty-four-hour week" and naturally his own situation often makes him decide to change—especially as farm labor still gets much less than that received by the skilled and often the unskilled worker in the city.

Farmers cannot compete on the old basis with the city employer. With the tendency to shorten the working day also is a tendency to indulge in more recreation. Farm hands no longer are isolated, so they don't keep up with the times. An automobile chugs by every now and then to remind them that a large part of the world is almost constantly pleasure-bound.

Justification of Wrath.

William Huggins was angry, and he certainly appeared to have some justification for wrath. "Liza," he expostulated, "don't I always tell you I won't have the kids bringing in the coals from the shed in any basket? It ain't nice, Liza."

"Just listen to reason, if you please, Bill," said his wife, coldly. "You have spoilt the shape of that hat with your funny head, and, as you're working coal all day at the wharf, what can a little extra coal dust in your hat matter?"

"You don't see the point, Liza," said William, with dignity. "I only wear that 'at in the hevenin's, an' if while I'm bout I take it horf my head it leaves a black band round my forehead. Wot's the consequence? Why, I gits accused of washin' my face with my 'at on. And it ain't nice, Liza."

Prohibition has brought a pronounced increase in the consumption of coffee in America, but thus far there is no appreciable increase in the drinking of tea. That is strange. It was expected tea shops would crop out everywhere. As a matter of fact there seem to be fewer now than last year.

In nothing has there been a more remarkable change in the last thirty or forty years than the tea trade. Tea is indigenous to China and Japan and has been cultivated for thousands of years. It was not introduced into India until 1865, but today the exports of Northern India alone are \$50,000,000 a year, while those of all China last year were only \$4,000,000.

Thirty years ago the exports of China were \$24,000,000 a year, and those of India \$15,000,000.

For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.

U. S. RICE OUTPUT DOUBLE SINCE WAR.

The American taste for rice seems to have been sharpened by the war. The rice production in the United States has virtually doubled during the war period and in addition to this the importation has doubled. The United States is by far the largest rice producer of the Occidental world.

This comparatively new industry has grown out of a system peculiar to this country of producing rice in a manner in which modern machinery can be utilized in planting, cultivation and harvesting, instead of the crude methods by which it is produced in the Orient.

The world has awakened to the fact that the United States has rice to spare, and the quantity of that article passing out of our ports to foreign countries and our non-contiguous territories in the fiscal year 1918 was 330,000,000 pounds as against 163,000,000 pounds in the year before the war, while, of course, the quantity of wheat which we have spared to the outside world has greatly stimulated consumption at home. The rice crop of the United States was 23,649,000 bushels in 1914 and, according to the latest estimates of the Department of Agriculture, will be 42,487,000 bushels in 1919, while, as already indicated, the quantity imported has virtually doubled.

Rice production in the United States languished after the Civil war, for it was not then realized that it could be grown and harvested by machinery and methods applied to the production of wheat and other grains. Rice can only flourish on wet land, so wet that ordinary farm machinery cannot be used upon it. But a few years ago it was discovered that certain lands in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and elsewhere were so constituted with relation to soil, climate and water supply that they could be prepared with the usual agricultural machinery, the lands then flooded from nearby streams or artesian wells, and the water drained off as the rice approaches maturity, and ordinary reaping and threshing machines used in harvesting the crop.

This revolutionized rice-growing in the United States, and was in fact a development of the world production, for in no other country has this method been practiced. The producing area was expanded from the Carolinas and Georgia to the Mississippi Valley, Arkansas and Texas, and recently certain areas in California, and the annual production has increased from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 pounds in former years to more than 1,000,000,000 pounds a year at this time, making the United States by far the largest rice producer of the Occidental world.

Of course, our biggest rice crop of over 1,000,000,000 pounds per annum, while the largest in the Occidental world, is a trifle when compared with that of some of the Oriental countries, where rice is the chief article of food for a very dense population. Siam, for example, produced more than 5,000,000,000 pounds of rice a year, against our 1,000,000,000 pounds; the Dutch East Indies, 7,000,000,000 pounds; Japan, 17,000,000,000, and India 70,000,000,000 pounds, while China, which has no official figures of her crop, may equal or exceed the increased production, bringing the world's total crop to approximately 200,000,000,000 pounds a year.

Few people realize that the world's production of rice is nearly as great as the world production of wheat, pound for pound. We often hear it said that rice is the chief cereal food of more than one-half the population of the world, and this is probably true, but we do not realize how near the rice production comes to equaling that of wheat when compared by actual quantity. The best estimates that can be made of the rice production of the world indicates that the grand total in favorable years is nearly or perhaps quite 200,000,000,000 pounds, while the number of pounds of wheat grown even in the high record years of 1913 and 1915 was but about 240,000,000,000 pounds each year.

Life of a Milk Bottle.

The average milk bottle makes only seventeen trips before it is broken or lost. For every consumer who has a quart of milk delivered at the door each day the dealer in the course of a year has to supply twenty new bottles. This is the report made by dairy experts of the Department of Agriculture, who have just completed an investigation of the waste of millions of milk bottles annually.

The investigation, conducted in eighty-six cities, shows that the average milk dealer buys 17,699 new bottles a month, which are largely, though not entirely, replacement stock.

In sixteen of the cities investigated more than 8,000,000 sound milk bottles are collected annually from the city dumps, the specialists report. In some cities the business carried on by junk dealers is one of the most serious sources of milk-bottle losses, they say. Not only do they sell the bottles to the dealers in the city, but often ship them to other towns. Most States have no laws restricting such traffic.

Only thirty-three cities had milk-bottle exchanges or places where milk bottles from all sources are sorted out and returned to the owner, provided he is a member of the exchange.

Nineteen States have regulations governing the use of milk bottles, the report concludes, and seventy-two secure special dispensation from other dealers' bottles.—Buffalo Express.

Pennsylvania Protects Birds.

Pennsylvania now leads all other States in laws for bird protection, according to The Guide to Nature. It is now a crime to sell feathers of any wild bird whatsoever. This includes all stuffed and mounted specimens, except that of museums and other educational institutions, together with such private individuals as can show apparent benefits to science, may secure special dispensation from the president of the Board of Game Commissioners. The State had previously been "a hotbed for the wholesale milinery interests that had been driven out of New York State by the Audubon law."

FISH FOR GULLS AND PETRELS WITH CONVOY OF DOLPHINS

Those Birds, as Well as the Albatross, Are Frequently Taken With Rod and Line.

Curious though it may seem, it is a fact that birds are caught with rod and line in many parts of the world. The pastime is declared to be almost as fascinating as fishing. Gulls in Newfoundland are caught in this way in large quantities. In New England fishing for gulls and petrels is an important industry.

The method of bird fishing is practically the same as that of ordinary fishing. Two men go out in a dory and throw pieces of cod liver on the water. When large quantities of birds have been attracted to the spot more cod liver is thrown out on a hook. This the birds greedily swallow and thus fall easy victims.

Albatross are fished for in the same way off the Cape of Good Hope. A piece of pork is attached to a long line and thrown overboard. The bird will eye it for a long time, gradually and cautiously making toward it. Suddenly he will seize it and hold it in his beak. When he discovers that he is caught he will sit on the water and vigorously flap his wings. However, he will be drawn into the boat and made a captive.

Albatross fishing is good sport, since the bird requires careful handling. So long as he pulls against the line it is easy enough. The moment, however, he swims forward the hook will drop from his beak unless it is skillfully manipulated, and the bird will find himself free.

MADE BY FRENCH SCULPTOR

Interesting to Recall That Houdon Crossed the Ocean to Model Bust of Washington.

Historical reminiscences, awakened by present relations between France and the United States, recalls that in the early days of the American republic French artists made the first sculptural representations of American men and events. America had portrait painters, as witness the surviving portraits of Washington, but no "statuaries," as sculptors were then called, of equal merit. The medals commemorating the American Revolution were struck chiefly in France, and Houdon crossed the ocean to model the bust of Washington necessary for his statue of the American general and president. It was a grave question whether the sculptor should clothe the general in modern costume or dress him, after the art fashion of the time, in the classic garb of a Roman, and, as the story comes down, it took the combined opinions of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin to secure a statue of the Father of his Country in his own proper garments.

FARMER SUPREME IN CHINA

Tiller of the Soil Lives Circumscribed Life, and is Satisfied With a Bare Existence.

In recognition of the importance of Chinese agriculture the emperor himself, in the days of the empire, followed the wise custom of turning a furrow of ground once a year in the sacred precincts of the Temple of Heaven at Peking. It is the farmer still who is the truest representative of Chinese society and the farmer's baby who carries on the tradition in its soundest aspects. His life as he grows up may be narrowly circumscribed by the mud walls of his humble thatched home, which he shares indiscriminately with the pigs and live stock; the rise and fall of dynasties or republics trouble him not at all. If the year passes with no devastating floods, wrecking the results of many months' labor, food will be sufficient; no more can be asked. Now and then strolling actors come through the village and set up their grass-mat theaters; a story-teller makes his appearance at the temple festival, recounting the strangely living deeds of miraculous beings in centuries long since harvested; itinerant traders, their wares on their backs, pass down the deep-sunken road, bringing the gossip of the outer world. If life is lived according to the irreducible denominator it is not wholly barren. There is the vast accumulated thought of the past, the immeasurable world of the countless dead, toward which the present reaches out like a ring ever widening toward eternity.—Asia Magazine.

Stanley's Subterfuge.

Possessing an ample purse of his own, also a Puritan conscience, Stanley's mother discourages the acceptance by him of gratuities from adult friends. How he evaded the spirit if not the letter of the law is told by William H. Dimock.

"Sure, I knew the kid's ma doesn't like folks to s'p money to him, but I also know—thanks to a good memory—the sweet sense of peace and prosperity a nickel yields to a boy," he says.

"I almost stepped on the youngster while steering for a 10 a. m. breakfast and shot him to the little place in the corner for the latest peace congress headlines. When he returned with the paper I noticed his little hand looked awfully empty; also it had not been withdrawn. So I slipped a coin into it.

"Stanley's mother later reminded him he had been admonished never, never to ask for money for any little service rendered.

"But I didn't, mother," answered that valiant little George Washington. "I just held 'ut my hand."—Brocton Enterprise

Bird Builds Several Nests.

Some birds get very nervous and become much excited if you approach their nests and among them is the black-throated green warbler, says the American Forestry association of Washington, which is conducting the national bird-house building contest for school children. Another thing about this bird is that it frequently builds several nests. Whether this is because it changed its mind after building the first one and decided to select a better location or with the deliberate purpose of deceiving any intruders who might come along is not known. The bird is very beautifully colored, the top of its head and the region nearly down to the shoulders being a yellow green, the back olive green, the throat and breast jet black and the under parts white with some yellow in them at times.

Early Progress of Industry.

Prior to 1895 the progress made in the development of the automobile can be summed up as follows: In general style the body was a park phaeton, a ponderous complicated contrivance, which would crush the pavements as it passed over them. The gasoline was stored in a large tank in front. The motor and controlling apparatus were placed beneath the bed of the vehicle. Excessive weight and complicated machinery helped in a great measure to make it an utter failure. One weak spot after another developed. The axles became heated, then the gears got out of order. The noise of the explosion of the gasoline was suggestive of a railroad locomotive.—Chevrolet Bulletin.

BELOVED OF TOBACCO USERS

In Meerschaum, Smokers Acknowledge That One Good Thing Has Come Out of Turkey.

Eski Scheir, in Asiatic Turkey, has one unique claim upon public interest, and if one is a smoker that claim is a compelling one. It is the home of meerschaum. Meerschaum in abundance is found only on the plain of Eski Scheir, and this city produces all the marketable meerschaum in the world.

Meerschaum, as its name implies, is supposed to be petrified seafoam, and has been discovered floating on the Black sea. Apart from the Eski Scheir mines it occurs in Greece, Samoa, Spain, Moravia, Utah, Pennsylvania, and, in conjunction with serpentine, in Norway and South Carolina.

The ancients are said to have used it as a decorative stone in buildings, and this seems to have been confirmed by the recent excavations in Corfu. It is soft and whitish, and becomes malleable like clay when soaked in water.

Meerschaum used to be considered a mere curiosity by the Turks, who had no other use for it than as a substitute for fuller's soap. The story runs that the Turkish ambassador to the Austrian court, in the eighteenth century, was a native of Eski Scheir. Wanting to help his city at a time of great poverty, he took a sample of this queer stuff to Vienna, thinking that the "Franks," as all foreigners were then called, might have some use for it. The Germans were quick to see its utility for pipe bowls, but declared it was good for nothing else.

More than a century has confirmed this judgment, for who has yet discovered any other use for meerschaum? For pipe making it is an ideal raw material. Here is a stone which is easily molded when wet, and when dry becomes hard and resists fire.

WORDS HAVE MANY MEANINGS

Imagination Cuts Big Figure When Terms of More or Less Picturesqueness Are Employed.

An amusing and plausible analysis has been made of the way many people in the United States use and understand the words "ranch," "plantation" and "farm." In the imagination of easterners, says the analyst in effect, a plantation or a ranch suggests wide acres and a gentleman on horseback riding about to oversee their cultivation by picturesque hirelings, whereas a farm suggests a comparatively small field of growing vegetables personally conducted to harvest by a plain man in overalls. Yet many a ranch or plantation is no bigger than a small farm, and many a large farm is as big as a corresponding plantation or ranch; and the word "gentleman" fits as many farmers as ranchers or planters. The farm, however, says this observer, may easily get into society by being spoken of in the plural; and all the farmer needs to do to attain this distinction is to build a fence across his land and then call it the Something-or-other Farms.—Christian Science Monitor.

No More Dark Continent.

One may no longer believe in the existence of a strange white people in Africa. Rider Haggard's splendid race is probably only the Bahima, originally discovered by Speke in southwestern Uganda. At least Sir Harry Johnston claims to have discovered in them the clue to many of the mysterious white-race legends found in the dark continent. He was engaged in nothing more thrilling than a tour of inspection of Ankole when he came across them. They are of a very light complexion, and are the aristocrats of this region. Sir Harry holds that they are obviously descendants from a Gala, Somali or other Hamitic stock, and adds that some of them are more like Egyptians than is the case with Galas and Somalis. Romance disappears before the tread of the explorer. The dark continent is dark no more.

Sir Redvers Buller's Ghost Story.

Some time after the Franco-German war of 1870, writes Lady Buller in an English paper, Sir Redvers (then Captain) Buller left England to visit the battlefields, and on arriving at the town of — gave directions that his letters should not be forwarded, and started on his tour of inspection. After he had been away some days, he awoke suddenly one night, thinking he saw Lord Wolseley (then Sir Garnet), and that he heard him say: "I wonder where that fellow Buller is. I can't think why he has not answered my letter." This so impressed him that he returned at once to the town of —, where he found a letter awaiting him from Lord Wolseley, saying that he must return to London immediately, as an expedition against the Ashantees was imminent.

Famous Sapphires.

Fine sapphires are more valuable than diamonds of equal weight and quality, only rubies being more precious. But ruby crystals (in the rough) are rarely more than half an inch long, whereas those of sapphire occasionally reach three inches. Most prized are the "velvet blue" sapphire and those of "cornflower" tint.

Servant Problem an Old One.

Parson Cole, who lived in the middle of the 18th century, judging from one of his manuscripts, was quite familiar with the servant difficulty, which apparently was just as acute as in these later days. The reverend gentleman's entry is as follows:

"Paid Mary her wages, and would not let her stay, as she refused to stop with me till Michaelmas. I don't know where to provide myself of one in her room, but 'Wilkes and Liberty' have brought things to that pass that ere long we shall get no one to serve us."