

THE SONG OF THE STARS.

The morning star began it
At the dawn of creation's birth,
And the circling spheres go swinging
And singing it unto earth.

—Silver Cross

ENRICHETTA AND THE FLAG.

When Mrs. Morland returned home from Florence the three most valued possessions brought by her from the City of Flowers were a wonderful old ivory crucifix, a silver candlestick, which might have been designed by Benvenuto Cellini, and—Enrichetta.

Enrichetta had been a "cameriera" in the pension on the Via Pandolina. She was so beautiful that Mrs. Morland, whose own face was plain, was never tired of looking at her, and when she said "Felice notte" (Good night) upon leaving the American woman's room at night Enrichetta's voice was as soft as the first trembling trill of the nightingale.

"I must take Enrichetta home with me," said Mrs. Morland, who, blessed with plenty of this world's goods, was in the habit of gratifying every caprice. And it was not difficult to persuade the girl to sail for that far-off land over the sea, especially as the kind American lady had promised to bring her home again within two years should she become dissatisfied. This thought comforted Enrichetta many a winter night when she sat at the window of her little room looking out upon the snow and sleet and tearfully thinking of her native skies. She was hungry for the companionship of her own people and pined for the sound of her own musical language, which she heard from none but her mistress, who spoke it with a decided American accent.

A devout Roman Catholic, Enrichetta attended the nearest church, but there she met only Irish and Americans, and she missed the sweet face of the Madonna Addolorata in her church at home, a face always associated in her mind with the half remembered countenance of her own mother.

But when fine weather came and the grass was green and the birds were singing a vegetable vander stopped at the back door one day and spoke to Enrichetta in Italian. The two talked happily together, and he told her of a church where their own people worshipped, and from that day the great city was less lonely for the young Florentine.

At that church she met Luigi, who, Enrichetta thought had the kindest eyes in the world and whose teeth were as white as milk. Luigi owned a fruit store and had laid by 10,000 lire, which would be considered a fortune by his friends and acquaintances on the other side.

The Fourth of July was coming, which Luigi explained was a great day in America and was always celebrated with fireworks after the manner of San Giovanni's day in Italy, only with a far greater amount of boom and snap and crash. He told her he would come in the evening and take her to a certain spot on the lake front where there was sure to be a splendid display of rockets.

Enrichetta sang merrily as she went about her work and then began to think seriously of what she would wear on that night so sacred to this great United States. She would have a new waist, something gay and showy; then she bethought her of the contents of a box given to her at her house-cleaning time by her mistress. "Here, Enrichetta," the latter had said, "this box is marked 'Miss and Ends.' You may have it; I want to get it out of my way."

In the bottom of the box, beneath scraps and remnants of goods, was a silk flag about three yards long. It was torn at the end, and there were a few round holes in it which Enrichetta supposed accounted for the fact that the signora no longer prized it. It was the flag of this country, which, now that she knew Luigi, the girl secretly believed would be her own country forevermore, and it was prettier than the bandiera of Italy.

Enrichetta decided to make a waist of the flag to wear on the Fourth of July. Being very deft with scissors and needle, she managed to escape the holes and flaws in cutting out the garment, and the result of her labor was a rather startling red and white waist with a silver starred blue yoke trimmed with gold fringe.

Early in the morning of the Fourth Mrs. Morland began to search for the silk flag, which when she was at home on that day always occupied the place of honor over the front door. She valued this banner highly; she had inherited it from her father; it had waved above the glorious field of Gettysburg, where it had been pierced by shot and shell. But now it could not be found, and thinking it must have been stolen Mrs. Morland gave up the search in despair.

The other servants were either out or engaged in another part of the house when Enrichetta came downstairs that evening to answer Luigi's ring at the rear door. The girl wore her gorgeous waist with a dark blue woolen skirt. Her cheeks were red as

the coral rings twinkling in her small ears, and her large dark eyes were sparkling with happiness.

Mrs. Morland happened to enter the kitchen at the moment of Luigi's arrival. "Why, Enrichetta, how patriotic you are!" she exclaimed, noting the shimmering stars. Then she frowned and asked sternly, "Where did you get that waist?"

"I made it out of the flag the signora so kindly gave me," replied Enrichetta in an unsteady voice, for she was frightened at Mrs. Morland's unfamiliar harshness.

"The flag that I gave you! Why, I would not have taken a small fortune for it! And you were slipping out of the house to prevent my seeing you! Oh, Enrichetta, I was so fond of you, I would not have believed that you were a thief!"

"A thief, madame!" cried Luigi, throwing back his head and knitting his straight black brows.

Enrichetta burst into tears. "How can the signora be so cruel?" she moaned. "She will remember that she gave it to me in the bottom of a box. I thought she no longer cared for it because of the torn places and the holes."

"Why, girl, the holes and the torn places made it the more valuable! But I now understand how it happened. It was not your fault, but mine, I should have examined the box."

"I will take off the waist at once," said Enrichetta, "but, alas, I never can replace the bandiera as it was." By this time Mrs. Morland had recovered her usual serenity. "There, child, it can't be helped now," she said; "run along and enjoy yourself and wear the patriotic waist if it pleases you. There is a stiff breeze coming up from the lake, but the silk is thick and will protect you from the chill air. And," she added, "to protect foreigners is one of the missions of the stars and stripes."—Cornelia Baker.

SUGAR BOARD WILL APPORTION U. S. SUPPLY

Preferential distribution of sugar rather than rationing is to be the method employed by the government to prevent the sugar shortage from reaching famine conditions this fall.

As the result of an agreement between the big producers and consumers of sugar, the Department of Justice will proceed with the formation of the national sugar distributing committee it was announced by Armin W. Riley, special assistant attorney general, who has been in charge of high-cost-of-living prosecutions in New York. Mr. Riley said the committee would be functioning within two weeks. He predicted it would operate to assure the canning and preserving interests and the housewives an adequate supply of sugar for the summer season and the lean months before the 1920 sugar crop is harvested.

The distributing committee, Mr. Riley said, will consist of representatives of the refiners, the importers and brokers, the canners and preservers, the wholesale grocers and the candy, soft drink and ice cream manufacturers. He indicated that arrangements already have been completed by which the refiners and importers will see that the canners get their needed supply of sugar. Under the plan the distributing committee will divert sugar first to the commercial canners; second, to the wholesale grocers for retail distribution to domestic consumers, and last, to the candy and soft-drink manufacturers. An existing contract for future delivery, Mr. Riley said, however, will not be interfered with.

An embargo on sugar exports from the United States also is advocated by Mr. Riley and may be given serious consideration by the Department of Justice. Although the attorney general has been delegated the power of food administrator under the Lever act, there is grave question as to whether an export embargo could be ordered without a special Act of Congress. A bill authorizing an embargo was introduced in the Senate before adjournment, but was not acted upon.

In explaining his advocacy of the embargo Mr. Riley recently cited the fact that American exports of sugar for the first five months of this year had exceeded the exportation of American owned sugar during the whole of 1919. The sugar exports from this country from January 1 to May 27 totaled, he said, 220,000 long tons, as against 211,000 tons during 1919. The total export of all sugar from this country in 1919 amounted to 658,660 long tons, but 447,660 tons were owned by the British Sugar Commission and was refined in the United States under the war arrangement by which the American Government bought the entire Cuban crop.

Timely Reminders from The Pennsylvania State College.

Orchard—Over-loaded trees should be thinned, especially of peaches and apples. Thin so that fruits will not touch; pull or shear the fruit.

Woodlot—While the leaves are on the trees is the time to mark dead and spiked topped trees for cutting. You will not be able to note these trees in winter.

Dairy—Prevent the accumulation of manure about the cow stable. It furnishes the best breeding place for flies.

Binder twine should be purchased now. Wheat harvest will start early next month. All machinery used in the harvesting of grain and hay should be in good working order. It is costly to have a machine break down in the harvest rush. Give it an inspection immediately.

Paint on the outside walls of the stove silo and a coat of linseed oil on the inside walls will improve the appearance and prolong the life of this valuable equipment.

The garden needs water, but not every day. Better a heavy watering once a week than a sprinkling every day. Water is useful only when it reaches the roots.

Spring pigs that do not thrive well at this time of the year should be treated for insect parasites. The latest and best treatment is to administer the drugs in capsule form. Each pig then gets the right dose which makes the treatment more effective.

OCEAN CASTS UP OLD SHIP

Identity of Ancient Vessel Found on Rockaway Beach Uncertain—May Be Historic Pirate.

Rockaway Beach has another sensation, the Brooklyn Eagle states. Not content with washing up hundreds of thousands of crabs, lobsters and clams, the great tide recently dug an ancient oceanic relic out of the sands and left it to bleach in a winter's sun, like some skeleton of a departed dinosaur. According to Capt. Joseph Meade of the Rockaway coast guard station, it is an old sloop of war.

Nobody knows its history. From all appearances this washed out corpse in an ocean graveyard was once a saucy war vessel, mounting nine guns, including the old time bow chaser that used to bark with ferocity at pursuing vengeance.

The ship is bluff-bowed, her spikes are handwrought, her ribs are of stout oak and her bowsprit, broken short at the cap, is a mighty headstone on a sandy grave.

The old salts who are experts on such matters say the buried hull is an old British sloop. During the war of 1812 privateers manned by adventurous Yankees frequently hung about Jones' Inlet, towing in their prizes for anchorage and running to shelter when British men-o'-war, out for revenge, bore down upon them.

Another tradition unearthed from the old skippers of clipper ships, now come to anchor on the Rockaway shores, has it that Capt. Jones, for whom Jones' Inlet was named, at one time just prior to the Revolutionary war, pursued a profitable trade in contraband in the vicinity, unknown to the British customs. The handwrought spikes and the general shape of the rotting wreck plainly indicate that she was an oldtimer, very likely of Revolutionary times.

Village Within Extinct Volcano.

"Bottom" is the paradoxical name of a little village perched on the peak of a mountain which comprises the island of Saba, in the Caribbean sea. No other spot in the world is quite like Saba; of all the islands of the tropical seas, it is the strangest, the most forbidding. Sheer conical, frowning, this island rises from the waves, its topmost pinnacle veiled in drifting clouds 3,000 feet above the sea, its coast rock-bound and precipitous. It is seldom sighted by ships, but those who do pass it would never dream that it was inhabited.

The mountain is an extinct volcano and the town of Bottom rests in its crater. No harbor breaks Saba's coast; there is no safe landing place or anchorage, and if one would visit the town one must step ashore from a small boat and climb a steep stairway of hundreds of stone steps or toil up a narrow, difficult trail. Every article brought to Saba from the outside world must be carried up the heights. The inhabitants are sailors, as they have been since the earliest times, and though they sail the seven seas they always return to their island home.

Thrift in Chile.

The Scots and the French had better look to their laurels as saving peoples. Chile bids fair to rival them. During the last ten years savings institutions have risen considerably in number. In 1910 there existed in the entire country but a dozen independent institutions carrying the accounts of some 200,000 persons; their complete savings amounted to only \$4,000,000 in American money. In 1917 deposits rose to 110,000,000 Chilean pesos, which would equal about one-fourth as many American dollars. To this, in the year 1918, were added 50,000,000 more Chilean pesos. The nation has encouraged savings, through stamps and other substantial inducements. Incidentally it is worth while noting that lotteries are not permitted in Chile; down there they believe in getting rich slowly and surely.

Sounded Like a Curse.

A spinster of about forty years or a bit more recently had a house to rent. Now her last tenant had three healthy American sons and they had done a great deal of damage to the house. So she had firmly declared that she would tolerate no children this time. So when a man responded to her advertisement, she asked him whether he had any children. "Seven," he returned and then went on to tell how good they were.

But the spinster informed him that she would not rent her house to a family in which there were so many children. Angriely the man turned away, but returned over his shoulder: "I only hope some day you'll have seven children, lady, and can't find a house, either."—Indianapolis News.

Humor in a Bank.

The first day I worked in the bank in which I am employed I was given a sealed package marked "\$10,000 in the gold," which was in the form of a brick. I presented it to the downtown bank for payment and was sent from one teller to the other, each one keeping his discovery to himself, until I got sore because of the fact that they had me going around in a circle and discovered I was the goat.

I might add that it was not a gold brick—it was a red one. C. B. P. S.—Don't you think a d—n fool like me earned a dollar?—Exchange.

Farther Away.

Mrs. Howles—I've decided that Edith shall have her voice trained in Europe. Howles—Certainly; but isn't there some place in Asia?—Boston Transcript.

FIGHTING RATS WITH VARNISH

New Form of Trap Used on London Docks Said to Have Had Gratifying Success.

It is computed that the London docks contain about 1,000,000 rats, which attack grain, food, and other cargoes, causing about \$2,000,000 loss per annum. A society was established to exterminate this destructive enemy, but the congested state of the wharves made their schemes inoperative. Now a new benefactor has come forward with a "trap" that opens up a possibility of putting armies of rodents out of business. The process employed is simple. Traps are placed along or near rat holes. The trap is made of cardboard covered with lithographic varnish. The varnish is warmed by heating its container in boiling water till the varnish becomes sufficiently liquid, when it is spread 1-16 to 1-8 of an inch thick on pieces of straw-board or thickish cardboard, measuring about 15 in. by 12 in. A margin of about 1 in. is left clear of varnish, and bait placed in the center of the board, where it adheres to the varnish. Bags of 60 at a time have been secured. The medical officer of health for the port of London reports favorably of the antidote to the rat thief, and gives it as his opinion that once their tails stick on the board they are doomed, and that the majority die of fright. Another feature is that if two rats get on to the varnish together one of them kills the other, evidently thinking the other is holding him.

HELD BACK TIME'S PROGRESS

Announcing Hour of Noon Secondary in Importance to Mexican Servant's Other Duties.

A certain village in northern Mexico did not boast of a town clock. When twelve o'clock arrived the parish priest used to tell his servant to mount the belfry and strike the church bell twelve times, so that the villagers would know that it was high noon.

One of the neighbors, who had a watch, noticed that for some days twelve o'clock had struck a few minutes late. Thinking that perhaps the priest's watch was slow, he asked the mozo (servant) why it was that he had delayed in striking the hour. The mozo answered:

"It is this way: The padrecito tells me it is time to strike twelve; but just as I am to start up the ladder the cook tells me to get the tortillas. So I have to go after tortillas, and when I get back and climb the ladder again it makes the noon late."

Foch Saved the Day.

M. Poincare, as president of the French academy, had the task of welcoming Marshal Foch when that soldier was a member of the academy and, in the course of his remarks said:

"Field Marshal French was on the point of moving back his heavy artillery and beating a retreat. You rushed to Vlamertinghe and summoned him to you. 'If we make known your weakness,' you declared, 'we shall be carried away like a wisp of straw. Keep at all costs your First corps where it is; I will myself attack on the right and on the left with French troops.' As you spoke you took a sheet of paper to the desk; hastily you scribbled four lines in which you made clear your thought and you handed the note to the field marshal. He read it, thought a moment, called a staff officer, and said to him: 'Go and carry out this order.' Disaster was averted."

Sand Long Retained Properties.

Prof. H. L. Fairchild of the University of Rochester and Dr. H. Carrington Bolton of New York found the sands at Rockaway beach emitting a high musical note one summer day in 1884. They collected some of the sand and took it home, where Prof. Fairchild put in a large glass bottle a sample, but except for that one instance the sand has been undisturbed for more than thirty-five years.

Professor Fairchild writes now to Science, saying that on December 2, 1919, he poured the contents of the bottle into a stocking and found that when quickly compressed it still gave out its characteristic high note, audible at a considerable distance. But since he spread it out in a dry room and handled it considerably it has lost its sonorous quality.

Hotels in Japan.

Plans are under consideration for providing the larger cities of Japan—Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Osaka—with more hotels, it was announced recently in Tokyo by D. Shono, general manager of the Japan tourist bureau. He said, however, that it would be some time before these hotels are erected. "Efforts are being made to relieve the congestion in the city hotels by inducing guests to travel in the country, where hotels have room to spare." It is proposed to supply wireless information to incoming boats concerning the number of unoccupied rooms in the various hotels. The matter is under negotiation with the companies.

The Usual Thing.

"It says in the paper, here," remarked Mrs. Fields, in the midst of her reading, "that in a debate in congress Hon. Benjamin Blawhose rose and shouted—"

"Don't bother to read the rest of it, Debby," interrupted Farmer Fields. "The honorable didn't say any more when he shouted than he does when he keeps still."—Kansas City Star.

GRAVE OF FOUR DYNASTIES

Ambitions of Austria, Russia, Germany and Turkey All Lie Buried in the Balkans.

We stood on the forward deck of the Sirio as she slipped southward, through the placid waters of the Adriatic, at 20 knots an hour. Less than a league away the Balkan mountains, savage, mysterious, forbidding, rose in a rocky rampart against the eastern sky.

"Did it ever occur to you," remarked the Italian officer who stood beside me, a noted historian in his own land, "that four great empires have died as a result of their lust for dominion over the restless lands which lie beyond those mountains? Austria coveted Serbia—and the empire of the Hapsburgs is in fragments now. Russia, seeking her influence in the peninsula imperiled, hastened to the support of her fellow Slavs—but Russia has gone down in red ruin, and the Romanoffs are dead, Germany, seeking a gateway to the warm water, and a highway to the East, seized on the excuse thus offered to launch her waiting armies—and the empire reared by the Hohenzollerns is bankrupt and broken. Turkey fought to retain her hold on such European territory as still remained under the crescent banner. Today a postmortem is about to be held on the Turkish empire and the house of Osman.

"Think of it! Four great empires, four ancient dynasties, lie buried over there in the Balkans. It is something more than a range of mountains at which we are looking; it is the wall of a cemetery."—E. Alexander Powell in Scribner's Magazine.

CHECK ON TRICKY "COPPERS"

Simple Contrivance Prevents Fraud on the Part of Applicants for Coveted Positions.

In Philadelphia the position of traffic policeman is open only to men who are six feet or more in height. Such positions are so much sought after that many applicants who fall short of the required height by only a small fraction of an inch are tempted to cheat a little bit by rising on their heels.

An ingenious application of electricity is now used to circumvent this trick, and any attempt to register a fraudulent measure is disclosed at once. The applicant, as he stands upon the platform under the slide rule, sets his feet upon two metal plates that are normally a trifle above the platform. They are just large enough to be covered by a man's heels, and when the candidate stands with his heels on the floor the plates are so depressed that they make a contact and form a circuit that lights a lamp overhead. As long as the man stands with both heels on the ground the lamp stays lighted, but the moment he raises either heel the smallest part of an inch the contact is broken and the lamp goes out. So does he.

Russian Painters Thriving.

"Art," so far as the production of pictures is concerned, is said to have had a great boom in bolshevist Russia owing to the fact that the government pays a liberal amount for all works approved by official experts. The whole domain of art has been placed under the control of a council of seven members, four of whom are apostles of futurism. Artists' earnings have been increased through a rule established by the council under which all pictures that pass the judges are to be paid for at the uniform rate of 7,000 rubles each.

Whether the artist has devoted months of assiduous labor to a picture or whether it is a daub which has taken a few hours to paint, the recompense is the same. With such encouragement the number of artists in Russia is increasing rapidly.

Town Sells for \$10,000.

The entire town of Moneta, Wyo., has been sold for \$10,000. The purchaser, John Goodman, received title from A. Kanson, who founded Moneta twenty years ago, to the following: One townsite of forty lots, one eight-room hotel, one five-room cottage, one three-room cottage, two two-room cottages, one large livery barn, one railroad eating house and a miscellaneous assortment of outbuildings. No person other than Goodman owns a single thing in Moneta, but the Chicago and Northwestern own the right of way on which the town site fronts and a small depot building on this right of way.—Christian Science Monitor.

Biggest Opal in the World.

Proclaimed as the largest uncut precious stone in the world, an enormous, absolutely flawless black opal, recently discovered in this country, is now in the office of a government official in Washington. The gem contains approximately 21 cubic inches, and weighs 2,572,332 carats. It is valued at \$250,000 by the owners. The famous Viennese opal, which was without an equal until the American specimen was found, weighs 1,658,927 carats, but has a number of flaws.

Less Embarrassment.

"Well," said Farmer Cornotssel, "I'm glad the railroads have gone back to private ownership."

"What difference does it make to you?" "I can speak my mind to the station agent without feelin' that maybe I'll be criticized for showin' lack of respect to a government official."—

LONG-DRAWN-OUT ELOQUENCE

Speeches That Occupy Day May Be Brilliant, but Are Apt to Be Somewhat Tiresome.

There was a commercial case of great magnitude the other day in England, in which it was expected that one at least of counsel would take eight days for his speech. With all respect for a learned professor, but in amicable candor, it is hard not to commiserate any judge that may have to listen to a speech of this length. It may be made by the cleverest and most eloquent of men, but the fact is that by the eighth day, the facts and the tropes of the first are pretty well faded. The value of these long speeches by counsel consists largely in the notes that the judge has taken, provided he followed the argument, which is by no means always the case. We have, to be sure, the splendid performances at Warren Hastings' impeachment, where we are assured that ladies of the most exalted station swooned in sheer admiration and awful wonder at the genius displayed. So be it; they swooned, though we have to point out that swooning at that period was a pretty general accomplishment; nevertheless, it is fair to say that Burke and Fox and Sheridan in point of fact were rather above the average counsel in eloquence, though Sergeant Saunders could have made any of the three "look foolish" on his own ground.—Christian Science Monitor.

SUSPENDED PAYMENT IN CASH

How British Government Saved the Situation When Country's Financial Solvency Was Threatened.

In the great war which England commenced with France in 1793, the first four years saw £400,000,000 added to the national debt, without any material advantage being gained. So much coin had left the country for the payment of troops abroad and as subsidies to allies that the bank, during 1796, began to feel a difficulty in satisfying demands made on it. At the close of the year people began to hoard coin and to make runs upon the county banks. These applied to the Bank of England for help, and the consequence was that a run upon it commenced in the latter part of February, 1797. This great establishment could only keep itself afloat by paying in sixpences. Immediate insolvency was expected, when on February 26, the government stepped in with an order in council authorizing the notes of the bank as legal tender until such time as proper remedies could be applied. This suspension of cash payments was attended by the usual effect of raising the normal prices of all articles.

Old Weights and Measures.

"Still-yards," beams and all manner of weights and measures, as might be expected from their importance in the life and interchange of the populace, are frequently mentioned in old chronicles, and one quaint allusion reads, "this lying weight was by the Balance, the weight lying in one scale, and not hanging or sliding on the Beam of a Still-yard," as in ancient weight." But the "still-yard" was also not beyond reproach, for Arnold, in 1500, tells how "this wayright is forbidden in England by statute of Parliament and also holy Church hath cursed in England all that beyen or sellen by that uncel wayright." However, in spite of church and law, the "uncel wayright" continued in use till 1552, ten years after that one we have been considering began its long career, when the jury appointed by Elizabeth set up a new standard of weights and measures, which remained in force down to the present time.

Lamps for Brides.

In early times the courtship and marriage customs among the Greenlanders were simple and unceremonious enough, since we are told that when a lovelorn youth made up his mind as to the girl he wanted to adorn and be useful in his hut of ice and snow, he went to her house, seized her by the hair or wherever he could secure a good grip on her, and dragged her to his own domain, where she was expected to remain, without any further marriage ceremony. If an affluent bridegroom he would perhaps soothe her lacerated feeling by presenting her with a new lamp or some other article of household utility.

Mosquitoes Hate Light.

It has been shown that the malaria-bearing mosquito does not stay in a well-lighted house or modern hospital, says the Medical Record. Clean, bare walls and ceilings, large windows and little furniture do not attract it. On the contrary, it selects cottages or old-fashioned houses, where the rooms are "stuffy" and hot, ill-lighted, ill-ventilated, with dark recesses, cupboards, old curtains and much furniture. In such a place the mosquito is altogether at home, and if there is restricted living or sleeping accommodation infection is very likely to be carried from the malaria carrier to the susceptible person.

Always Hope.

The fashionable physician walked in, in his breezy way, and nodded smilingly at his patient.

"Well, here I am, Mrs. Adams," he announced. "What do you think is the matter with you this morning?" "Doctor, I hardly know," murmured the fashionable patient languidly. "What is new?"—Life.