

JUST ONE LITTLE SONG, LOVE

(Josquin Miller.)
Then sing the song we loved, love
When all life seemed one song:
For life is none too long, love;
Ah, love is none too long.

THE FARMER'S MISTAKE

A Brief Lecture Which May Well Be Heeded by All. (M. Quad's Letter.)

There is one particular point in which the average farmer is contemptibly mean with his boy. He sets himself up as a standard. If he didn't want so and so why should his boy? If he had to turn out of bed at 4 o'clock a. m. and work until dark why should his boy be spared? He didn't have a decent suit or fine boots or any spending money, and why should his offspring go into such extravagance? The farmer who reasons that way has a selfish motive under it. He knows as well as other people that the boys of to-day cannot be and are not treated like the boys of fifty years ago. He will admit that his father wore a hickory shirt without collar to meeting, while he must have a white one well starched and adorned with collar and necktie, but he won't admit that his son has any right to improve on him.

If a boy feels enthusiastic to learn to be a printer, harness-maker or wood-engraver no father with any sense in his head will command the boy to learn the trade of a stone-mason. Why then should a farmer decide that his son, who has exhibited a taste for mechanics, spoil his whole life by ordering him to stick by the farm? If a boy who wanted to learn the carpenter's trade is wanted to learn the harness-maker's and thereby becomes a botch workman, why shouldn't a farmer's son, who ought to have been an architect, make a poor farmer? He certainly will, figure it as you may.

I have a letter from a resident of Alabama who says he hated farm work and ran away to escape it. His father wanted him to be a farmer, and he wanted to be something else. The boy ran away, and is now comparatively rich and doing well. The idea is pernicious and altogether wrong. The chances for a runaway boy are not one in a hundred. The bare fact of his having run away is enough to condemn him with all honest men. Out of fifty who run away not more than one or two will stand any show of success.

Let the farmer's son seek to discover what his taste runs to. If to agriculture, he should be given a fair show. He should have the best of agricultural papers and every chance to improve on the system his father has worked under. Some of the land and the live stock should be his and he should be to a certain extent a partner. No man will dig and delve for you without pay as an incentive. A boy who is expected to put in his best efforts on the farm because the law says his father is entitled to his services will certainly disappoint you. If his taste runs to a trade or profession the father must argue the matter as a reasonable man would. He has no right to encumber the earth with another botch farmer. He has no right to condemn his son to poverty when he might be rich by his own exertion. If he is wise he will even encourage the boy to follow out the bent of his inclinations.

Nine times out of ten where you hear of a farmer's boy being set down as a hard case you find his father to blame for it. He has been too harsh and arbitrary. He has gone on the idea that his son was a drudge. His idea has been to make money out of his tired muscles and back-aches, and give him the least possible reward. All farmers are not so, but too many still are, no matter how much other classes have improved. The results have been and will ever be disastrous.

Liszt's Two Audiences

(Exchange.)
It was some fifty years ago, and Liszt was making a provincial tour, when he arrived at a town which was so far from being a prey to musical enthusiasm, that when the curtain was rung up there was present an audience of precisely seven people. Far from betraying any signs of annoyance or discouragement, the artist advanced, and, with a gracious smile, thus addressed his auditors: "Ladies and gentlemen: I am gratified beyond measure by your generous patronage. Inasmuch, however, as this hall is oppressively crowded, I shall crave your permission to have the piano removed to the parlor at the hotel, where we can be more at our ease."

An advertisement thither was subsequently had, and after performing the programme in his best manner, Liszt invited the "audience" to be his guests at a little supper with all the accessories desirable, including champagne. The second concert had been announced for the next night. Within two minutes after the doors were opened there was no standing room. Liszt presented himself on the stage, and was received with cyclones of applause. He played two pieces, smiled scornfully upon his audience, and made his exit. There was hardly a throat in the house that was not dry.

A Room in Different Dresses

(Exchange.)
A Boston lawyer has rooms in a building on a corner. His professional card gives the number on the main street, and if you call in the daytime you find him in a law office. His private card gives the side-street number of the same building, and if you call in the evening you go up a different stairway to the identical same room; but it is now a bachelor's parlor. The furniture is specially adapted to the transformation. The desk becomes a sideboard, a lounge is covered with a luxurious leopard skin, and handsome hangings are disclosed.

San Francisco Ingletons: I have a morbid taste of fruit. It is wrong, I know. It is even fatal. To use a good recipe, wash all oranges carefully in a solution of...

Gambetta's Letters

(Paris Cor. New York Post.)
The public has just been deprived of the perusal of a series of letters which would undoubtedly have had an abiding charm by the sudden determination of the lady to whom they were written not to communicate them to the press, and thereby hangs a tale. Gambetta was for many years intimate with a lady much older than himself, a certain countess, who maintained with him after he had reached the summit of power a long and careful correspondence. After the great man's death she occasionally showed these letters to friends, who promised not to misuse them, as her relation to Gambetta had been purely an intellectual one, and one of which she had every reason to be proud.

But the other day a person who had received her promise to print extracts from these letters, when he called to claim the fulfillment of the promise, was informed that she had changed her mind. "I cannot give you these epistles," she said. "Gambetta has forbidden me to do so." "But, madame," said the visitor, "only a fortnight ago you read portions of them to me and to others, and Gambetta has been dead for a year. Since you have disobeyed him up to now, disobey him once more." "I have never disobeyed him," replied the countess, "nor will I ever do so. It is only three days ago that Gambetta told me not to publish his letters." "Three days ago? but he has been dead for more than a year." "That is quite true, but he has appeared to me in a dream. He called to me and said, 'Burn all my letters,' and in the dream I said, 'No!' But the next day I changed my mind, and have made one package of all the papers, and shall throw them into the fire." Then she added that the next night the voice came again, expressing his approval of her course. The relation of her dream, told by the lady with the utmost good faith, has provoked much gossip and many smiles in literary circles.

How Woodcock Woo

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)
Woodcock have certain peculiarities which endear them to the sportsman, as well as make them an interesting study to men of science. Their love-making is essentially their own. Early in the spring the male bird, seeking a mate, repairs to some well-known covert where the females most do congregate. It is just at sunset. All day long he has been industriously filling himself full of long, luscious worms, and as twilight comes his bird thought turns to affairs more sentimental.

When he reaches the parade ground he looks anxiously around, and if no suspicious noise jars on his sensitive ears he begins with a low, introductory utterance. Then he grows impatient and utters loud, guttural beatings, clucking just before each one. Then he struts up and down the mossy bank as if his performance gave him intense satisfaction. Then he considers him-self fairly introduced, and taking wing, rises in the air, flying up in spiral circles, each growing smaller as he ascends. During this flight he utters a low, sweet, cooing note. After sailing about in a series of aerial somersaults he swoops down to the spot of his starting.

For hours he foals about, displaying his wing performances, until at last the female can no longer resist his antics, and throwing coquetry, as Hamlet did the physic, to the dogs, she approaches with ruffled feathers and disheveled plumage. The two meet and caress each other with every evidence of affection and all the by-plays of love thrown in, and locking their long bills in each other's grasp, as if too happy for earth, they rise straight in the air and fly far out of sight in the darkness.

Amsterdam's Street Mirror

(Amsterdam Letter.)
Before each window a small mirror was placed at an angle. I wondered what it meant and pressed up to the window suddenly, in time to catch a red young female face dodging back out of sight to the parlor. It dawned upon me. The woman inside could command the length of the street with the apparatus. No one can get by undiscovered. I should think that the young fellows who come to see their sweethearts would feel embarrassed at the thought that he is nearing his destination under critical inspection. And then when she opens the door and ushers him in, after having studied his approach all the length of the street, does she observe, "Ach, Herr—, I am surprised, but glad to see you." The women of the house know when their male friends go by without coming in. They can see if he has stopped a few doors on. If he does not divide his visits fairly he is apt to occasion disagreeable remarks being made. The neighbors count just how many times a young man calls upon a fair maiden before he is engaged to her; also how many visits he makes before he is married. What a magic little mirror it is, to be sure! If the victims would only go around after dark and pull them all down!

A Hundred Years Ago

(Philadelphia Times.)
George C. Mason's recently published reminiscences of Newport contain a note about a curious feature of fashionable life there 100 years ago. As reported in the following notice was made a part of the advertisements and play-bills: "Ladies will please send their servants to keep their places at 4 o'clock." Accordingly the servants occupied the seats and laughed and talked till 6 o'clock, which was the hour when the performance began, and when they made way for their masters and mistresses.

Arizona's Canal

(Chicago Times.)
The great Arizona canal in the Salt river country to Phoenix, Arizona, is about completed. In about twenty-two months the company have cut a channel twenty-six feet wide at the bottom, with banks seven and one-half feet deep, forty miles long, at a cost of nearly \$500,000. The water of Salt river is being carried around the side of this valley, and emptied in the Agua Fria.

Merchant Traveler: The humble beggar who kicks a banana peel off the sidewalk is greater in charity to his fellow men than the wealthy philanthropist who throws it there.

Hazing at Yale

A Chicago Freshman Gives His Experience with the "Sophs." (Inter Ocean.)
It is generally supposed that hazing, the term applied to the rough-and-tumble horse-play and indignities to which newcomers at colleges and universities are subjected, had been suppressed. The following extracts from an authentic letter, received a few days ago by a citizen whose son is at Yale, would, however, indicate that such is not the case:
"Monday morning, bright and early, we started out to look for rooms. We had very good success, for we found three extra nice ones on York street; so you see we are all together. There is one good-sized study room that we all use—John, Jim and I—and two comfortable bed-rooms, one of which John and Jim occupy and I the other.

"Well, I thought when I came here that all the old customs of hazing had been abolished, but I have changed my mind. Wednesday evening we had our rush; the rush takes place in a large open lot between the sophomores and freshmen. The freshmen form four abreast and about thirty deep in one corner of the lot, the sophs form in the same manner in the opposite corner; then at a given signal the two parties come together like a whirlwind, each side trying to push the other back into their corner. I was one of the front four on our side, and I thought I would never get out alive. You can imagine how I felt when you consider that I had about 125 men behind me, and the same number before me, all pushing against each other with all their might. I believe I am two inches taller and much thinner since the rush. The freshmen finally drove the sophs back into their corner, and even out into the street. There eighty-eight freshmen formed a column and tried to march down the sidewalk, and the sophs tried to get us off. I have never seen such rough-and-tumbling. Two sophs would grab a freshman, throw him around lively for a time, slam him down in the muddy street, and then turn their attention to another.

"We had a hard fight for about two blocks, and when I got through I looked more like a bootblack than myself. I was thrown twice in the mud in all the crowd and knocked about as lively as I want to be. Hundreds of people collect to see this rush, and seem to think it a great thing, but I can't say that I admired this sort of an initiation with all its bumps and bruises. Since the rush the sophs have been very mad at the freshmen, and hazing has been going on lively. Thursday night, as we were all studying, we heard a knock at our door, and supposing it to some friend we opened it, when in walked a lot of sophs. Then we knew we were in for it. They turned things upside down for awhile, made us sing standing on chairs, etc. They had tried to get at us before, but our landlady had kept them out. That night all the family had gone to attend a lecture. Well, after they had put us through in our rooms they marched all three of us to a saloon, where they had about forty men collected in two back rooms. Here they put us upon a table, made us sing songs, and each make a speech. Then we had to take off our boots and dance cloek, sing more songs, give tableaux, suck milk through straws, go through several acrobatic performances, and do lots of other things which they enjoyed very much, but we—

"After they had fooled with us until 12 o'clock they let us go and we went. Then the poor freshmen got grieved in the streets, and cannot go out at all after supper for fear of being hazed, and they are not safe even in their rooms, as was demonstrated in our case. But our turn will come next year, when we can bulldoze without being bulldozed."

A Use for Peach Stones

(Troy Telegram.)
Strolling along River street early every morning for the past few weeks might have been seen a gray-haired son of Italy with a good stout bag over his shoulder. His eyes were being first cast from the sidewalk to the gutter and then vice versa. Now and then would he stoop and pick up a peach stone and put it in his bag, and then move on as before.
"What do you do with them?" was asked of him the other morning.
"O, me cracker do nutter, seller do same candy store," was his response.
The man, it appeared, would gather a bag full of these peach stones, and, going home, would set his family at work cracking them open. The shells, or outside, are used for fuel purposes, while the kernel is saved until after the peach season, when they are sold to druggists and confectioners, where they are known as bitter almonds. The price paid the Italian for the gathering is about 20 cents per pound.

Weighty Bouquets

(American Queen.)
The latest fashion in England is to carry a glow-lamp around in a bouquet. The lightest of these lamps, which is in the possession of the Princess of Wales, weighs two pounds. A florist said recently that the large bouquets carried in this city to balls and receptions weighed from five to ten pounds. This is about the only way our fashionable girls have to strengthen their wrists, as they have not time to use dumb-bells or Indian clubs. A girl who made her debut last winter remarked that after she had carried six bouquets for six hours she could play Wagner's music a hundred per cent. better than before. So even though the glow-lamp may find favor here it will do no harm.

Cheap Scarecrows

(Chicago Herald.)
An ingenious farmer makes scarecrows out of old tin cans—tomato cans and the like—by rigging them up with a bit of old iron suspended in them like the tongue of a bell, and hanging them up in a corn field, where the wind will set them ringing, making such an unusual and unexpected noise that crows will not dare remain in the field.

A Hippopotamus with a Mane

It is claimed that a new variety of hippopotamus has been discovered on a remote part of the river Nile. It is named and was hitherto unknown.

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