

THE McGUFFEYS and THEIR READERS



William Holmes McGuffey



Alexander Hamilton McGuffey



Lesson XIII
said, steal kinds words flowers



Lesson LIV



Lesson LV
him to his aunt's



Lesson LX

must sight learn i-dle
good front talks never

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Haste thee, school-boy, haste away
Far too long has been thy stay;
Often you have tardy been,
Many a lesson you've not seen;
Haste thee, school-boy, haste away,
Far too long has been thy stay.
—McGuffey's Third Reader.



ALL over the United States during the last two or three weeks there has been a constant repetition of that "haste thee, school-boy, haste away" scene, as the army of Young America has marched schoolwards. And as the elders watched them go, have their minds turned back to their own youth and did there come to their minds the verse printed above? But if the elders should quote the above verse to their juniors, would the name of McGuffey mean anything to Young America? Probably not! And yet there are those who say that it is the name of a man who was the most popular American of the Nineteenth century, the man who had the largest influence in determining the thoughts and ideals of the American people during that period and the man to whose work many great Americans of the present day pay tribute as being the fountain of their inspiration to aspire and to achieve. Even though a recent popular American encyclopedia gives only 15 lines to this man and the Encyclopedia Britannica doesn't mention him at all, there are thousands of Americans to whom the name of William Holmes McGuffey will bring a reminiscent gleam to the eye. For he was "the schoolmaster to a nation" and anyone who attended a public school in America from 1838 down to the end of the century can remember something which they learned in one of the McGuffey Readers.

Herbert Quick in writing of his childhood in rural Iowa in his book, "One Man's Life," says: "I had a burning thirst for books. On those farms a boy or girl with my appetite for literature was a frog in a desert. The thirst was satisfied and, more important, was stimulated to aspiration for further satisfaction by an old dog-eared volume of McGuffey's, the standard school readers of my day. My mastery of the first and second readers—just the opening of the marvels of the printed page—was a poignant delight and gave me a sort of ecstasy. Those text-books constitute the most influential volumes ever published in America."

Nor is he the only notable to offer such testimony. Newton D. Baker declares that an especially melancholy poem contained in the fifth reader made an impression on him that still remains, and the late Justice John H. Clarke said that the language he used in handing down decisions of the United States Supreme court not infrequently was colored by the readers he had studied 50 years before. Ida M. Tarbell, the late Albert J. Beveridge, former Senator Charles S. Thomas of Colorado, Senator Simeon D. Fess and Senator Frank L. Greene are among others who credit McGuffey with having had a large share in shaping their minds.

To get the proper perspective on this important individual, let us go back to the days before the Revolution. In August, 1774, William and Anne (McKittick) McGuffey emigrated to this country from Scotland. Landing at Philadelphia, they journeyed to the southern border of York county, Pennsylvania, where they settled. During the days of the Revolutionary war George Washington often stopped at their home. This Scotch family had one son, Alexander, who was six years old when they arrived in America.

Alexander grew up to be a scout and Indian fighter, serving in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania under Gen. Arthur St. Clair and Anthony Wayne. At the end of this campaign in 1794 he married Miss Anna Holmes of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and settled as a farmer in that county. Here, William Holmes McGuffey was born, September 23, 1800.

When the lad was two years old, the McGuffeys removed to Trumbull county, Ohio, where Alexander McGuffey purchased a farm of 165 acres in Cortsville village, Cortsville township, in the Connecticut Western Reserve.

One day Rev. Thomas Hughes, Presbyterian minister, was riding by the lonely McGuffey cabin. He overheard the mother praying that her young son, William, might have the opportunity to secure an education that would fit him for life and for the ministry. Reverend Hughes arranged to have the boy attend school at the "Old Stone academy" which he had opened at Darlington, Pa. The tuition was \$3 a year and board 75 cents a week. Here William received his academic training and by the time he was eighteen was ready for a collegiate course.

He went to the nearest college, Washington

college, in Pennsylvania, and there came under the influence of Dr. Andrew Wylie, president of the college. He studied Latin, Greek and Hebrew as well as English and graduated with honors in 1826, receiving the bachelor of arts degree.

While attending Washington college he supported himself in part by teaching. He taught a pioneer school in Kentucky, his work being observed by the first president of Miami university that had been founded at Oxford, Ohio, in 1809. This man, Rev. Robert Hamilton Bishop, at once recognized the power and devotion of the young undergraduate student and offered him a position at Miami, to begin in the autumn of 1826. The minutes of the board of trustees show that he was employed as professor of languages. Miami tradition tells that he rode into Oxford with his little brother Alexander with his personal copies of Livy, Horace, Memorabilia and the Greek and Hebrew texts of the Bible in his saddle bags.

Soon after coming to Oxford he met Harriet Spining, daughter of Judge Isaac Spining of Dayton, who was visiting her uncle in Oxford. They became engaged and were married April 3, 1827.

In 1828 Professor McGuffey built as their home the house that still stands in the shadow of the campus. In this home three children, Mary, Henrietta and Charles, were born. While at Miami, McGuffey wrote the first and second of the graded set of readers. The third and fourth readers were written later at Cincinnati. His brother, Alexander, as he grew to manhood became an attorney in Cincinnati. He aided Professor McGuffey in the revision of the readers and collected much of the material for the fifth and sixth readers.

After some time at Miami, Professor McGuffey, whose interest lay in the field of literature and philosophy, was tendered a professorship of mental philosophy. He carried on theological studies privately and on March 29, 1829, he received his ordination into the ministry of the Presbyterian church, with the degree of doctor of divinity. He never held a regular charge, but filled many pulpits on Sundays.

McGuffey recognized the dearth of reading material in the common schools of the time. He had keen literary sense and was able to select much that appealed to young minds. It was this selection of lessons from a wide range of authors that caused him to name the readers McGuffey Eclectic Readers.

The first reader was issued in 1836, the second in 1837, and the third and fourth in 1838. The qualities that made the readers so popular are the basic principles of life, honesty, justice and truth behind the lessons. In finding application of moral principles he selected the best in British and American literature.

He takes in every phase of life with the home as the foundation of it all. The first reader is all play, but in the second he begins to get a little more responsibility, holding to the home and stressing kindness to the family and to animals.

The third reader is a character builder. Every lesson has a moral. The fourth reader begins to give a bigger and broader vision of life with lessons of travel, religion and statesmanship.

In 1836 Doctor McGuffey left Oxford to accept the presidency of Cincinnati college. In 1839 he became president of Ohio university at Athens. In 1844 he returned to Cincinnati and served as professor at Woodward college, afterward known as Woodward high school.

In 1845 McGuffey went to the University of Virginia as professor of natural and moral philosophy. He remained at this institution, designed and built by Thomas Jefferson, until his death on May 4, 1873.

Even the most casual survey of the McGuffey Readers reveals the stern reality of life in the century before this one. There is not a speck of humor in them, from McGuffey's New First Eclectic Reader, from which the wee children learned their ABC's and gazed with fascinated eyes at the quaint woodcuts of birds and beasts, to McGuffey's New Sixth Eclectic Reader, an imposing volume containing 456 pages of solid and forbidding type described on the flyleaf as "Exercises of Rhetorical Reading With Introductory Rules and Examples."

The stories always end with a moral, and

some of the verses set to music and sung. The book ends with the ten commandments in verse and an exhortation:

"With all thy soul love God above,
And as thyself thy neighbor love."

Every little girl and boy in the eighties has been told more than once by his fond but strict parents: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" This poem in its entirety appears in McGuffey's New Fourth Eclectic Reader. "Waste not, want not" was a good old proverb of those days, and we who were taught at an early age that it was a sin to abstain from "licking the plate clean" did not know then that this was the title of a little drama in McGuffey's Fourth Reader. "Lazy Ned," "Meddlesome Matty," "A Mother's Gift, the Bible," "Extract from the 'Sermon on the Mount'" are some of the other well remembered titles.

The Fifth Reader boasts the title: "McGuffey's New Fifth Eclectic Reader: Selected and Original Exercises for Schools." Here we find old friends: "Maud Muller," "Shylock, or the Pound of Flesh," "Effects of Gambling," which begins:

"The love of gambling steals, perhaps more often than any other sin, with an imperceptible influence on its victim. Its first pretext is inconsiderable, and falsely termed innocent play, with no more than the gentle excitement necessary to amusement. This plea, once indulged, is but too often the letting out of water. The interest imperceptibly grows. Pride of superior skill, opportunity, avarice, and all the overwhelming passions of depraved nature, ally themselves with the incipient and growing fondness. Dam and dike are swept away. The victim struggles in vain, and is borne down by the uncontrolled current."

"The Bible, the best of Classics," "Religion the only basis of society," "The Intemperate Husband," are the titles of other lessons, and many of these articles are honored by the name of the author in the index. That familiar poem, "The Spider and the Fly," is given in this reader. "Directions for Reading" are expounded and rules for proper diction are stressed.

It remains for the Sixth Reader to begin with "Principles of Education," which is considered under six heads:

1. Articulation.
2. Inflection.
3. Accent and Emphasis.
4. Reading verse.
5. The voice.
6. Gesture.

All faults to be remedied are meticulously listed. Indeed, lessons in articulation start with the second reader, and proper emphasis and correct pronunciation are stressed all through the series.

Of the McGuffey Readers, adults are probably most familiar with the Sixth Readers. To millions who live today, that work meant the literary peak. It contained Hamlet's soliloquy and "The Fall of Cardinal Wolsey," from "Henry VIII"; Scott's "Lochinvar" and "Marmion and Douglas"; Gray's Elegy; Macaulay on "The Impachment of Warren Hastings"; Tennyson's "Enoch Arden"; Poe's "The Raven"; Longfellow's "Evangeline," and "A Psalm of Life."

The McGuffey Readers have had a wide influence. They have been translated into many languages, even the Japanese. Their serious purpose, their kindly spirit, their high moral tone doubtless made children of an older day better men and women in our own time. The sale of them has made a fortune for their publishers, who estimate that 122,000,000 copies of the readers have been sold.

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A Green Gown

By CLARISSA MACKIE

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"AND so you are wearing green?" remarked Ella Neilson as she looked at Kathleen's new dress for the party.

"Yes, you know it is my favorite color—perhaps I rather fancy it because my eyes are green."
"Are they green?" inquired her friend coolly. "I always thought they were grayish blue."

"No, indeed," laughed the other girl. "Mother has bought me a string of jade green beads—pretty, aren't they?"
"Lovely," murmured Ella indifferently, and presently she made some excuse and hurried on, but she did not go home then. She went to call upon several other girls of their set and there was much laughter and giggling.

As for Kathleen, while she felt hurt about Ella Neilson's indifference, she did diagnose the case correctly. "I am afraid that Ella is a little jealous about my wearing the green dress," she told her mother that evening.
"You must not mind that, my dear," smiled her mother. "I am sure that Ella will wear a pretty frock and by that time she will have forgotten her jealousy. Did she ask you anything about Frederick?"

Kathleen shook her head. "I think that she was so upset about my dress that she never thought of my escort!"

"And she will take it for granted that Frederick will take her, as usual?"

"I suppose so, mother, I hope she finds it out before Thursday, though!"

Ella Neilson did find it out on Wednesday and she was furiously angry with both Frederick and Kathleen. She had met the young man near the town hall and she made the fatal mistake of taking it for granted that Frederick would be her cavalier as he had been several times in the past.

"What time will you come for me, Fred?" she asked when they were parting, and he had not mentioned the party.

"Ella Neilson," he chided, trying to hide his embarrassment, "you know perfectly well that I am not coming to escort you to the party! Please do not tease a young man with political cares upon his shoulders!"

Ella smiled widely, nervously, and then turned away. "That's a good joke on you, Frederick!" she giggled and went on, and Frederick, guessing her chagrin, and feeling somewhat guilty, went on his way, and in the midst of an important piece of work forgot all about Ella Neilson, though he did have a minute now and then to devote to Kathleen, who had quite stolen his heart.

That afternoon Ella Neilson called up several of her masculine friends at their places of business, and after several failures at last received an invitation from George Moore. "I am going in my car," he said, "and I'd like to take you, Ella—sure that I'm not butting in on Fred—or anything like that?"

"Very sure," said Ella sweetly, "and thank you so much, George. I will be ready at eight o'clock."

"Thank you, Ella. I will be there," he assured her, and then, only then, did Ella smile. Her dress had been ready for several days, but she had not shown it to anybody.

One of the queer things about the party that night was that eight o'clock sounded and went by and very few girls arrived.

There was the usual stag line of unattached young men, and there were some girls and their escorts. Pretty girls and plain girls in pink and yellow and blue, and a few in white or black.

At a quarter after eight Ella Neilson arrived with George Moore, and she looked like a rose in a charming pink dress, and then in groups or by ones and twos came the other girls of her particular "crowd," and every girl wore green! Every shade of green silk, satin, or georgette in combination with another color was represented, and there was much laughter, while Ella was here, there, and everywhere in her rose-pink dress, like one lovely rose in a plain green garden of girls!

And then, just a little late, came Kathleen with Frederick Warner—Kathleen was in green, too, but her dress was somehow "different" from the others—it was a beautiful shade of green, jade, and she wore an odd string of jade beads.

"How odd that so many should wear green!" she confided to Fred as they danced. "Of course, it is worn a lot, but our whole crowd is wearing green, all except Ella. Doesn't she look adorable in pink?"

Frederick had keenly observed Ella Neilson, but he merely said: "Looks like a peony! Kathleen, you are like a cool green rush growing in a quiet pool."

Kathleen blushed adorably and smiled at him. "There are so many of us green rushes, Frederick—I am afraid we are like the wild flags in the creek!"

"Never mind," he only whispered. "Among them all, Kathy, there is just one green! You!"

When the evening was over, and Frederick and Kathleen walked home under the early morning pale moon, it was then that Frederick confessed to Kathleen that he did not like any other girl except her—and it came out in just the way that all happy ending love stories do! As for Ella Neilson—it was something of a tragedy for her when she fell in love and married a man by the name of Green!

Los Angeles Boy Needed Help



Leroy Young, 1116 Georgia St., Los Angeles, is a "regular fellow," active in sports, and at the top in his classes at school. To look at him now, you'd think he never had a day's

sickness but his mother says: "When Leroy was just a little fellow, we found his stomach and bowels were weak. He kept suffering from constipation. Nothing he ate agreed with him. He was fretful, feverish and puny."

"When we started giving him California Fig Syrup his condition improved quickly. His constipation and biliousness stopped and he has had no more trouble of that kind. I have since used California Fig Syrup with him for colds and upset spells. He likes it because it tastes so good and I like it because it helps him so wonderfully!"

California Fig Syrup has been the trusted standby of mothers for over 50 years. Leading physicians recommend it. It is purely vegetable and works with Nature to regulate, tone and strengthen the stomach and bowels of children so they get full nourishment from their food and waste is eliminated in a normal way.

Four million bottles used a year shows how mothers depend on it. Always look for the word "California" on the carton to be sure of getting the genuine.

Period of Depression

Worried Walt Whitman

Back in 1857 Walt Whitman was worrying about the depression, and the "wild time among the banks," and unemployment. He wrote an editorial about it for the Brooklyn Daily Times, which the Golden Book Magazine quotes:

"For the land has been shaken as by an earthquake, and the foundations of industry are dried, the arm of the worker is palsied, and the cunning hand is motionless, and the hum and stir of a busy commerce are changed to the dejected silence of a day of national fasting and humiliation."

"Already, it is computed, more than 15,000 laboring people, who live, and help still more numerous thousands to live, by their toil, are thrown out of employment in the metropolis alone."

Do You Get BILIOUS ATTACKS?



Constipation will upset your entire system and bring on dyspepsia, nervousness and lack of pep. Common as it is, many people neglect this trouble and lead themselves into serious ailments. Your doctor will tell you the importance of keeping bowels open. The easy, safe remedy is Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills, made of pure herbs and roots. They not only cleanse but also regulate. At all druggists.

Dr. Morse's INDIAN ROOT PILLS Mild & Gentle Laxative

Want "Ad" Jogs Memory
Unusual was the public announcement that appeared in the London papers recently. The Hungarian minister, Baron Ivan Rubido-Zichy, inserted this advertisement: "The Hungarian minister regrets that, having lost his engagement book, he is unable to remember his engagements for next week, and would, therefore, be grateful for reminders." Luckily three persons who had invited him to dinner on various nights telephoned to remind him of the dates, and as for the rest of the engagements he remembered them.

USE GLENN'S SULPHUR SOAP

Contains 33% Pure Sulphur. Skin eruptions, excessive perspiration, insect bites, relieved at once by this refreshing, beautifying toilet and bath soap. Best for Soft, Clear Skin. Rohland's Styptic Cotton, Etc.

"Calibration"
By the calibration of an instrument is meant the checking or correcting of the scale readings of the instrument.

Try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound



She Shouldn't be Tired
No energy... circles under her eyes. If she would only try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in tablet-form, she could be strong and happy again.