

Rome and Its Wonders

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

By Rev. L. M. Coffelt D. D.

Above ground Rome is a curious and wonderful city, a city so often demolished and rebuilt that the foundations of the most ancient buildings are now found when excavated to be some forty feet below the general level of the present city.

The only temple permitted to Christian worship entered like the dens of wild animals and peopled by some humble sectarians, who possessed for their only power Prayer for their only victory martyrdom.

With streets crossways, squares stretching toward the four points of the horizon a city of the dead which notwithstanding quickened the new spirit destined to destroy Rome and to build on her ruins another civilization.

About four miles eastward of Rome between the via Appia and the via Ardeatine under heaps of all sorts of debris and close to cypress groves which deepen the melancholy of the landscape we descended into the Catacombs of San Sebastian and entered the immense labyrinths in which the primitive Christians hid themselves the sepulchral furrows in which were planted the first germs of the Christian religion!

shepherd, the lamb resigned to the holocaust, the ship of the church defying all tempests, the mystic vine whose branches overshadow the world, the divine woman walking upon the water of the sea with her child in her arms, the star on her forehead, the supper a frugal meal and one nourishing to the soul, the resurrection of Lazarus coming forth from the sepulchre, revived by the divine word which fell upon his mouldering flesh and awakened it to a new life as the gospel kindled anew the old world.

The first thing that astonishes one on descending into the tombs is the gigantic labor of those who excavated them without having either the mechanical or chemical means of our civilization. The galleries placed one above the other, there are as many as five stories of tombs, their disposition preserving a careful regularity, reveals a perfectly conceived and matured plan. Even the nature of the soil has received scientific attention. They have carefully avoided the chalky formations and all places that easily retain water or are subject to moisture.

Standing before these tombs and asking what do they reveal as to the spirit of the church in the first three centuries they seem to speak with silent eloquence of a community which dwelling amid the licentiousness of Pagan Rome and amid continual persecution and danger had some how been brought under the influence of a spirit that shed on their homes a new tenderness, on their suffering a sense of triumph, on their relations with God, a strange confidence and givenness. Here is one Epitaph which breathes an exultant faith in relation with God a strange confidence and cheerful submission. Deserving one having left your relations you will enjoy Immortality and Eternal life.

A temporary rest is granted you buried in peace. Placis her husband set up this. Such was the belief of the early christians. They laid down their dead knowing that the soul was living in peace and the body reposing till the day of resurrection. And this faith of a resurrection made the nearest Christian at the bottom of these caverns feel that he carried about with him a glory far above all that the proud city above could confer on her chief favorite. Caesar never dreamed that the hand which wrote veni vidi vici would be lifted up and wave a palm on a brighter field. None of the Emperors ever cherished an expectation that the brow that were the imperial honors would shine hereafter with a more illustrious crown.

But the unknown and unlettered Christian hiding in the depths of the Catacombs glowed with the conviction that his very body was sacred and that when all the dignities of Rome were laid low his head now hidden from the light would be lifted amid the radiance of the Celestial city. These memorials of the church of the Catacombs reveal that the Christians living of the first three centuries was one of extreme simplicity in spirit, doctrine, ministry and universal brotherhood, with a happy trust in the mediation of the Son of God, with a ritual devoid of unification, of sensuous Pagan ceremonial and with the calm hope that for the dead final peace was eternally sure. After gazing upon that church that comes forth to meet us as it were in her grave clothes we ascended to the light of day with a feeling of adoration of that wise and silent providence which has preserved through the ages this indubitable testimony of the structure and outlines of the primitive church. We may rejoice in the consanguinity in the sense of our oneness with Christ's earliest followers. Church of the Catacombs; thou art our church! Martyrs of the Catacombs! We are partners with you in the simplicity of Christ, your Lord is our Lord, your faith is our faith, your baptism is our baptism, your God is our God and your Father is our Father who is above all and through all and in us all.

How to Use the Flag.

Printed by request of Bellefonte Chapter D. A. R. The Flag should be displayed only from sunrise to sunset. The Flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered slowly. The Flag should be displayed flat whether indoors or out, when not on a staff. When displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the Union or blue field should be in the upper left hand corner. When draping of red, white and blue is desired, use bunting. When rosettes and festoons are wanted, use bunting—never the flag. The Flag should be displayed above and behind a speaker on a platform when hung flat. When on a staff it should be at the speaker's right. The Flag should never be used to cover the speaker's desk or to drape over the front of the platform. When unveiling a statue or monument the flag should not be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

COOK FOREST PURCHASE AS STATE PARK BY LEGISLATURE ASSURED BY PASSAGE OF BOTH HOUSES.

Cook forest is now virtually a State park, the culmination of many years of hard work by a number of prominent citizens interested in the preservation of this Last of the Giants of the Forest. All that remains to be done is for Governor John S. Fisher to affix his signature to the bill appropriating \$550,000 for the purchase of the tract.

Monday night the bill passed the State Senate unanimously, the vote being 48 to 0. The bill was originally sponsored in the house by Representative Charles P. Armstrong, of Westmoreland county, and passed that body Wednesday of last week, after the Legislature had been shown moving pictures of the tract taken by the Cook Forest Association. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Richard S. Quigley, of Lock Haven.

In speaking of the tract, the Pittsburgh Sun of Tuesday has the following to say, which, except for a few humorous passages, is fairly accurate:

The measure provides for an appropriation which is to be added to a sum of approximately \$100,000 which has been raised by the Cook Forest Association, an organization which has been working intensively for nearly three years to awaken public interest in the tract. The action taken by the Senate is the culmination of a movement which started many years ago to acquire the Cook woods, by all odds the finest and largest stand of virgin timber, especially pine and hemlocks, in the east. Some of the trees were standing when Columbus discovered America and are so great in their proportions as to be natural curiosities.

Upon the signing of the bill by the Governor and the formal action of taking title to the 8,000 acres on which the forest stands the tract will become a State park of unique character and greater proportions than anything of the kind now existent. The tract occupies portions of Clarion, Jefferson and Forest counties, for all time and for the use of all the people.

Two great highway systems approach the tract, one from the east and the other from the west, and through it passes the Clarion river, a stream of great beauty. The picturesque old town of Cooksburg occupies a central location. During the last 18 months more than 25,000 lovers of trees have visited the forest. Many of these stopped at the little inn maintained through the offices of the Cook Forest Association, for the convenience of the public.

Pleas from every section of the State have reached members of the Legislature to have them vote for the bill. That their response was appreciated was witnessed Tuesday when letters, telegrams and personal congratulations were being showered on Senators and representatives, especially those making the appropriations committees of the two branches. While the bill reached the Legislature rather late in the session, but a few days in advance of the dead line for presentations, it has proven popular from the first. The work in its interest opened with the showing of a film to the members of the house and Senate. Since that time it has not had a serious setback.

The support for the measure came from hunters, fishermen and plain lovers of the outdoors. Civic organizations said a kindly word and old lumbermen, anxious to see a stream relic of Pennsylvania's great woods preserved, added their voices. Influential members of the State's legislative body caught the spirit, with the result recorded Monday night.

Officers and directors of the Cook Forest Association include Samuel Y. Ramage, Taylor Allderidge, George E. Benson, Thomas Liggett, Homer D. Williams, Henry M. Brackenridge, Howard H. McClintic, John M. Phillips, Arthur E. Braun, Frank L. Harvey and others. Mr. Liggett, secretary of the organization, arranged for the presentation of the bill and a committee of prominent Pittsburgh business men, including J. P. Nicholson, appeared before a committee of the house two weeks ago in connection with the measure.

While the primary aim has been to save the trees which could not be replaced at any cost there are many spots of rare scenic beauty which will be automatically acquired. The forest is a refuge for game of all kinds. Its floor is covered with the finest and rarest of mosses and in the glades are to be found practically every wild flower known in the State.

Pennsylvania Dairymen to Meet at State College, May 6.

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association will hold a meeting at State College, Pennsylvania, in the old chapel on Friday evening, May 6, beginning promptly at 7 o'clock.

An interesting program of timely subjects has been arranged and it is hoped that many dairymen from the county will avail themselves of the opportunity of attending this meeting and visiting the College.

On the day following, Saturday, May 7, occurs the Penn State dairy exposition an annual event staged by the dairy students of the College. This will include a cattle show, judging contest, fitting and showing contests and other interesting events. In addition to the opportunity of seeing the show there will be an opportunity of joining a tour of some of the college departments and go over some of the field experimental plots. There will also be college athletic events in the latter part of the afternoon including a baseball game between Penn State and Syracuse University.

The dairy students annual banquet will be held Saturday evening and visiting dairymen are invited to stay over for this event. In case room reservations are desired notify R. H. Olmstead, 58 Dairy Building, State College, Pa.

MANY ENTRANTS FOR ALTOONA CLASSIC.

With a determination to again set a record for total entries in connection with their June 11th classic, the Altoona Speedway Association recently sent a representative to the West Coast to make a complete check-up of the available cars and drivers. Mr. L. E. Frey, vice president of the Altoona Association was elected to represent the management. Upon arrival at Los Angeles where the majority of the drivers are preparing their cars for the hard season of racing, Mr. Frey immediately called a conference. Since the racing starts in earnest next month, it was desired to discuss many detailed matters, the outcome of which resulted in the speedy official securing a maximum roster of prospective drivers.

It was the general consensus of opinion that the June 11th event, which represents the start of the second year of the present type racing motors, would be exceptionally fast. The development of the late motors has been most unusual. This fact brought forth the stamp of approval of the qualification speed of 125 miles per hour for the June meeting here.

It was learned at the meeting that several changes in the personnel would soon become effective. Those named in the contemplated rearrangement include the following: Cliff Woodbury forms a new combination with Fred Comer, and enters a team for competition. Harry Hartz, crowned champion of the past season, will vie with Eddie Hearne 1923 champion in an effort to attain team honors. It was announced that Al Melcher will drive his maiden race in Altoona, following the formation of recent partnership with Charles Haase. Louie Meyers as well as Tony Gulotta will be independent contestants. George Abell and Cliff Bergere are also listed among the late entries.

Altoona will again provide four qualification days, in which to select 18 of the fastest starters from a possible field of twenty-five entries.

Some Cook Forest Facts.

It is the outstanding remnant of "Penn's Woods," and contains about 7500 acres.

It is one of the very few places where the primeval white pines can be seen. No fire has been on the property. It has every species of tree, plant and wild life indigenous to its section.

Pennsylvania cannot make a better investment than in the establishment of a State park at Cook forest. It will earn millions of dollars and much of health, education and pleasure for her people.

California and Florida each earns approximately five hundred millions of dollars per annum from the tourist trade. Cook forest will bring millions of dollars into Pennsylvania which would never be here if it were destroyed. As an evidence of its growing popularity, twenty-five to thirty thousand people visited Cook forest during the season of 1926.

Western Pennsylvania gives large financial support to the State treasury. It is fitting that the Legislature should supplement the contributions of the people with a sum sufficient to make of Cook forest a State park for the use of all.

Well directed outdoor recreation today means less sickness, crime and State activity and expense for hospitals and courts tomorrow. The "No Trespass" sign and polluted waters have made it difficult for the industrial population to find recreational areas. Cook forest is the most convenient opportunity for several millions of people.

State parks are a necessity—not a luxury. As our leisure time increases and our life becomes more artificial, they are a matter of vital importance.

Superstitions.

Many entertaining explanations have been offered of certain superstitions that affect us. Even though the number thirteen has been accounted potent of ill since the days of ancient Babylon, its modern significance is associated with the fact that at the last Supper, thirteen were at the table. There is a tradition to the effect that the last one seated was Judas Iscariot, although no one of the four Gospels mentions this detail. The fear of thirteen at the table remains one of the strongest common superstitions.

Friday is an unlucky day to being a thing; so runs the ancient injunction. Has the ill luck anything to do with the fact that the Crucifixion occurred on a Friday? It probably has.

Fear of the day, however, did not prevent Columbus from sailing on Friday; it did not keep land from being sighted on Friday, or prevent the Pilgrims from entering the harbor of Provincetown on Friday. We take it as a matter of course that when a person sneezes, we should say "God Bless You." But the fact is, this phrase was part of a prayer instituted in the pontificate of St. Gregory the Great, at a time when the air was filled with such astringent substance that those who sneezed died instantly. Some people are confident that the reason why the aspen leaf quivers so is because the Cross was made from its wood.—From Everybody's Magazine.

Ninety Million for Roads.

During the next two years Pennsylvania's motor vehicles and operator's registration fees will total approximately \$50,000,000. The State will receive approximately \$7,000,000 in federal aid. State Treasurer Samuel S. Lewis estimated the gasoline tax at \$21,000,000. The new 1 cent tax on gasoline would bring this up to \$30,500,000. Local authorities and miscellaneous collections will bring in \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 additional. The total, therefore is greater than \$90,000,000. Every cent is available for road work except the sum needed for interest and sinking fund on the two bond issues.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FUND NINE MILLION.

Will H. Hays, in a statement today on the progress of the campaign under his direction by the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., for \$15,000,000 for pensions for its old and disabled ministers, announced two gifts of \$100,000 each and declared that cause of Christianity "furnish the most satisfying opportunity today for generous giving by the very wealthy of the nation."

A woman walked into the office of Andrew W. Mellon, treasurer of the \$100,000 in gift-edged securities on the desk with the announcement that it was her gift to the fund, while a northwestern lumberman has pledged \$100,000, Mr. Hays said. At the request of the donors, their names were not revealed.

Mr. Hays announced the total to date in the campaign as \$9,200,000 as the result of completed campaigns east of Illinois, with drives in 14 States from Illinois to California now getting under way, the entire national campaign being scheduled to end about the middle of May.

"There has been an inspiring response to this call of the Church," continued the statement. "Some Eastern sections still are short of their quotas, but we are confident that the thousands of gifts from the rank and file of Presbyterians will inspire the very wealthy to even more generous giving and that before the final report is made every Presbyterian will have met its obligation."

"We have received a number of large gifts in addition to those mentioned. Among them are three for \$200,000 each, one for \$150,000, four for \$100,000 each, one for \$60,000, four for \$50,000 each, two for \$50,000 each, two for \$37,500 each, two for \$30,000 each and nine for \$25,000 each. Many of these gifts have come as memorials to the dead of the donors."

"An unprecedented spirit of unity has been created in our Church through this campaign. Individual differences of theology have been forgotten, Presbyteries that were disorganized have become solidified, Churches that were weak have become strong as a result of the joining of all of our sinners in one common cause, and this unity and response attests that, after all, the spirit of Christianity still predominates in this country and rises above all theories of theology."

"Such a condition should prove inspirational to those able to give largely through showing that the causes of Christianity furnish the most satisfying opportunity today for generous giving by the very wealthy. With the knowledge that in helping this cause, the case of the ministry itself and of Christianity itself, is being helped, and that those with none-too-full pockets have reached deeply in making their gifts, a feeling of satisfaction not likely to be found in any other giving comes to the man who contributes largely of his worldly possessions to this cause."

While Mr. Hays himself has never discussed the subject, it became known recently through his associates that he had had his entire worldly possessions appraised and had pledged 10 per cent of the total to the fund.

Few Have Ever Found Humming Birds' Nests.

Comparatively few people ever have the pleasure of peeping into a humming bird's nest, to behold two tiny eggs like round white beans, or to see two birdlets which somewhat resemble little beetles.

In the first place, the nest is so small and so resembles the surrounding shrubbery that it is easily overlooked. Then too it is so cleverly hidden by its wise builders and so disguised in its construction as to require an experienced eye to discover it.

Built of soft, pliant hairs and adorned with bits of moss and feathers, it forms a downy, cuplike, secluded home. The fairy hummer of Cuba, the smallest of all the humming birds, builds a nest so tiny that it can be covered completely with a copper cent. Its eggs look like two little pearls.

The humming bird, more than 500 species of which have been classified, is distinctly American. In the main, it is a tropical bird, as fewer than 20 species are found in the United States.

The one known to residents of States east of the Mississippi is the beautiful ruby throat. Audubon called humming birds "glittering fragments of the rainbow," so gorgeous are they in color.

70 Rockview Inmates Complete Studies in College Course.

Seventy inmates at Rockview penitentiary, on Tuesday night, received special certificates from the engineering extension department of the Pennsylvania State College at exercises marking the close of the night school education classes conducted for them by the college. Most of the seven hundred prisoners attended the exercises. The principal address was given by Mrs. E. Grace McCauley, secretary of the State Department of Welfare. Certificates were presented by Professor J. O. Keller, head of the extension department.

The college department has conducted classes two nights a week during the winter months at Rockview for the past four years. Upwards of 100 prisoners have enrolled each year for courses ranging from reading and writing to automobile mechanics, business English and blueprint reading. Ten different courses were given this year. Professor Keller has many letters from former inmates who have obtained good positions following their release, and they attribute their success to the Penn State course. Professor F. L. Hendrick has had charge of the instruction for the past three years.

—The "Watchman" is the most readable paper published. Try it.

A HAIR OF THE DOG.

"A hair of the dog that bit you" is in many parts of the country something more than a handy metaphor signifying that that which caused the evil will work the cure. If one will take the trouble to investigate he will be surprised how widespread is still the belief that the evil effects of a dog bite may be cured by applying to the wound "a hair of the dog." And this superstition exists not only in this country but in many others, being as widespread in locality as it is ancient in origin. It has its genesis in the old old belief in sympathetic magic—the close connection which the ancients conceived to exist between a person and anything closely related to him or constructed in a resemblance of him and still more closely, naturally, between a man and any part of him which might become severed from his person—such as the hair or nails especially—living and growing parts of his bodily structure.

Thus the hair came to be regarded, even when cut off, as still, in reality a fragment of its former wearer and, logically what a man's hair was to a man a dog's hair was to a dog. Now the spital of a man, or of any other animal belongs peculiarly to, in one sense is a part of, the man or other animal which secretes it. Therefore, if bitten by a dog apply to the wound a hair of the said dog and the spital of the dog, with all its properties for evil, will be attracted, naturally, to its homogenous part, the hair, and not injure the alien body into which it has been injected. That's the way the ancients reasoned it out. Modern man does not reason it out at all, but still practices his sympathetic magic with a hair of the dog that bit him.

Electric Power on Farm Displacing Muscle as Rural Service Expands.

Two years ago no orthodox electrical man would have dared to prophesy the general electrification of American farms. So rapidly is power development progressing, however, that an authority on farm electrification recently stated that within ten years 1,000,000 American farms will be supplied with service from central power systems, according to Guy E. Tripp, chairman of the board of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

"Give the farmer electric power at a reasonable cost and he can relieve himself and his family of a large part of their burden of labor, increase his productivity and improve his standard of living," declares Mr. Tripp, who is quoted by the Pennsylvania Public Service Information Committee.

"This is of foremost importance because people will be loath to leave the city so long as it offers superior living conditions. But interconnection, the automobile, radio and other developments are gradually reducing the disparity between city and rural life.

"The farmer of yesterday was a muscle, a swinger of the scythe. The farmer of today is becoming competent to carry on one of the most highly technical professions in the world. The farmer of tomorrow will have at his disposal the same facilities and resources as the industrial worker; and if he is equally progressive he will bring agriculture back into step with industry."

One Ear to be Seen this Season.

Eats of the lady of fashion in 1927 again will retreat into obscurity with the passing of the boishy bob.

So, at least, has decreed the American Master Hair Dressers' Association in convention assembled. Further hints to a beauty a la 1927 mode were given by Miss Alice F. Ryan, vice president of the American Beauty Schools' Association.

The bob will be cut longer, she said. The newest is the "arf and arf" in which the hair is drawn back severely on one side of the head so as to expose one ear, and on the other side is arranged so that the ear is covered and the hair curves out of the eyes.

For evening dress women will wear long hair made of hair pieces the construction of which is said to have reached such a stage of development that they cannot be detected from real hair.

Rouge will be deep orange hue, eyebrows will not be so thin, and finger nails will be polished with pearl finish.

Charles Nessler, president of the Hairdressers' Association, gave some statistics in beauty upkeep. There are 30,000 hair dressing and beauty parlors in the United States he said, and last year 60,000,000 women spent a total of \$300,000,000 for beauty culture.

Recovering Lost Radium.

Six thousand dollars worth of radium, a few specks in a tiny tube, were lost in a hospital. It was recovered by means of an electroscope. If an electroscopie is brought near a bit of radium, the pieces of gold-leaf will instantly disclose the fact by coming together. When the electroscopie was set up in the hospital mentioned, in the room where the radium was used to register. The radium was not in the room. Perhaps the nurse had mixed the tiny tube in the bandages, and thrown it into the furnace. The ashes from the furnace were examined and sure enough the electroscopie responded instantly. The fused tube which contained the radium was found; but radium will not burn. The ashes were taken to a laboratory, and by careful treatment every possible milligram of the precious substance was recovered. Out of \$6,000 worth only \$210 was finally lost.—Reformatory Record.

The No Furs League.

Register your protest against the further use of the non-killing steel trap, by subscribing to the following and sending, your name to Our Dumb Animals, Boston, Mass.: Henceforth, as a protest against the cruelty involved in the capture of furbearing animals by the steel trap, I will wear no furs.