

SONGBIRDS ALIGHT ON PRAYING GIRLS

Fly Down to Them, It's Said, at Bishop's Grave After Touching Supplication

MIRACLE, SAYS CARDINAL GIBBONS

Graphic and Circumstantial Was the Story As Told by the Children That the Sisters Sent News of it to the Prelate.

Baltimore, Md.—Cardinal Gibbons exhibited lively interest in an incident that occurred at the grave of Bishop Curtis in Wilmington, declaring it to be both a manifestation and a miracle.

Two little girls, inmates of an orphan asylum in Wilmington, while wandering through the Visitation Cemetery, observed several wild birds fluttering through the grounds and were seized with a longing to capture them.

"Sister said to put salt on their tails," said one of them; but not having any salt with them the little girls had to rely upon the nimbleness of their legs.

For a long time they pursued the birds around the many graves and tombstones. At last they became weary and almost despaired of the capture.

"Let us pray that we may catch them," at last suggested one of the little ones; and the pair knelt reverently at the grave of Bishop Curtis and sent up a fervent petition.

"We don't want to hurt the birds," explained the little supplicants. "We only want to pet and love them."

Hardly had the prayer been concluded, continues the report from Wilmington, when two of the birds flew down to the grave and alighted on the shoulders of the little petitioners. For a moment they were awed by the prompt answer to the prayer, and then the little ones hastened homeward.

"See what our prayer on the Bishop's grave brought us," they cried in their joy to the sisters as they fondled the birds.

Astounded at the story told by the children, the sisters fed the songbirds and gave them water, after which they released them, and the birds took to wing. Before leaving, however, they hovered over the heads of their little captors as though reluctant to leave them.

So graphic and circumstantial was the incident as told by the children, and so indisputable the evidence of their success, that the sisters repeated the story, and all credit for the answer to the prayer was given to Bishop Curtis. The story was transmitted to Cardinal Gibbons, and he was greatly interested in it.

"I consider it both a manifestation and a miracle," said Cardinal Gibbons.

Further than this, however, he declined to go, explaining that the story had come to him indirectly and in semi-confidence, and he hardly felt at liberty to go into details.

"Will you call a council to investigate the matter?" asked the reporter.

"No, I shall hardly do that," he answered.

DOWN AVALANCHE WITH WILDCATS.

Hunters Kill One; the Other is Buried Under Snow.

Globe, Ariz.—Caught in a snowslide with two bob cats that had attacked him in the Mogollon Mountains, Tom Galbraith, after having rolled six hundred feet down the mountainside, succeeded in killing one of the animals, while the other disappeared in the avalanche.

Galbraith was looking for bear when the cats leaped at him from a tree just as he stood at the edge of a steep bank. So sudden was the attack that he did not have time to fire, the cats crowding him so that he could only use his rifle as a club. Fighting, man and beasts approached the edge of the cliff. The snow gave way under them and they went rolling down together, loosening tons of snow as they fell. Reaching the bottom of the ravine, Galbraith succeeded in dispatching one of the cats, which was preparing to attack him again. The other had disappeared, buried in snow.

Civil War Bullet Cut Out.

Scranton, Pa.—As a souvenir of the battle of Fair Oaks, nearly fifty years ago, J. S. Cole carried around a Confederate bullet imbedded in his left leg, and it was always with pride that he exhibited the hump which lay the missile.

Recently his battle memento began giving him trouble. His leg pained him so that he had the bullet cut out. It now dangles at the end of his watch chain.

Cultivate Decision of Character.

Every man who has decision of character will have enemies; and the man who has no decision of character can have no friends.—Butler.

Cables Pay Good Dividends.

In the last half-dozen years the earnings of the cable lines between Europe and India show an annual profit of \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000.

A PAIR OF MYSTERIES SOLVED.

Mr. MacSwilliger Now Knows the Fate of Old Trunks and Suit Cases.

"I used to wonder," said Mr. MacSwilliger, "what became of all the old leather trunks and suit cases and handbags and that sort of thing. Of course they must wear out and be thrown away, but you never saw an old leather trunk on the rubbish carts of the Street Cleaning Department, did you?"

"I never did, never; and still they must go somewhere; and I wonder where. Now I know, or I think I know. They go into meat pies and the stew and things that you get in boarding houses. I used to wonder where they got the beef that they put into these pies, it was so tough; but now I know. They buy these old leather trunks and cut 'em up into suitable sized chunks and make this leather beef up into meat pies.

"It is true that I never yet found in a boarding house meat pie or beef stew a trunk lock or a piece of a hinge or any rivets or corner clamps or other trunk hardware, but it isn't necessary for me to find these things in the pie to know; there's a whole lot of things that we may not be able to get any actual proof of that we know just the same are true, and this is one of them.

"I may not find any buckles or keys or casters in my meat pie, but I don't have to; I know what the meat in the pie is made of well enough to satisfy me, and this is to me a great, in fact, a double, satisfaction. I know now where the boarding house keepers get the meat for these pies, and I know also what becomes of the old handbags, suit cases and leather trunks."

A Modern Pearl Farm.

In the Gulf of Lower California there is in operation the largest pearl farm in the world, where the cultivation of pearls has been taken up as a practical industry. To harvest the annual crop of pearls raised on this farm requires the labor of a thousand persons, including the modern pearl divers, whose methods have been completely revolutionized by the up-to-date appliances employed in this new industry. Pearl farming, as originated by the Mexican company which owns the big Lower California farm, is the result of the discovery of a very simple fact concerning pearl bearing mollusks. After twenty-five years of study and experiment it was discovered that the shell loses its gem after it is two years old, and unless opened at the proper time there will be no pearl within. Following this discovery the system whereby the shells are cultivated until the proper time and then opened was devised. From the time of planting the eggs to the harvesting of the crop two years must elapse, as that length of time is required for the growth of an ordinary shell.

Most Popular Music.

The London Evening News, in order to determine the musical taste of the English people, asked its readers to name the musical compositions the performance of which gave them the most pleasure. The answers showed these to be the most popular in the order named: The overture to "Tannhauser," the overture to "William Tell," Tchaikowski's "1812," Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite," Thomas' "Mignon Gavotte," "The Mikado," Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream."

Thrift in Children.

Some day the plan of providing for children by starting a bank account for each baby at birth and adding to it on each birthday will become general, and there will be a hope of fostering thrift in growing children. The possession of a bank book which they cannot wholly own till legally free from the guidance of parents is often a matter of pride which prompts saving. Everybody knows how hard it is to save the first hundred dollars, and how much the difficulty lessens with every addition to that.

Novel Use for Visiting Cards.

In connection with the forthcoming world's drawing congress in London when it is anticipated that 3,000 people will attend the reception at the Royal College of Art, it is proposed, for the purposes of identification, that members of the British committee should wear their visiting cards upon the lapels of their coats or their dress bodices.

Her Abiding Youth.

"I am afraid I never will grow up and look like a woman," pouted the bride-to-be. "The other day, while I was having one of my new walking suits fitted and was insisting that it would have to be finished this week, the tailor asked me: 'When does your school open?' And that frock is a part of my trousseau!"

When the Weight is Too Light.

Eat more, drink more, sleep more, if you desire to take on more flesh. Drink cocoa or chocolate with your meals, and plenty of water between them. Eat sweets, fat and starchy foods, including potatoes. Avoid tea and all acids, excepting fruit.

The Country Laborer's Lot.

An encouraging feature of the times is that a large number of small men appear to have saved sufficient money to take a small farm, and this, in spite of bad times, serves to show that the laborer's lot is by no means so hard as many would have us believe.

ONCE SALESWOMAN NOW HAS \$250,000

Bride of Three Weeks Becomes Widow of Her Rich Employer.

HE HAD COURTED FIFTEEN YEARS

Elderly Head of Department Store Firm Marries When Told He Cannot Live Long—Girl Took Pity for His Loneliness.

Wilmington, Del.—Relatives of Joseph Hill, for most of his business career head of the department store firm of Crosby & Hill, admitted they could see no use in trying to break a will leaving his entire estate to Clara Elizabeth Wells Hill, who became a widow when she was a bride of three weeks. This means Mrs. Hill has \$250,000 after twenty-seven years of service as a saleswoman in the firm's glove department. It was hoped the amount to go to her could be restricted to her dowry, but eminent counsel convinced Hill's nephews and nieces it would be a waste of time to attack the will, so they decided to make no contest. Mrs. Hill, therefore, though less than a month before she had only her salary as a saleswoman, is one of the wealthiest women in Wilmington. She also is young enough to look forward to many years of enjoyment. The forty other employees of the firm, as far as is known, are not a dollar richer than they were when the old man died.

The strange part of it is that the widow, when she was Miss Wells, rejected Hill steadily for fifteen years, changing her mind only in time to get the property. Hill wooed her persistently all through that period. He was many years older than she and he failed to impress her sufficiently to induce her to give up even the independence of a saleswoman. She listened to his courtship and always was pleasant to him, but she invariably had the same answer for his proposal. How many times Hill heard her "No" in those fifteen years is guesswork. There is a tradition in the department store that he offered marriage at least once a week in that time.

Miss Wells apparently never wearied of receiving his proposal and, until a month ago, never wavered in her refusal to become his bride. So circumspect was she that only her closest friends knew the elderly merchant was interested in her any more than in other efficient employees. It now is recalled by all the saleswomen, however, that Hill passed the glove counter oftener than other departments and that occasionally he stopped long enough for a word or two with Miss Wells. But on those occasions others in the store assumed he was talking business, as his face always wore a serious expression.

The marriage of Miss Wells to Hill, therefore, was a surprise to most of those who knew them. Other saleswomen in the store said they were astounded by the news. Mrs. Hill heard all the gossip at second hand with perfect composure. She gave no explanation of the change in her intention to remain single.

It was learned, however, that a short time before physicians told Hill he had small chance of recovery from a complication of maladies that suddenly broke his long vigorous health. There is no suggestion Miss Wells was influenced by a mercenary motive, but it is supposed that when Hill told her he had not long to live and begged her to brighten his last days, she consented in pity for his loneliness. The old man had no relatives in this city, all his nephews or nieces living either in Massachusetts or Rhode Island.

When Hill died almost all the relatives hastened to Wilmington to learn what their chance of getting part of his property was. They were confronted with a will bequeathing the entire quarter-million to the widow.

WRECKED, LIVE ON CLAMS.

Fishing Party Suffer for Days Before Being Rescued.

Vancouver, B. C.—George Clements, of Vancouver; D. F. E. Morgan, formerly of Toronto, and Wilbur Greer, narrowly escaped death by having their fishing boat wrecked off Dundas Island, west of Prince Rupert. For two weeks they were missing.

When their boat was smashed on the rocks they clung to the pieces until they reached shore, where for a week they subsisted on raw clams. They were unable to light a fire, and in wet, half-frozen clothing suffered frightfully from exposure. They were picked up by a schooner.

Population and Race.

The white race numbers 600,000,000; the yellow, 700,000,000; the black, 215,000,000; the brown, or Malayan, 35,000,000, and the red, or American Indian stock in North and South America, 15,000,000.

China Arousing.

Pekin.—There are now 300 newspapers in China, while ten years ago there was but one recognized as such.

THAT RECORD JUMP BY WASHINGTON.

Alleged Origin of Thackeray's Story of the 22 Foot Leap.

Three college athletes have had an ideal shattered by reading a paragraph in a speech that Sir G. Trevelyan made in London before the Publishers Circle at a recent dinner. These men, in addition to being athletes, are devoted to Thackeray and "The Virginians."

There is a reference in that book to the prowess of George Washington as an athlete, particularly as a broad jumper. This is to the effect that Washington was able to jump 22 feet, which, considering that it was away back in the eighteenth century, was some leap. Although the best American record now is 24 feet 7 1/2 inches, it has not been standing so long, and in the early days of American athletics 22 feet was a remarkable performance in the broad jump.

These three used to pride themselves on knowing about that performance credited to Washington, and they pointed out how in 1876 and for three years following the American championship was won by leaps of less than 20 feet, and that from 1880 to 1885 inclusive the champion did not do 22 feet, although close to it on several occasions.

So they used always to tell folks who asked about great broad jumpers that Washington held the American record from 1752 to 1885. What shattered all this was the following from the Trevelyan speech:

"I was present at a dinner where Thackeray discoursed to a delightful audience of young people about 'The Virginians,' which he was then writing and which seemed to fill his mind to the exclusion of everything else. Among other matters he asked us, all around the table, what was the widest jump any of us had ever known, and when we agreed upon twenty-one feet, he said: 'Then I must make George Washington jump one foot more.'"

A Little Devil in the Heart.

An insane devil lurks in the heart of even the most sainted woman. It is the little devil that makes a young wife ask her devoted husband which of the two he would save if she and her mother were drowning, writes William J. Locke in his story "Simple Septimus," in the American Magazine. It is the same little devil that is responsible for infinite mendacity on the part of men. "Have you said that to another woman?" No; of course he hadn't, and the wretch is instantly perjured. "My immortal soul," says the good fellow, instantaneously converted into an atrocious liar; and the little devil cooes with satisfaction and curls himself up snugly to sleep.

Uses of Irish Peat.

Consul Henry S. Culver, of Cork, writes that the peat beds of Ireland may yet become a valuable asset in the country's industrial development other than for fuel if, as is now claimed upon the authority of an Austrian experimenter, the fibres of the remains of the reeds and grasses of which peat is composed can be utilized not only for paper-making and carpets, but for weaving the finest fabrics as well. The claim is put forth that the fibre is elastic and durable, and, being a non-conductor of heat, the cloth manufactured from it is as tough as linen and as warm as woolen.

India-Gestion.

Here is a story the bishop of London told John Morley the other day, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. They were holding an "exam." in an East-end school, and the teacher was explaining the chief products of the Indian empire. One child recited a list of cosmestibles. "Please, miss, India produces curries and pepper and citron and chillies and chutney and—and—" "Yes, yes, and what comes after that?" "Please, miss, I don't remember." "Yes, but think. What is India so famous for?" "Please, 'm, India-gestion."

Hens Hatch Fish.

Chinamen have a way of tricking hens, so that they assist in the hatching of fish. Fish eggs are carefully placed in an egg shell, which is then sealed and put under an unsuspecting hen. In a few days the spawn is warmed into life and the contents of the shell are then cast into a shallow pool, where the sunshine completes the work.

Demand for Artificial Flowers.

Makers of artificial flowers in New York city are receiving an unusual number of orders from all parts of the country for the fall and winter trade. Most of the supply for the nation comes from New York, where more money is spent for the manufacture of imitation flowers than in any other city in the world.

Picking Out a Job.

"Work," observed the reflective deadbeat—"work is all right if you can get the sort to suit your individual needs. I, for instance, wouldn't object to calling out the stations on an Atlantic liner."

Spread Happiness.

Is not the first duty of those who are happy to tell of their gladness to others? All men can learn to be happy; and the teaching of it is easy.

Italian Proverb.

Little dogs start the hare, but great ones catch it.

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