

# The Story of an Unpretentious Man.

By Cy Warman.

A young Englishman stood in the New World, alone, utterly unknown, watching a freight train moving out of a new town, over a new track. A pinch-bar, left carelessly by a section gang, was picked up by the pilot of the locomotive. It was caught in the cylinder-cock rigging, with the result that it wrecked it.

Muttering softly the driver climbed down and began the difficult task of disconnecting the disabled machinery. He was not a machinist. Not all engine drivers can put a locomotive together; in fact, the best runners are just runners. The Englishman stood by, and when he saw the man fumble his wrenches offered a hand. The driver, with some hesitation, gave him the tools. In a few minutes the crippled rigging was taken down, nuts were replaced, and the discarded metal was tossed by the fireman on the rear of the tank.

"Are you a machinist?" asked the driver.

"Yes, sir," said the Englishman, who towered at least a foot above the engineer. "There's a job for me up the road if I can get there."

"And you're out of 'tallow'?"

The Englishman was not quite sure, but he guessed that "tallow" was a United States term for money, and said that he was short.

"All right," said the engine driver, "climb on."

The fireman was a Teuton named Martin, who proceeded to make the Englishman comfortable, but the latter wanted to work. He asked to be allowed to help fire the engine, and Martin showed him how to do it. When they pulled into the little town of E—, the Englishman went over to the roundhouse, where a man was wanted. The foreman asked him if he had ever "railroaded it." He said he had not, but that he was a machinist. "Well, I don't want you," said the foreman. Disheartened the Englishman went across to a little eating stand where the trainmen were having dinner. Martin moved aside and made room for the stranger between himself and his engine.

Later, the engineer dropped a little oil here and there, for another dash; the Englishman came up to the engine. He could not bring himself to ask the driver for another ride, and he wasn't obliged to. The engineer gave him a lift in the cab, after the heavy fashion of railroaders, despite the risk he ran even in those easy-going days.

In a little while they pulled into M— City, Iowa, at the crossing of the Wisconsin Central Railroad. There the Englishman had to change cars, W—, his destination, was on the crossroad, eighteen miles away. The agent wrote on a small piece of paper, folded it carefully and gave it to the Englishman. "Give that to the conductor," said he. "Be quick—they're pulling out—run!" Panting the Englishman threw himself into a way-car that was already making ten miles an hour. The conductor unfolded the paper, read it, looked the Englishman over and said, "All right."

It was nearly night when the train arrived at W—, and the deadhead followed the train crew into an unappointed hotel, where all hands fed eagerly to eating supper. A man stood behind a narrow, high desk, at the door, taking money, but when the Englishman offered to pay he said, "You're a paid for."

"Not mine; nobody knows me here," "Well," said the landlady, "somebody's p'nted to you and said, 'I pay for him.' It ain't a thing to make a noise about; it don't make no difference to me whether it's Tom or Jerry that pays, so long as everybody is represented."

"Well, this is a funny country," missed the Englishman, as he stroled over to the shop. Here, once more, discouragement awaited him. He had never "railroaded it," and was denied a job.

Wearily, discouraged, homesick and heart-sick the young man sat and thought it over, and concluded that, as a last resort he would see the master mechanic. If he had been a woman he might have cried himself to sleep that night. If he had been a "quitter," he would have quit, but the constant thought of the faithful, trusting wife, flying back down the track, who had left her home and her people in England to cast her lot with him in the strange New World—at that moment, maybe, kneeling on a bare floor, teaching their babes to pray for him—the thought of her love and the utter helplessness of the little ones kept his face toward the light and gave him nerves of steel.

On the following morning he found the local head of the motive-power department at his desk, and told his story. He had just arrived from England with a wife and two children and a few dollars. "That is all right," said the master mechanic. "I'll give you a job on Monday morning."

This was on Saturday, and, during the day, the first foreman with whom the Englishman had talked wired that if he would return to E— he could find work. The young man showed this message to the master mechanic. "I should like to work for you," he said; "you have been very kind to give me employment after the foreman had refused, but my family is near that place. It is 100 miles or more from here."

"I understand," said the kind-hearted official, "and you'd better go back to E—. Here is a pass."

The next day, Sunday, the young man told his young wife that the new country was "all right," everybody trusted everybody else. An official would give a stranger free transportation, a station agent would give you a pass, and even an engine driver would carry a man without asking permission.

He didn't know that all these men, save the master mechanic, had violated the rules of the road, and endangered their own positions, and a chance of promotion, by helping him, but he thanked them, just the same.

## ELECTRICITY AND RAIN

EXPERIMENTS SHOW THAT IT CAUSES DROUGHT.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 17.—The cause of the drought and the reason for the drought is the electric force of the atmosphere.

Professor Elmer Gates, of Chevy Chase, Md., has conducted a series of experiments which has led him to conclude that our varying conditions of weather are due to electricity, and Professor A. T. Alcott, in the Scientific American, says: "According to the professor this subtle force produces rain and drought, the changes of air pressure and the various meteorological disturbances, such as tornadoes and waterpuffs, which visit us from time to time."

This electricity exerts a powerful influence upon the air pressure is proved by means of a simple experiment. A large fluffy ball of cotton suspended from the ceiling by means of a silken cord and charged with electricity immediately increases in size very appreciably. This expansion Professor Gates explains as indicative of a low barometer, arguing that the expanding of the ball by charging it with electricity proves that the fibers of the cotton are repelling one another, so that the ball possesses less density. The same result attends the charging of the atmosphere with electricity. The density of the air is diminished, with the result that the pressure is decreased, and the barometer consequently falls.

The presence of electricity, however, in the atmosphere produces not only low pressure, but high pressure as well. When two opposite masses of air charged with electricity—positive and negative respectively—approach one another they become denser, with the result that the barometer rises. To prove this Professor Gates uses another ball of cotton, suspending it from the ceiling also by means of a silken cord about two feet distant from the first ball. In a few minutes the two balls approach each other, both decreasing in size. From this experiment Professor Gates infers that when one mass of air becomes charged with electricity, a neighboring mass of air becomes electrified with an opposite charge by induction. Thereupon the masses of air gradually approach one another slowly, and decrease the density of the air.

One outcome of these investigations has been the construction of an appliance which Professor Gates intends to use in forecasting the weather. It is impossible, with the present appliances employed, to predict the barometric pressure until a change has actually occurred; that is to say, until the barometer has either risen or fallen, meteorologists cannot tell us what weather to expect. If the variations of the barometer are the result of electrical influences, Professor Gates suggests that the electric conditions of the atmosphere should be observed, and by this means foretell at what places and at what time the barometer will be either high or low.

The primary object of his contrivance is to measure and to record the amount of electricity in different regions of the atmosphere. The device is to be attached to a small aerial apparatus which soars to the upper strata of air, makes automatic records at various heights, and then returns to the earth. By means of the appliance the professor hopes to glean information of those regions of air about which little at present is known.

The rain is produced by the mingling together of masses of air oppositely charged with electricity. Professor Gates explains by another simple operation. Two windows on either side of his laboratory were opened. An electrical fan was placed in one window and set in motion for the purpose of withdrawing the air from the apartment. Thus the only air within the room was that which entered through the windows. The weather outside was clear and bright, though the air was charged with a certain amount of humidity. The two currents of air entered the apartment by either window and mingled in the usual way, without causing any untoward circumstances. A current of negative electricity was induced into the air entering through one window, and a similar current of positive electricity induced into the stream of air proceeding through the other window.

A most remarkable phenomenon instantly occurred. The two oppositely electrified currents of air came into contact, formed a slight mist, and in a few seconds the floor of the laboratory was quite wet. Directly the electricity was switched off the air cleared, only to become misty again whenever the currents were switched on. This experiment was intended to prove that the electrified masses of moisture-laden air, generally termed clouds, when they meet produce showers. When they are abnormally laden with electricity, lightning and thunderstorms result. If, for example, reverting, the two cotton balls are charged very highly with electricity they jump together with a spark and snap, then spring apart and come together again with another spark and snap, separate once more, while the charge is maintained. This is practically an illustration of thunder and lightning upon a miniature scale. The spark represents the lightning and the snap the thunder.

Professor Gates, in the course of his experiments, also discovered another curious fact. This is the transportation of moisture from one point to another by means of electricity. During a shower of rain it has often been observed that a far greater quantity of rain has fallen in one place than could be possibly contained in the air covering that area. This peculiar fact is explained as follows: While it is raining in a certain spot moisture from various directions is being conveyed to this special region by electrical energy. To illustrate this transportation possibility of electricity, Professor Gates has constructed a large glass case about eight feet in length, divided into two compartments by means of a section of thin porous paper. One division is filled with very dry air and the other with air containing a heavy percentage of humidity. A wire leading from the negative pole of a static electrical ma-

## EDMUND LEAGUE MEETING TOPICS

November 17—"Preaching and Hearing"—Rom. x, 13-17.

Preaching is a New Testament institution. The Old Testament economy makes no provision for preaching. There is no place for it in the usages of the patriarchs. There were public utterances by Israel's leaders, official declarations of judges, valuable instructions by kings, arousing messages by prophets through whose lips of fire God spoke, but preaching as we understand it had not risen to the dignity of even a custom. It is purely a Christian institution, belonging to the Christian era. The inspired men under the Old Testament did not preach. They proclaimed the will of God in a variety of forms. Moses proclaimed statutes. Joshua after his sword was sheathed swore the nation to fidelity. David sang as saint and king, and gave utterance to emotions common to the Church in every age. Solomon embodied his experience in pithy and pointed sentences. The prophets, as a body, portrayed present obligation and future crisis. These old seers foretold Messiah, but did not exhibit Him. They picture Him, but did not preach Him.

Preaching as an institution is of divine origin. With the establishment of the church a new order of evangelism was instituted by the great Founder. In His assignment of new duties unto His disciples and followers the underlying thought of the Master is that of their ambassadorship. They were charged with the duty of witnessing for Him. They were to proclaim the good news under special authority, as "sent" men. The first preachers were prominently men sent forth on a mission and work to which they were called of God. Its importance exceeds human estimate, and its issues determine the salvation of the race. God sends the messenger. The extent of the service is set by the Almighty. The message itself is divine: "Preach the preaching that I bid thee." Jonah iii, 2.

Preaching has a perpetual mission peculiar to every age. The impulse to declare and publish the Gospel is natural, spontaneous, mighty, and continuous. "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Men must have a voice from the clouds attesting the mission of the Son and approving the success of his pitiful undertaking for the rescue of an imperiled world. The human soul has majestic impulses and high interests. The life of our day and the coming times teems with new problems. It has its disputes, troubles, responsibilities. Preaching is the voice of God to all of these. Christianity is not a set of ideas, a compact system of doctrines, formula, creed or philosophy. It is primarily and finally a life. The voice that thunders, whispers, trembles with love, pity, sympathy, indignation is a live wire. The action of the silently speaking emotion and the conscious operation of the Spirit within are all lost in staid instruction.

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## COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

General Trade Conditions.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: "Although the latest railway returns indicate that transporting facilities have greatly improved, the nation's business has expanded more rapidly. Car shortage has in fact become the chief retarding influence."

"From all sections of the country and many lines of industry complaints are heard regarding the inability to move goods. Probably the delay has been most aggravating in the case of coal, unseasonably high temperature alone preventing serious inconvenience. Not only are domestic requirements enormous, but coal is becoming an important article of export, partly owing to labor controversies in France and Great Britain and also to the British export tax."

"Speculators secured a distinct decline from the unusually high position recently attained by pork products, while at the same time corn made a further advance. Shipments from Atlantic ports for the week were only 498,495 bushels, against 1,944,000 last week and 3,328,631 a year ago. Interior receipts were also low, 217,226 bushels, against 3,838,000 last year. Wheat came to market more freely, arrivals at Western cities amounting to 7,666,590 bushels, against 6,182,303 in the previous week and 5,537,602 a year ago. Atlantic exports were less satisfactory than last week, but including all United States ports the week's shipments were 5,018,103 bushels, against 3,625,821 last year and 3,508,998 in 1899."

Bradstreet's report says: "Failures in the United States for the week number 172, as against 223 last week, 165 in this week a year ago, 174 in 1899 and 183 in 1898. Canadian failures for the week number 17 against 16 last week and in this week a year ago, 21 in 1899, 31 in 1898 and 34 in 1897."

Flour—Best Patent, \$4.45; High Grade Extra, \$3.95; Minnesota bakers, \$2.90-3.10.

Wheat—New York No. 2 red, 80 1/2¢; Philadelphia No. 2 red, 73 1/2¢; Baltimore, 70 1/2¢.

Corn—New York No. 2, 62 1/2¢; Philadelphia No. 2, 63 1/2¢; Baltimore No. 2, 58 1/2¢.

Oats—New York No. 2, 41 1/2¢; Philadelphia No. 2 white, 44 1/2¢; Baltimore No. 2 white, 40¢.

Hay—No. 1 timothy, \$16.00-16.50; No. 2 timothy, \$15.00-15.50; No. 3 timothy, \$12.00-14.00.

Fruit and Vegetables—Apples—Maryland and Virginia, per brl, fancy, \$2.00-2.25; do Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, packed, per brl, \$2.25-2.50; do New York assorted, per brl, \$2.50-3.00.

Cabbage—New York State, per ton, \$112.00; Carrots—Native, per box, 30-35¢; Cauliflower—Long Island, per crate or barrel, \$2.00-2.25; Celery—New York State, per dozen stalks, 15-25¢.

Cranberries—Cape Cod, per brl, \$5.00-5.50; do Jersey, per brl, \$5.00-5.50; Eggplants—Florida, per crate, \$3.00-4.00; Kale—Native, per bushel box, 10-12 1/2¢; Lettuce—Native, per bushel box, 20-30¢.

Lima Beans—Native, per bushel box, 65-75¢; Onions—Maryland and Pennsylvania, yellow per brl, 82-90¢; Oysterplants—Native, per bunch, 25-30¢; Pears—Eastern Shore, Kieffer, per basket 15-30¢; do New York Bartlett's, per brl, No. 1, \$3.50-4.00.

Spinach—Native, per bushel box 12 1/2-15¢; String Beans—Native, per basket, 70-75¢; Tomatoes—Eastern Shore, Maryland, per basket, sound, 30-35¢; market stock, 45-55¢.

Potatoes—White—Maryland and Pennsylvania, per bu, No. 1, 60-65¢; do, seconds, 40-50¢; do, New York, per bu, best stock, 60-65¢; do, common, 40-50¢.

Sweets—Native, per bushel box, 15-20¢; Virginia, per truck brl, \$1.30-1.40; Yams—Virginia, per brl, No. 1, \$1.00-1.25.