

SUNLIGHT OF SPRING

Sunlight of spring, what have you seen That you smile so? "Crowds of hepaticas, Fresh from their naps, Throwing down coverlets, Pulling off caps, Chanting together, 'Gone are bad weather, Chills and mishaps.'"

Sunlight of spring, what have you seen That you smile so? "Millions of wings Gaily unfurled, Lifted on high, Drifted and whirled, Frightened with song, Floating along, 'Oh, happy world!'"

Sunlight of spring, what have you seen That you smile so? "Maids with their lovers, Children at play, Hope as of April, Joy as of May, Winter begotten, Night is forgotten, In this bright day."

—Alice W. Bailey, in Harper's Bazar.

The Great Lane Freshet

BY HARRY HOWARD.

ABNER BALDWIN and Josiah Ghint had been good friends and neighbors from their boyhood days. They grew up together, married sisters, and settled on adjoining farms. There they lived monotonous and uneventful lives for more than twenty years. Then came a season of estrangement.

During all this time Josiah and Abner shunned each other. Their wives and children were not allowed to exchange visits. One night of the following spring Salt Creek rose to a height many feet above any point it had ever reached in the history of the valley.

As the Lane River was swollen greatly, there was no adequate outlet for the turbid flood which swirled and rushed down the Salt Creek valley. Consequently, the current of the Lane was not only stopped, but turned back, so that for some hours the river actually flowed up stream.

Then the brawling little stream, like a person of passionate impulses, calmed down almost as quickly as it had risen. The light of morning revealed a strange state of affairs to Josiah. Except the very small area of high ground about the house, his entire farm had been flooded.

Who could have dreamed that the current would set up stream and carry back to Abner that which it had once taken from him? But there it was. Josiah walked along to the upper edge of his farm and saw thousands of his rails—those he had made as well as those he had taken from Abner—piled up on the low knolls of Abner's farm.

Josiah also saw Abner looking over his unexpected acquisitions. Among them was Josiah's own stalk-rake. Abner was contemplating it with smiles of welcome. Then, for the first time in almost a year, Josiah set foot on his neighbor's land, and walked over to where Abner stood grinning.

"I'll come and get that rake after a while," said Josiah, shamefacedly. "Don't think ye will," answered Abner. "An' why don't ye think I will?" "Cause I ferbid ye to set foot on my land."

"That you, Si?" "Yes, That you, Ab?" "Yes, but I don't b'leve I kin hold on much longer." "I'll help ye; jist hang on a bit longer." Josiah edged his way along to the place where Abner was clinging, placed an arm around him, and grasped a rake-tooth firmly with each hand.

"I don't deserve it, Si," said Abner. "No, ye wasn't, Ab. I was goin' to steal it this very night." "No, ye wasn't, Si. I was goin' to fill ye full o' birdsot." "Wal, it seems to be a sort of a pardnerhip affair jist now, as we've both got considerable interest in it," said Josiah, grimly.

Rapidly they drifted over Josiah's farm until they came to Salt Creek, whose swift cross-current bore them out into the main channel of the Lane. Both men were nearly exhausted when they were drifted into an eddy, whence they managed to climb on a great log, and from there into a scrubby tree.

Abner had been struck by a piece of timber when the flood caught him, and now suffered great pain. Josiah held him in the tree. All night long the flood roared past them, bearing uprooted trees, buildings and various wreckage. But the two men were happy in their reconciliation; for though neither said a word on the subject, each understood that they were firmer friends than ever before.

Next day their neighbors rescued them, badly chilled, and thoroughly worn out with the long night's watching. The story of the terrible havoc wrought by the Great Lane Freshet is told in the history of the valley, and does not belong to this narrative. But neither of the two men who drifted down on the stalk-rake ever regretted his experience on that night.

The Baldwin and Ghint children now play together every day; their mothers are happy in the reconciliation, and nowhere can be found two firmer friends than Abner and Josiah.—Youth's Companion.

POPULAR SCIENCE

The experiment is to be tried of sending telegraph and telephone messages simultaneously over the London and Paris telephone circuit. The New York Central Company is about to lay the first 100 pound rail ever rolled or used in the United States, and it will be laid on steel ties.

A French inventor has devised a suspended camera, by means of which photographs may be taken on board of a ship, even when the sea is running high. Tests in electrically welding rails for horse or steam cars show that the importance of allowing for the contraction and expansion at the joints has been overated.

The French Minister of commerce has issued a decree authorizing the employment of pure nickel for the manufacture of measures of capacity intended for the use of liquids. It is now proposed to cover the surface of the sea around an endangered vessel with a thin cotton or silk net, made unshakable by dipping in a special chemical preparation.

A polycycle omnibus, which is in effect an elongated tandem tricycle, has been invented in London, England. It is so arranged that each passenger will have to assist in propelling it. How best to protect wire ropes from the corrosive influences to which they are subjected is one of the practical questions of the day. It is now proposed to cover the wires with a lead coating.

It is apparently the settled purpose of the Chinese to construct a complete plant for the manufacture of iron and steel, the very latest types of Bessemer and Siemens-Martin plant being included in the venture. The Falls of the Arno at Tivoli, Italy, are to be utilized for the lighting of Rome. The current will be carried across the Campagna for sixteen miles and transformed into currents of lower pressure for the service of public and private buildings.

A novel idea for producing electricity cheaply consists in surrounding any convenient source of heat, such as a stove or furnace, with a series of thermo-piles, and by charging accumulators with the current thus produced throughout the day to light the house at night. A lifeboat of aluminum has recently been built. It is a matter of considerable curiosity to see how this boat will answer when thoroughly tested, as it is thought to be more than likely that its obvious good points will be more than counterbalanced by various disadvantages.

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