

Just Like Them.

Scene Traced. Dramatis personae: Four-year-old girl, mother and several passersby.

Child (in high, shrill treble)—"Mamma, did you get papa's birthday present?"

"Yes, dearest." "What did you get, mamma?" "Cigars, lovey."

"The cheap ones that Aunt Millie told you about?"

"Silence from mamma, but a heightened flush on her face that was not entirely the reflection from 'dearest lovey's' red velvet hat."

"Mamma, that man over there has on a dreadfully dirty necktie. You told papa the other day that no gentleman would wear a soiled necktie."

"Mildred, stop talking!" "Mildred was silent for a little while. "Mamma, that lady over there forgot to polish her shoes this morning."

In Doubt.

"I judge from your conversation," said the carping person, "that you assume to be an optimist."

"Oh, yes. It's just as well to look on the bright side."

"You undertake to demonstrate that 'whatever is right,' and all that sort of thing."

"That would be the tendency of my arguments."

"And you believe that everything is all for the best?"

"Yes." "Well, I'm glad to meet you. I want to talk with some one who has studied the subject, and who can possibly tell me why it is that the man who rocks the boat always manages to swim ashore and let the other people drown. It may be all for the best, but I'd like to have it explained."

Reflections of a Bachelor.

Love is cheap, but being a lover is expensive.

About the time a boy begins to think about his sweetheart his mother begins to forget hers.

You must never kiss and tell, but if you see anybody else doing it you must tell it to everybody.

After a woman comes home from church she has the same sort of guaranteed credit feeling that a man has just after he makes a fat bank deposit.

There is nothing that makes a man so thankful he is married as to have his wife wake him up in the middle of the night to ask his opinion of a new idea she has for a shirtwaist.

An Abrid.

"Has my Willie been in swimming here to-day?" asked Willie's angry father.

"No, sir," replied the biggest boy in the water.

"Are you sure?" "Sure. Why, it was as much as he could do to keep from drownin', but we got him out all right. He's restin' over there in the bushes now."

Mean Thing.

Rosalie—Have you chosen any of your bridesmaids yet? May—Yes. Fanny Lyon. Rosalie—Why, I thought you hated her. May—No, not exactly; but the bridesmaids are to wear yellow, and you can't imagine how that will go with Fanny's complexion.

THE DEFEAT OF OBLIVION

Rev. Dr. Talmage Says Every Soul Will Be Remembered in Heaven.

All the Ordinary Efforts at Perpetuation Are Dead Failures.

(Copyright, 1901.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In this discourse Dr. Talmage shows how any one can be widely and forever recollected and cheered by dependent Christian workers. Texts, Job xxiv, 29, "He shall be no more remembered," and Psalms cxli, 6, "The righteous shall live in everlasting remembrance."

Of oblivion and its defeat I speak to-day. There is an old monster that swallows down everything. It crumbles individual, families, communities, States, nations, empires, hemispheres, worlds. Its diet is made up of years, of centuries, of ages, of cycles, of millenniums, of eons. That monster is called by Noah Webster and all the other dictionaries "Oblivion."

It is a steep down which everything rolls. It is a conflagration in which everything is consumed. It is a dirge which all orchestras play and a period at which everything stops. It is the cemetery of the human race. It is the domain of forgetfulness. Oblivion! At times it throws a shadow over all of us, and I would not pronounce it to-day if I did not come armed in the strength of the eternal God to demolish it.

Why, just look at the way the families of the earth disappear. For awhile they are together, inseparable and to each other indispensable. They build their homes, and some leave this life, and a century is long enough to plant a family, develop it, prosper it and obliterate it. So the generations vanish. Walk up Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, Broadway, New York; State street, Boston; Chestnut street, Philadelphia; the Strand, London; Princess street, Edinburgh; Champs Elysees, Paris; Unter den Linden, Berlin, and you will meet in this year 1901 not one person who walked there in the year 1801. What engulment! All the ordinary efforts at perpetuation are dead failures.

Scott's Old Mortality is a good round with his chisel to repair the faded epitaphs on tombstones, but Old Mortality has a quicker chisel, with which he can cut out a thousand epitaphs while he is cutting in one epitaph. Call the roll of the armies of Baldwin I. or of Charles Martel or of Marlborough or of Mithridates or of Prince Frederick or of Cortes, and not one answer will you hear. Stand them in line and call the roll of the 1,000,000 men in the army of Thebes. Not one answer. Stand them in line, the 1,750,000 infantry and the 200,000 cavalry of the Assyrian army under Ninus, and not one answer. Stand in line the 1,000,000 men of Sesostris, the 1,200,000 men of Artaxerxes at Cunaxa, the 2,841,000 men under Xerxes at Thermopylae and call the long roll. Not one answer. At the opening of the Civil War the men of the Northern and Southern armies were told that if they fell in battle their names would never be forgotten by their country. Out of the million men who fell in battle or died in military hospitals you cannot call the names of a thousand, nor the names of 500, nor the names of 100, nor the names of fifty.

Oblivion! The world itself will roll into it as easily as a schoolboy's rubber ball rolls down a hill, and when our world goes it is so interlocked by the law of gravitation with other worlds that they will go, too, and so far from having our memory perpetuated by a whole galaxy of worlds as easily as a crocodile takes down a frog.

Yet oblivion does not remove or swallow anything that had better not be removed or swallowed. The old monster is welcome to his meal. This world would long ago have been overcrowded if not for the merciful removal of nations and generations. What if all the books had lived that were ever written and all the published? The libraries would by their immensity have obstructed intelligence and made all research impossible.

What if all the people that had been born were still alive? We would have been elbowed by our ancestors of ten centuries ago, and people who ought to have said their last word 2000 years ago would snarl at us, saying, "What are you doing here?" There would have been no room to turn around. Some of the past generations of mankind are not worth remembering. The first useful thing that many people did was to die; their cradle a misfortune and their grave a boon.

him with nearby a laver, in which he must wash and a cornet of eternal blessedness he might wear? What are epitaphs in graveyards, who are eulogiums in presence of those whose breath is in their nostrils, what are unread biographies in the alcoves of a city library, compared with the imperishable records you have made in the illumined memories of those to whom you did such kindnesses? Forget them? They cannot forget them. Notwithstanding all their might and splendor, there are some things the glorified of heaven cannot do, and this is one of them.

They cannot forget an earthly kindness done. They have no strength to hurl into oblivion that benefaction. Has Paul forgotten the inhabitants of Malta, who extended to the island hospitalities when he and others were shipwrecked, added to a shipwreck, the drenching rain and the sharp cold? Has the victim of the highwayman on the road to Jericho forgotten the good Samaritan with a medicament of oil and wine and the good Samaritan who helped the English soldiers who went up to God from the Crimean battlefields forgotten Florence Nightingale?

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Another defeat of Oblivion will be found in the character of those whom we rescue, uplift or save. Character is eternal. Suppose by a right influence we aid in transforming a bad man into a good man, a dolorous man into a happy man, a dishonest man into a courageous man, a criminal man into a law-abiding man, every stroke of that work will be immortalized. There may never be so much as one line in a newspaper regarding it or one mortal tongue may ever whisper it into the ears of the living. No such insanity shall go your work upon it shall go, wherever that soul rises your work on it will rise, and so long as that soul will last your work on it will last. Do you suppose that I can ever forget that the right name in the history of that soul in heaven that it shall forget that you invited him to Christ; that you, by prayer or gospel work, turned him round from the wrong side to the right? No such insanity will ever smite a heavenly citizen.

Oh, this character building! The structure lasting independent of passing centuries, independent of crumbling inausoluble and of the wheels of the material system. Aye, if the material universe which seems all bound together like one piece of machinery, should some day meet with an accident that should send worlds and financially able to carry out any obligation made by their firm West & Traux, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, Ohio.

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It's risky for a young man to give his best girl a fan—it can make a coolness between them.

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Probably a Tartar. A well-known Pacific coast attorney, who prides himself upon his handling of Chinese witnesses, was defending a railway damage case. The lawyer is a bit nearsighted, so failed to notice when a Chinaman came upon the stand that the witness' clothing was of finer texture than the ordinary coolies'.

Instead of following the usual questions as to name, residence, if the nature of an oath was understood, etc., the following dialogue ensued: "What is your name?" "Kee Lung." "You live in San Francisco?" "Yes." "You see God?" "Mr. Attorney, if you mean 'Do I understand the entity of our Creator?' I will simply say that Thursday evening next I shall address the State Ministerial Association on the subject of 'The Divinity of Christ,' and shall be pleased to have you attend."

When ordered to restore the examination proceeded on ordinary lines but to the day of his death the lawyer will never cease to be asked if he "sabe God."

Excuse me, he said to the applicant for the typewriter's position, "but I would like to know your age?" The young man looked astonished. "May I ask what that has to do with my fitness for the place?" she inquired. "Nothing," he promptly answered. "You see it's my wife that wants to know."

"In that case," said the applicant, who was pretty as well as young, "tell her I am 47." "And the smile that followed this ingenious statement brought out four delightful dimples.

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