

THE CRY OF THE DREAMER.

I am tired of planning and toiling
In the crowded lives of men,
Heart-weary of building and spoiling
And spoiling and building again.

AN ALTAR ON LITTLE THUNDER.

At Couch's first sentence the concealed man had quivered like a polled ox.
Thenceforward, though no word that followed escaped his ears, he lay with his lips pressed to the earth.

It was a noble resolution, but its complete execution was not humanly possible.
Somewhere between his heart and his throat, in spite of himself, there came a lump that would neither up nor down, that persisted from his waking in the morning, at the sullen boom of the cell-house gong, until the measured step of the guard at night on the cold, concrete floor of the corridor grew faint and remote in his consciousness and finally ceased.

Society had said to him, through her agents of court and prison, "Be patient; wear these stripes for a few years for your own good, and then we will take them off."
But she had lied, for she had burned those stripes into him with hot and smoking irons—the 4x7 cell, the lock-step, the rock-pile, the shorn head; systematic humiliations and degradations, such as the stew-pan in which his food was flung like scraps for a dog, the prohibition to speak to his mates, the substitution of a number for his name.

At first he had not realized his mutilation. In the days preceding his emancipation, indeed, he had forgotten it.
But on the streets of the penitentiary city, at the station, on the train, at Pardeeville, he saw that he was a social leper. He looked for ward, however, to the mountain, as a place of cleansing. He had shed the hated prison garments, as if the pollution lay in them. Alas! the words of a barefooted boy had disillusioned him, had made him fearful and distrustful of his former friends.

"Leave hope behind all ye who enter here."
But soon he paused, exhausted. Then, with the terrible, wrenching groan of the strong man in agony, he cast himself upon the ground and wept like a child.

It was morning before his mind ceased to stagger in the cataclysmic chaos.
But peace came at last, and lo! he who had always been so quick to avenge now forgave. More than that, he justified. He perceived that, on the whole, Rufus Couch had summed up the facts correctly; that Nance, in accepting Rufe's hand, was only following the guidance of her maternal instincts. That she still loved him, but had laid her love upon a sacrificial altar, was plain to Ash.

This idea of sacrifice, of vicarious suffering, grew upon him.
Lately certain high aspirations had settled upon himself, like doves of heaven. He had resolved, for instance, never to drink another drop of whiskey, to work with might and main that he might ameliorate his poverty, never to leave Nance any unnecessary chores to do, never again to unbridle his tongue against her, never to deny her, as he had too often in the past, any of the trinkets dear to a woman's heart.

His renunciation did not spring full-fledged into being. It was born in travail, like all earthly things.
But it grew apace and waxed stronger with the days. Prudence counseled him to leave the mountain at once. But he cringed momentarily before the terrors of that unknown, hostile land called "Below," where alone he could bury his identity beyond adventure of discovery, and he persuaded himself that it would be better to tarry until Nance's marriage was a fact.

Finally, when the maples were flinging out their scarlet banners and the nights were sharp with frost, an unwonted activity about the Haws cabin, and the arrival of three or four aunts and uncles of Nance's who lived at a distance, left Ash in no doubt that the morrow would be the wedding-day.

As his eyes fell upon a clump of asters he remembered her love, almost her passion, for these beautiful, wild harbingers of the twilight of the year; remembered how, when they flung their nodding, delicate sprays from every fence-corner, she would fill her arms with the pretty "blue-faces," as she called them.

At the sight of the bed—her bed—illuminated by the yellow flare of the "lightwood" on the hearth, a great weariness seized him.
His limbs ached, and all the hardness of all the rocks on which he had been sleeping seemed to gather in the muscles of his back.

He rubbed his eyes, but the hallucination only deepened.
Over a cheerful fire a bubbling pot hung from the crane. A child, like his own little Jude, but bigger, played on the floor. Nance was sitting in a rude rocker which he had once made for her on a rainy day, with only a draw-knife, a saw, and an auger for tools, and without nails or glue. It was her favorite chair, and she was in her favorite attitude. With elbows upon knees, she smiled at him in quietude old way.

"What time is it?" he demanded, vacantly.
"Nigh on to airy dinner-time." She laughed a little with suppressed excitement at his bewilderment, and approached his bed. The shine in her eyes was uncharitably bright, and he shrank a little. "I reckon you ain't got the sleep outen your eyes yet," she continued. "What did you think when you come home last night and didn't find my hayer?"

"No. Payrolled out fer good behavior. They give me a suit of clothes, a railroad ticket to Pardeeville, and a five-dollar greenback."
He paused. What had brought her to the cabin he could not guess. He only knew that his treacherous sleep had betrayed him into her hands.

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LESSONS IN CITIZENSHIP.

SOCIALIST PARTY PLATFORM.

Give an outline of the Socialist platform adopted in 1916.

The Socialist party calls upon the working class to take a determined stand on the question of militarism and war, and to embrace the opportunity furnished them by the great war to force disarmament, and thus further the cause of industrial freedom.

It further states, "Socialism admits the private ownership and individual direction of all things, tools, economic processes and functions, which are individualistic in character; but requires the collective ownership and democratic control and direction of those things that are social or collectivistic in character."

The platform recommended as peace measures: "That all laws and appropriations for the increase of the military and naval forces of the United States be immediately repealed; that the power of fixing all foreign policies and conducting diplomatic negotiations be lodged in Congress, which should act publicly in all such matters; they also declared that the people of the country should be able to order Congress, by a referendum vote at any time, to change its policy."

That no war be declared or waged, at any time, without a referendum vote of the entire people, except for the purpose of repelling invasion. The abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine, immediate self-government for the Philippine Islands, the calling of a Congress of all neutral nations by our Government, to mediate for a lasting peace, and to arrange for an International Congress, with power to adjust disputes between nations, and to guarantee equal rights to all oppressed nations and races.

The political demands in their platform were equal suffrage for men and women, the adoption of the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, the initiative, referendum and recall and proportional representation, national and local; the election of the President and Vice-President by the direct vote of the people, abolition of the United States Senate and veto power of the President, provision for amendments to the National Constitution to be passed by a majority of the voters, a convention to revise the National Constitution; they would also abolish the power of the Supreme Court to pass upon the Constitutionality of legislation enacted by Congress, having the only repeal of such legislation to be by Congress itself, or referendum vote of the whole people.

They would also take from the courts the power to issue injunctions. They declared themselves in favor of the election of judges for short terms, free administration of the law, suffrage for the District of Columbia, with representation in Congress and a democratic form of municipal government. Freedom of the press, speech and assembly, increase of income and corporation taxes and extension of inheritance tax, general educational measures and vocational education, health measures, abolition of monopoly ownership of patents in favor of collective ownership with direct royalty rewards to inventors.

There were also a number of industrial demands: A shortened work day, freedom of political and economic organization and activities, a rest period of not less than a day and a half each week; more effective inspection of work shops, factories and mines. They also demanded legislation forbidding the employment of all under eighteen years, and preventing the transportation between States of child labor products, or the products of any uninspected factory or mine. They also demanded legislation providing a minimum wage scale, old age pensions, mothers' pensions, State insurance against unemployment and sickness, compulsory insurance by employers of their workers, without cost to the latter, against industrial diseases, accidents and death.

LESSON IX.

Taxation.

How are the vast expenses of the city, State and National Government defrayed?

Answer: The expenses are defrayed by means of taxation which is levied by the law making body of the city, State or Nation.

Is this taxation a voluntary contribution?

Answer: It is not; once the Legislature passes a tax it is compulsory. Upon what are taxes levied?

Answer: Taxes are levied upon persons, property and incomes.

How many different kinds of taxes are there?

Answer: There are ten different kinds of taxes, as follows: 1st. The general property tax, levied on lands and buildings erected on land, and on personal property, which includes furniture, money, goods, bonds, stocks, mortgages, jewelry, horses, carriages, automobiles and farming implements.

2nd. The income tax levied upon all incomes whether received from wages, salary, profits from business or investments.

3rd. The inheritance tax, levied upon all property acquired by inheritance or will.

4th. Corporation tax levied upon the capital stock of the corporation, and corporations also pay a tax in the form of income tax levied upon the corporation as in the case of an individual.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT.

"The best portion of a good man's life. His little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

There seems to be a decided tendency this holiday season toward the buying of sensible gifts—that is, things that will be useful. Now, you well know that no woman ever had enough blouses, so if you are looking for a gift for your mother, sister or dearest friend—you are certain to please her if you select a blouse.

One seldom errs in choosing some small article of mahogany for Christmas giving, for most of us can find a use for articles of this most decorative of woods. A pair of candlesticks makes a most acceptable gift. One can always find a place for another pair of candlesticks. Then there are trays, variously shaped—a gift which the woman who entertains a bit will appreciate. Any man who smokes would appreciate a humidifier of mahogany or a smoking stand or an ash tray. These are but a few suggestions.

A trim sports suit, a jaunty hat, woolen stockings and brogues, a silk scarf to give the bright touch of color and voila! one has achieved the perfect sports costume. A scarf of green with gold-color stripes would be stunning with a green or brown suit. The brown-and-tan striped scarf looks very well on brown or blue. You'll not have any trouble in selecting a scarf that will harmonize perfectly with your costume, for there is a great variety of colors in the collection. I can't resist reminding you that an all-white muffler for wear in the evening makes a most acceptable Christmas gift for a man.

Silk stockings cost so much these days that the care of them should be very carefully studied by everyone who feels that they must wear them every day to be well dressed. Their life can be prolonged a hundredfold with care and thought. In the first place it is better to buy two or three at one time, all alike. Wear them in rotation, washing them out each evening and drying them carefully in a cool, dark place. Then, when, as sometimes happens, a run starts in one of them and goes the entire length before you are able to stop it and the stocking is absolutely ruined, it doesn't mean that you have to discard the perfect one. Use one of the others with it. When one of this pair wears out take the mate to that one and you will find that they last really much longer.

Don't wait till a hole comes in the stocking before mending it. Be on the lookout for thin places and darn them carefully with silk that matches as near as possible. Save the stockings with the run and use ravelings from it if you can. Instead of sewing up a run in a stocking take a small steel crochet hook and catch up the threads as you would in crocheting work.

Did you ever notice at sales of stockings what beautiful quality you could get in the unusual colors that wouldn't possibly match anything you had? You wished that you had something that would go with them, but as you hadn't you tried to content yourself by buying a pair of black ones that were very much thinner and inferior. Don't do this. Buy the colored ones and color them black, brown or blue with the harmless vegetable dyes that are on the market today.

When they finally do wear out beyond repair, cut off the feet, rip up the back and put away in your piece bag until needed. They make perfect clusters and polishers for mahogany furniture.

The semi-annual meeting of the National Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Association was attended by more than 300 delegates who discussed the new fashions for spring as displayed by living models at the style show last week.

No very radical changes are shown from the lines of fall and winter garments. Skirts continue short and straight. The slender silhouette predominates and the youthful spirit was expressed in many garments shown.

"Individuality is the keynote of early spring apparel," said Philip Frankel, executive secretary of the association. "Every woman will have opportunity to express her own personality through selection of the variety of models offered by the manufacturers for 1921."

Skirts are short with a suggestion of more fullness in some cases with panels, tunics, hem trimmings and pleatings. Wrappy coats and capes will be generally worn, slender shoulders marking both in soft and delicate fabrics.

Trimmings include beading and braiding, picot edgings and a new flat floss embroidery.

The straw sailors with bright-colored bands are very good-looking, and cherry-colored sailors are to be very much worn, they say. Silk sweaters in tuxedo or slipover style come in brown, navy blue and white. To wear with them are dimity shirts with collars edged with plaited frills. Sports skirts are trimly tailored.

One is offered few tunics in the new frocks, although the idea has influenced the building of comfortable frocks which, being sleeveless, are slipped over straight slips of another fabric. Yet the tunic in its original state, sleeveless, knee length, ornamented, remains in good repute.

It is used in combination with the trousered skirt, which was catapulted back into fashion through the clever and artistic use made of it in the uniform worn by the manikins who exhibited the seasonal hats for the milliners' fashion parade in New York on the roof of the Century Theatre.

These black satin frocks with their Algerian hem and flowing Arabian sleeves, which dropped away from the shoulder to be caught again by the wrist, were designed and fashioned by one of the distinctive Fifth avenue houses. They made an admirable background as a uniform for a kaleidoscope of colored hats.

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Mechanics.

Clerk (selling modern lead pencil): Then you unscrew this cap, take out the small unused leads, put new leads in each slot, press down firmly until they meet grip of inside thread, then put in case, slide down flush with point, screw on top, and the pencil is ready to write. As simple as A B C!

Why Called Epsom Salts.

The name Epsom salts is derived from the sulphate of magnesium springs in Epsom, in Surrey, England.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."