

**A Prayer.**  
God of the lonely soul,  
God of the comfortless,  
God of the broken heart—for those,  
Thy tenderness!

For prayers there be enough  
Yea, prayers there be to spare,  
For those of proud and high estate;  
Each hath his share.

Put the beggar at my door,  
The thief behind the bars,  
And those that be too blind to see  
The shining stars;

The outcast in his hut,  
The useless and the old;  
Whoever walks the city's streets  
Homeless and cold;

The sad and lone of soul  
Whom no man understands;  
And those of secret sin, with stains  
Upon their hands,

And stains upon their souls;  
Who shudder in their sleep,  
And walk their ways with trembling  
Hearts,  
Afrail to weep;

For the childless mother, Lord,  
And ah, the little child  
Weeping the mother in her grave,  
Unreconciled—

God of the lonely soul,  
God of the comfortless,  
For these, and such as these, I ask  
Thy tenderness!

Whose sin be greatest, Lord;  
If each deserve his lot;  
If each but reap as he hath sown—  
I ask Thee not.

I only ask of Thee  
The marvel of a space  
When these forgot and blind may  
look  
Upon thy face.  
—Ella Higginson, in Scribner's Magazine.

## HOW SPIKER WON THE PRIZE

This story has several morals. Also, it has three heroes, a heroine, an eccentric philanthropist and a score of supernumeraries of too little importance, so far as this incident is concerned, to be mentioned by name. The heroes are: Mr. Swallow, Mr. Spilkington and Mr. Spiker; the heroine is, or was, Miss Honeygarde; the eccentric philanthropist is Mr. Wilson. So much for the introduction; now for the story:

Swallow, Spilkington and Spiker work for Mr. Wilson. On the 4th day of January last the three young men held an important interview with their employer.

"What do you want?" said Wilson to Swallow.

"A raise," said Swallow.

"And you?" to Spilkington.

"A raise."

"And you?" to Spiker.

"A raise."

"Can't have it," said Wilson. "You get \$25 a week now."

"I know that," said Swallow, "but that ain't enough. We are worth more than that. We want \$30."

"Too much," said Wilson. "Still, I do not wish to discourage you. You are worthy young men, and I like you. I do not wish to leave you without hope. I will increase your salary on one condition. If you get married I will pay you \$30 a week."

Swallow, Spilkington and Spiker turned pale.

"Married?" they said. "This is very sudden. We must have time to think."

They retired into an adjoining room and thought. After due deliberation they reported their decision.

"Sir," said they, "we refuse to accept prosperity on such onerous terms. Twenty-five dollars a week, according to our calculation, will go further for one than \$30 for two. We prefer positive to potential evils. We will not get married."

Then Swallow, Spilkington and Spiker went back to their desks and continued to work for \$25 a week, always bearing in mind the opportunity for advancement should they care to purchase promotion at such a cost.

Swallow, Spilkington and Spiker are good friends. Usually they lunch together. Last Monday that amicable arrangement would have been satisfactory to Swallow and Spilkington, but when they got ready to leave the office and looked around for Spiker they found he had already gone. They saw him at the restaurant, but they did not join him. Spiker was not alone. Miss Honeygarde sat opposite. Miss Honeygarde beamed upon Spiker and Spiker beamed upon her. They were happy. Swallow and Spilkington were not happy; they were envious.

"Ungrateful dog," said Swallow. "So that's why he left us? He has treated us most shabbily. But we'll get even. We'll have revenge."

He called the waitress.

"Della," he said, "do you see our friend over there? Well, he has deserted us. He's married."

"Married?" cried Della. "Sure?"

"Sure," said Swallow. "Married last night. My friend and I were at the wedding. Weren't we, Dick?"

"Uh-huh," said Spilkington.

"You don't say," said Della. "Was it a church wedding? I hope so. I do love church weddings. They are so swell and so awfully solemn."

"No," said Swallow, "this was not a church wedding. It was just a home affair, but it was swell enough and solemn enough just the same. Go and tell the rest of the girls the old chap is married. It'll make him feel good for you to take some notice of him."

Della told the other girls, the other girls told the proprietor, the proprietor told the patrons and the patrons told each other. It was an exciting time. Everybody looked, everybody talked. "See the bride and bridegroom," they said. "Don't they look nice?"

But Spiker and Miss Honeygarde did not look nice. They were too red for that. They heard, they saw, they blushed, they felt very uncomfortable. Also, they looked very silly; nevertheless, they talked earnestly. Swallow and Spilkington tried to make out what they said, but they could hear nothing. However, they found out all about that the next day. Early Tuesday Spiker engaged Mr. Wilson in an animated conversation.

"Sir," said he, "I want my \$30 a week."

"Married?" asked Wilson.

"Yes, sir."

"When?"

"Yesterday."

"Good," said Wilson. "I am glad. I am an advocate of domestic tranquility. I like a man who has home ties. I shall do well by you. You deserve more than \$30 a week. I will promote you. You shall have \$40 a week, with the prospect of \$50 the first of next year."

Swallow and Spilkington almost fainted. When they came to Swallow asked:

"Say, Spiker, were you married at lunch time yesterday?"

"No," said Spiker. "Haddin' thought of it then. Little girl just came in to spend the day. You put the notion into our heads. Congratulations, you know, and gossip and dishes of rice and wedding cake. Seemed like the real thing. Little girl awfully nice. Known her long time. Like each other tremendously. 'Why not?' says I. 'Why not?' says she. 'Let's,' says I. 'Let's,' says she. So we did. All due to you. Thanks awfully."

"Good Lord!" said Swallow.

"Good Lord!" said Spilkington.

Swallow addressed Mr. Wilson timidly. "Sir," said he, "are there any more jobs of the same kind where this came from?"

"No," said Wilson. "no more promotions in sight. Even if you two fellows should get married now, you'd have to peg along on the \$25 basis."

"Forty dollars, you know," mused Spiker, maliciously, "and the little girl's old man was so delighted he plunked down \$1,000 cash as a wedding present."

"Good Lord!" said Swallow and Spilkington again.—New York Press.

### SIMPLE CLOTHES FOR SARAH.

Bernhardt No Longer Swells the Coffers of Dressmakers.

One of the reasons why Sarah Bernhardt received Catulle Mendès's play with delight was that it liberated her from all necessity to throw away a fortune on clothes. When she makes a tour in the provinces or abroad to appear as Saint Theresa her costumes will almost fit in a valise.

For a similar reason she gladly accepted "L'Algon" and "Werther." She had grown very sick of paying bloated bills to dressmakers and took refuge from them in third sex impersonations.

Yes, declares London Truth, Sarah Bernhardt has her taste purified by experience, is independent of the tricks of the dressmaking trades and has come back to the sweet and holy simplicity of the classical age.

At her place in Belle Isle, off the coast of Brittany, Sarah Bernhardt follows the aboriginal women in wearing clothes adapted to the wet climate and rough, rocky coast. The experience of ages has taught her poorer neighbors what to wear. She has not a dozen bourgeois near her.

As the great actress has not a Breton face or figure and need not sell fish or gather seaweed for manure, she has modified the costume of the Belle Isleois to suit herself. The daughter of the avoué of the only port in the island provides her with patterns for embroidered borders and other garnitures, which are sent to Paris to be done in colors.

Sarah Bernhardt does not spend 200 francs on clothes in the whole of a Belle Isle season. If she went to a fashionable watering place and there either sought to lead or to follow the fashions she would return to Paris many thousand francs the poorer.

Her young friend at Belle Isle has provided her with a costume flowered and otherwise adorned with real seaweeds. They are first dried flat as if for an album and then arranged in decorative patterns.

### TO SAVE 500 LIVES A YEAR.

Railroads Elevate 1,600 Miles of Track in Chicago.

The railroads of the country are spending one hundred million dollars to make the streets of Chicago safe, says Rutledge Rutherford in the Technical World. On an average five hundred people a year are run over by passing trains or are injured in collisions with steam locomotives while using Chicago's streets.

Ten years ago Chicago decided that the elevation of all steam railway tracks was the only means of protecting her citizens from the deadly grade crossings. Now the railroads are footing the bill.

Last year more than 50,000 men were employed in the work of elevating the tracks, and it cost the rail-

roads about \$5,800,000. Chicago is not the only city which is having her steam railway tracks elevated, but Chicago is the only city which is making the railroads pay for the job.

Chicago has already accomplished the elevation of 800 miles of steam railway tracks within her borders and has made the railroads pay every cent of the \$50,000,000 which it has cost.

Sixteen hundred miles of railroad tracks in one city is something rather difficult to comprehend without comparisons. Sixteen hundred miles of right of way is nearly enough to build two elevated railroads from Chicago to Philadelphia.

It is more than enough to build a single line from Chicago to Boston, or to Galveston, or to Santa Fe, N. M., or to Jacksonville, Fla. or to Denver, or even to Salt Lake City. This is entirely independent of any lines operated by electricity or by any power other than steam.

Excepting the lowered and walled in tracks of the Illinois Central along the Lake front, where there are no street crossings, every mile of this trackage will have been elevated when the work now in progress is completed.

### WHAT A MODEL FARM IS.

And Why There Should Be One in Every Agricultural County of the United States.

For less than a single item in many of the annual appropriation bills, a model farm, conducted as a practical object lesson in the best methods of tilling the soil and its most profitable uses, might be established in every agricultural county in the United States. It is worth considering whether or not this should be undertaken either by the several State governments or by the National Government, or by the two conjointly.

A model farm is simply a farm conforming in size, in treatment of the soil, in assignment to different crops and their rotation and in methods of culture to the most approved practice that actual experience and scientific investigation of agriculture all over the world have fixed. It focuses upon one plot of ground, within the personal observation of each farming community, the accumulated knowledge of one of the oldest occupations, which must now become more highly specialized. It is a working model for common instruction.

Such a model farm should not contain more than thirty or forty acres. This area would be ample for working purposes. It would also provide the economic advantage of the small well-tilled farm over a larger holding, to which equal care could not be given. Labor can be utilized more effectively and the yield per acre increased without any decline in fertility.

On such a farm five tracts might be set off for crops in due rotation. The order of hay, pasture, oats, corn and wheat has been found an excellent one. The five tracts would be assigned to these five crops respectively, with regular annual rotation, so that each field should grow all the different crops in their turn. Such alteration, even without other aid, has been found so congenial to the soil as to give crops greatly exceeding those obtained by the usual method in this country, of sowing the same land to the same thing year after year. Actual trial at experiment stations, under conditions that any farmer may reproduce, shows an average product, over a series of years, nearly twice as great as the average product of the general farming area under private cultivation.

The remainder, aside from the space occupied by farm buildings and yards, could be divided into smaller plots of from an acre upward, to be devoted, according to need and use, to pasture and to rye, barley, potatoes, fodder corn and garden and forage plants. A judicious system of rotation on these lesser areas also will show how greatly productive power may be increased and at how high a level it may be kept. Such a farm will carry some cattle, hogs and poultry, together with the horses required for working it. A careful utilization of manure will supply most of the fertilizer needed. One valuable lesson taught by the model farm must be the importance of enriching the soil with fertilizing material either supplied by live stock or procured from without. The farmer has to guard against the impairment of his working capital, which is the land, as far as possible, by the merchant or manufacturer must guard against the wasting of his.—From James J. Hill's "Government Model Farms" in the Century.

### Tobacco Smoke Scared Deer.

A new way of preventing deer from doing damage to a holding has been adopted by the occupier of Haddon Farm, in the heart of the Devon and Somerset staghound country.

Discarding the use of tarred ropes and other strong smelling materials in fences, he walks through his turnip fields two or three times a night, smoking a strong pipe, the smell of which, he says, frightens the deer away. Before he adopted this device his farm used to be visited by scores of deer nightly.—London Evening Standard.

Prince Eitel Frederick, the German Emperor's second son, while at college, performed the difficult feat of swimming across the Rhine at Bonn, where the river is very broad, swift and full of dangerous eddies.

In France the average span of life is now seven years longer than it was sixty years ago.

## STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

### Latest News Gleaned From Various Parts.

A feature of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Winchester Hunting Club, at the farm of J. B. Irvin, Altoona, was a wrestling match between Mrs. J. B. Nearhoof and Mrs. G. G. Grazer, well-known residents of Tyrone, and women of athletic mold. The match was planned as a surprise for the men and was held in the barn, following the annual dinner. The principals had apparelled themselves especially for the exhibition, which was conducted according to the catch-as-catch-can rules. It was a real match, each woman trying her best to score a fall. Strangle holds, half-Nelsons and all other wrestling arts were tried without success, and at the end of fifteen minutes, Mrs. Miles Beck, the referee, called it a draw.

Martin McNurney, aged 94, one of the oldest residents of Washington County, dropped dead at the bedside of his wife at McDonald. Mrs. McNurney has been in a very critical condition for several days and when the physicians told the aged man that his wife could not recover, he fell forward and died in a few moments. Mr. and Mrs. McNurney have been married for fifty-two years, and during the entire time had not been separated more than a day at a time.

Harry Lynn, a driver at Tunnel Ridge Colliery, Mahanoy City, had several ribs broken by being kicked by a vicious mule shortly after commencing work.

The Mahanoy Jig House, employing 100 hands, was suspended indefinitely by the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company, as the Mahanoy storage yard, which has a capacity of 300,000 tons of coal, is full.

The Hamburg Town Council will repeal the recently enacted ordinance and the Pennsylvania railroad will place a watchman at the Pine Street crossing, which is considered dangerous.

John Kernish, of Swedeland, while walking across the Schuylkill River at that place, fell through the ice and was drowned. His body was recovered with grappling irons.

George Calvin Dickey, a 60-year-old white man, of Harrisburg, blew out his brains with a shot gun, pressing the trigger with a cane. He was led to this deed by melancholia, caused by the death of his wife, a negro, three years ago.

The dental offices of Dr. M. A. Becker and Dr. J. Frank Stevens, located in the business heart of Lancaster, were forced open by thieves. From the former \$150 worth of gold was stolen and the latter was robbed of instruments and supplies.

An increase of a million dollars has been made in the tax valuation of Pottsville. A quarter of a million of this has been placed on the newly erected rolling mills of the Eastern Steel Company.

Frank Burke, a carpenter, stepped out of the way of one train before another in the Lackawanna yard at Seranton and was hurled many feet in the air by a locomotive attached to a fast freight. He lived a few minutes after being picked up by the crew.

The building contractors of Hazleton have been notified by the Carpenters' and Joiners' Union that the latter would make no demands for next year beyond asking that the present agreement and wage scale be continued for the next year.

Mrs. Annie Stasney, of Shamokin, was accidentally shot by her son, John, in the kitchen of their home. As she was handling a gun it was accidentally discharged and a bullet entering her head, she fell to the floor in a senseless condition and will likely die.

A proposition to increase the freight revenues centering in the Pittsburgh district something like \$25,000,000 a year, at the same time boosting the price of steel and iron has been decided upon by the transportation companies, whose general freight agents held a secret meeting in the committee room of the Pennsylvania Company and took preliminary steps for making the increase.

At the office of James P. Orr, general freight agent of the Pennsylvania, it was admitted that the meeting had been held. The meeting lasted two hours and adjourned until a later date at which the details will be arranged. Rates on all iron and steel material will be advanced. This will not be a straight 10 per cent advance, but will be a varied scale averaging 10 per cent.

When Julius Gretsner, an aged bald-headed resident of Greencock, began taking medicine for cancer of the nose he expected a cure of that disease. This was a week ago and his head contained no more hair than a billiard ball. Now his head is covered with a growth of hair, which followed a hair in the head. The hair is short, but it is growing longer and is gray.

The little mining hamlet of Francis, near Burgetstown, was completely wiped out by fire. The miners, many of them besides losing all their household goods, suffered the loss of considerable sums of money left in the houses which were destroyed. The fire broke out during the night and nearly all the men were at work in the mines. The few women in the village could do nothing to prevent the spread of the flames. An alarm was sent into the mines, but when the workmen arrived it was too late.

Mrs. Anton Hermann, a Slav woman, was struck and killed by the Seranton flyer, the Jersey Central fast train, while picking coal at Allen town.

Messrs. James and William Donnelly, of Coatesville, have purchased the old Mortonville Hotel, formerly owned by the late Chalkey Yetter, the veteran fox hunter.

The commissioners of Columbia County decided to issue \$30,000 of 4 per cent. coupon bonds of the denomination of \$200, \$500 and \$1,000. They will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder.

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## Facts About Lead Pencils

By KATHERINE B. CALHOUN.

It is difficult to determine the exact period in which "black lead" was first utilized as an instrument for writing or drawing, as it has been confused with other mineral bodies to which it bears no relation. The ancients used lead, but the metal was formed into flat plates, and the edges of these plates used to make the mark. If an ornamental design was desired, the transcriber drew parallel lines, and traced their illuminated designs, usually with a hard point, but also with soft lead. That lead was known to the ancients is also proven by the fact that it is mentioned in the Book of Job.

During the year 1615 there was a description of the black lead pencil written by Conrad Gesner. He says that pieces of lumbago were fastened in a wooden handle and a mixture of fossil substance, sometimes covered with wood, was used for writing and drawing. About half a century later a very good account of this mineral was given, and it was then used in Italy for drawing and mixed with clay for manufacturing crucibles. We are informed in Beckman's "History of Inventions" that the pencils first used in Italy for drawing were composed of a mixture of lead and tin, nothing more than pewter. This pencil was called a stilet. Michael Angelo mentions this stilet, and in fact it seems that such pencils were long used in common over the whole continent of Europe. At this period the name plumbago or graphite was not in use, but instead the name molybdena or molybdenite, which is now applied to an entirely different mineral.

Graphite or black lead is formed in the primary rocks. In the United States it occurs in feldspar and quartz, in Great Britain in greenstone rock and gneiss, and in Norway in quartz. The mine at Borrowdale, England, has supplied some of the finest black lead in the world, but the quantity varies, owing to the irregularity with which the mineral occurs.

The Jews were for a while the only manufacturers of pencils. It required great skill to perfect the manufacture, according to the degree of hardness or softness required. Of recent years the manufacture of pencils has increased to such an extent that the price of these articles has decreased proportionately. Graphite and pure clay are combined and used in the manufacture of artificial black lead pencils, and on the other hand the greatest perfection is attained in the making of the higher class pencils. Graphite is exposed to heat to acquire firmness and brilliancy of color. Sulphur is also used to secure a more perfect color.—Scientific American.

An English physician announces that music will cure alcoholism.

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